



ST PATRICK'S GUILDFORD



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Newsletter 2

Thursday, 18th February 2021



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Yesterday students and staff gathered in grades for Ash Wednesday Liturgies. We gathered together to begin our time of Lent – the special time of change for the church.

During Lent as Christians we are asked to ~

Pray ~ praying is a way to spend time with God ~ to get away from daily distractions and to turn our minds and hearts to God instead.

Fast ~ abstaining reminds us that over concentration on worldly goods blinds us to who and what really matters.

Give alms ~ almsgiving targets our self centredness, it is an opportunity to experience solidarity with those who are poor and suffering.

The heart of Lent is making space for our God. That means loosening our control and being open to what needs to come into our lives. What a huge challenge!! The season of Lent reminds us to focus on what is essential to everyday life and we need 40 days of constant reminding. It is a matter of priorities – a few minutes, a few moments to attend to essentials not as a chore but as time to be cherished. This is a wonderful opportunity to start again, with a renewed sense of commitment – to turn our hearts and minds back to God through our good deeds and prayerful solitude.

Let us embrace this Lent as an opportunity to aspire not to have more ... but to be more.

We often hear and or say, I wish I had the opportunity to start that again. These next 40 days provides us with time to start again, a wonderful opportunity for all.

Steven Jones
Principal



At St Patrick's we are making a difference by being safe, respectful learners.

UPCOMING DATES

Week 5

22/2 8:45am Assembly (ZOOM)

24/2 8:30am Penance, 6 Yellow

9:15am Mass, 5 Yellow

9:30am-10:30am Cerdon College &

St Paul's College Yr 6 Visit

Week 6

1/3 Staff Development Day - (Student free day)

2/3 6:00-7:00pm Parent Group Meeting

3/3 8:35am Penance, 6 Green

9:15am Mass, 5 Green

5/3 8:30am-2:30pm Cumberland Council

Cricket Clinics (Yr 3-6)

NOTES HOME

[Winter Jacket Order Form](#)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

So many children don't read. They don't read well enough; they don't read often enough; and if you talk to children they often tell you that they don't see reading as important.

Reading, however, is so so important. Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Starting in Kindergarten, if a student reads 20 minutes a day at home, they will hear 1.8 million words per year. They will have read for 851 hours by Year 6 and on standardised tests, they will likely score better than 90% of their peers.

As a parent, you are your child's first and foremost 'reading' teacher. When you help your child with reading, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning. It is the joy and love of sharing a good book on a nightly basis that sets the foundation for your child's reading success, and ensures that reading is seen as a priority.

So how can we get our children off to a great start in Reading.

Part of the process of getting children to read, is understanding them as readers and creating an atmosphere (classroom or home) that supports reading. Children need to be surrounded with books, of all kinds of books, and given the opportunity to read them everyday. Daily reading helps the brain make connections between the written and spoken word, widening vocabulary in the process.

Children need to be having conversations about what they are reading. Learning to read begins with talking. Children need opportunities to interact and talk with others. Parents need to talk with their children! It is in the context of engaged conversations that children expand their vocabularies, increase their understanding of the world, learn about themselves, and learn the nuances of the English language.

Children require abundant demonstrations on the structure and features of texts, how to use texts for different purposes and how to access the information in them.

Children's desires to read independently grows out of having been read to by someone; a parent, sibling, grandparent or teacher. Educators have long said reading makes people smarter, and there's research backing them up. A recent study found reading to children of any age, awakens a number of regions in the left part of the brain. The areas in the brain that become active involve understanding the meaning of words and concepts tied to memory. Through daily reading, children are exposed to a world outside their own reality. It expands their know-how, opens their minds and creates the potential for a continuation of ideas and an endless number of possibilities.

A powerful strategy that we use here at St Patrick's is Modelled Reading. Modelled Reading provides the children with the opportunity to learn what proficient readers do when reading. The teacher reads aloud a picture book, a novel, a magazine article to their class everyday and the children listen and enjoy the story.

Learning to read takes practise. Loving to read takes enthusiasm!

Now that we are back into the routine of school, it is very important to get back into the routine of reading EVERY night at home.

We have renewed our subscription to the PMecollection. This means that all students in 1 - 4 will have access to these digital books at home, on any device. (Kindergarten will have access next term) Log ins will be sent home over the coming weeks. Please read these books along with the books sent home from school (readers or library books).

HAPPY READING!!!!

Tracy Hoey
Assistant Principal

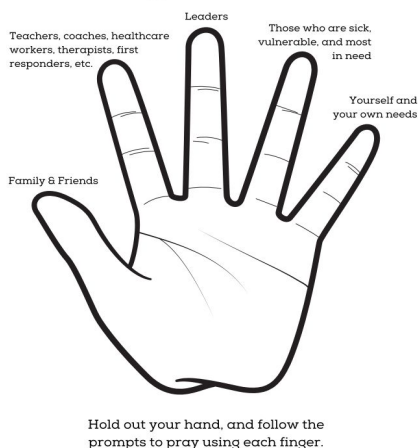
LENT

The irony isn't lost on us that this Lent, we are continuing to fast from our normal way of doing things. A year of masks on and off, social distancing, and forced innovation has left us tired and longing for redemption and freedom. These 40 days leading up to Easter, we bury our hallelujahs and look with hope toward the resurrection. During such difficult times, it has become crucial for us to rely on our toolbox of spiritual practices.

During Lent, we are invited to explore the various ways in which we can experience and practise prayer in our daily lives. Prayer can engage all the senses as you connect with God.

As we embark on this new season, be encouraged! Church certainly looks different this year, and the beautiful thing about it is we can share the Good News in new and fresh ways within our community.

5 Finger Prayer



5 Finger Prayer pray for different groups of people as you touch each finger.

Thumb: pray for those closest to you, your family and friends.

Index finger: pray for people who give direction like teachers, coaches, health care workers, therapists, first responders, etc.

Middle finger: pray for leaders in governments, businesses, the church, etc.

Ring finger: pray for those who are sick, vulnerable, and most in need

Pinky finger: pray for yourself and your own needs.

Finger Labyrinth Using the handout as a guide, print the finger labyrinth.

Glue yarn or string or use puffy paint and allow it to dry.

Use your finger to trace the path slowly and pray quietly or out loud as you go.

Finger Labyrinth



Use your finger to trace the path slowly. Pray quietly or out loud as you go. You can pray for others or yourself. You can pray with words or without words.

You can pray for others or yourself. You can pray with words or without words.

Lent is a special time when you can share the concepts of prayer and giving with your children. Take family time each day to offer devotional prayers. Consider as a family how you might help others in need by giving of your time or resources. Even very young children can understand and will enjoy participating in the process. Carve out time in the day for special prayer time. This may involve early rising or time spent away from a favourite hobby or activity.

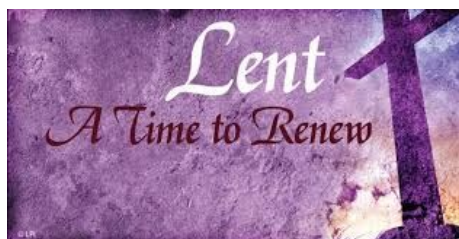
MASSES

Students will continue to attend Parish Masses on Wednesdays as a class. Parents and friends wishing to attend are welcome. The church can accommodate 70 people and any extra will unfortunately not be allowed in due to current social distancing restrictions.



Week 5
Wednesday 24th February
9.15 - Mass 5 Yellow
First Week of Lent
Penance: 6 Yellow

Week 6
Wednesday 3rd March
9.15 Mass: 5 Green
Second Week of Lent
Penance: 6 Green



FEAST DAYS

22nd February - The Chair of St Peter
23rd February - St Polycarp
8th March - St John of God
9th March - St Frances of Rome

Yours in Christ,
Wardah Khoury

NUMERACY

Over the past four weeks, every student has undertaken a Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI). Thank you to all the families who brought their children to school on the Staff Development Day for this to take place. This has been a valuable opportunity for teachers to individually assess students' knowledge, understanding, thinking and reasoning in Mathematics. This information also allows us to track student progress and achievement from Kindergarten through to Year 6.

The information gathered from these assessments is used by teachers to determine:

- What does the student already know?
- What are their next steps?
- What learning experiences will best enable the student to achieve those next steps?
- What are some possible difficulties or 'hurdles' that may prevent student progression?



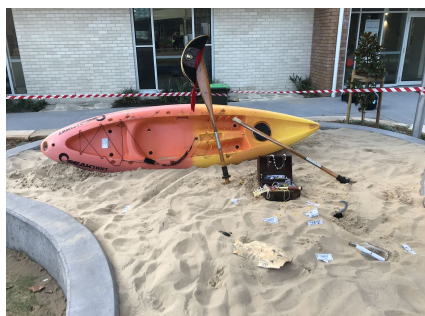
We look forward to working with the students to set new Numeracy learning goals and identifying strategies to achieve these.

Dalia Fadel
Numeracy Leader

LITERACY

On Monday 15th February all the students of St Patrick's arrived at school to discover something very unusual in the middle of the sandpit. Looking around we could see a bright coloured canoe, a treasure chest with money and jewels spilling out, a telescope, two abandoned oars, a treasure map, pirate's hats and a worn out message in a bottle.

In class groups we went down to discuss the scene in front of us. How did it get there? Who does it belong to? We have used this stimulus for writing. I am really looking forward to continuing my story about it.



Antonio Isaac (Year 6 Learning Leader)

MERIT AWARDS - Congratulations to the following students

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| KBlue | Rose Langi Jacques Moussalem | | | KGreen | Grace Dias Gerard Salem | | |
| 1Blue | Emilia Orlando Natalyah Kizana | 1Green | Tahlia Fajloun Nathaniel Sesay | | | 1Yellow | Olivia Remaili Mia Boutros |
| 2Blue | Daniel Kalouche Sakina Lariosa | | | 2Green | Mohamed Kamara Marilyn Jacobucci | | |
| 3Blue | Ayla Tran Kai Mahony | 3Green | Rachelle Sukkar Irimi Younan | | | 3Yellow | Michael El-Khoury Emily Abboud |
| 4Blue | Ava Boutros Jacinta Abraham | | | 4Green | Steven Zaidan Bridget Langi | | |
| 5Blue | Mirella Kanaan Destin Dandan | 5Green | Tayla Fares Charlie Cheble Maalouf | | | 5Yellow | Adriana Antoun Elissa Saliba |
| 6Blue | Francis Nahas Amalita Dandan | 6Green | Michael Kanaan Finau Maka | | | 6Yellow | Christy Tannous Charbel Alam |

WELLBEING

Our students are now getting right into the full swing of school. Some are enjoying new challenges and the excitement of learning new things, while some students are maybe getting tired and facing new emotions.



As adults we are also often tired, however due to age we have the advantage of being able to recognise and verbalise this feeling. Some students may find it difficult to share their emotions or even recognise which emotion they may be experiencing. Therefore confusion may occur and as a result some undesirable behaviours may then arise.

So what can we do to help the little people around us when they are facing confusion, new emotions and behaviour difficulties?

Zones of Regulation



First we can help them identify their emotions. For example “I can see you are feeling frustrated today? Or “I can see you are tired”. Secondly, it is important that we acknowledge and then name the emotion to help identify it for our children. Thirdly try and work through the emotion with them so that they can recognise it the next time they feel or experience it. Sometimes we need to give them time to process and work through it. When ready we can then talk through it with them and talk about the effects it had and some possible alternative strategies to cope.

At St Patrick's the language of Zones of Regulations is used to help our students recognise their emotions. These four Zones consist of The **Blue** Zone, The **Green** Zone, The **Yellow** Zone and The **Red** Zone.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS AND COMMISSIONING OF SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS

Last Friday the school celebrated our Opening School Mass, the commissioning of the 2021 school student leaders, blessing for the school year and blessing of grade prayer clothes. Our theme for the mass and this year is “Making a Difference as we learn together”.

St Patrick's Primary believes student leadership experiences are essential to developing skills in service to others. Jesus is our model of leadership.

Congratulations to the following leaders who were commissioned at the Opening School Mass.



School Leaders - Danielle Sleiman, Seini Ohi, Finau Maka, Jacob Aoun

Mission Leader - Madeline Makhoul

Environmental Leader - Christopher Tarabay

Learning Leader - Antonio Isaac

Wellbeing Leader - Kokoda Mahony

Sport & Entertainment Leaders - Pavlos Riezk (John - Blue), Isabella Scaltrito (Luke - Yellow), John Paul Chakty (Mark - Red), Nour Alam (Matthew - Green)

END OF DAY PROCEDURES

The below end of day procedures are to ensure the safety of all students. It is important that parents support us by following the below procedures. The afternoon pick up time is a very busy time and we all need to work together to support the safety of our students. **NO STUDENT is to leave the school grounds without an adult.** Parents are requested not to call their son or daughter from the gate or car or ask them to come to them.

DISMISSAL DUTY OUTSIDE THE HALL (Inside the Hall if Wet Weather)

- Teachers walk their class out in an orderly manner and line them up
 - **Kindergarten and Year 1** - outside the bifold doors to the hall
 - **Years 2 to 6** - grass area next to the hall
- At 2:40pm a staff member will open the double gates.
- Parents enter via the double gates and exit via the single gate outside the hall
- Students remain seated until they are collected by their parents.
- Students raise their hand when they see their parent and a teacher will signal for them to stand and go to their parent.
- Parents/carers are asked to leave the school grounds promptly and ensure that once they collect their son or daughter that they remain with them.
- Students refrain from eating until they go home.
- Parents/carers need to collect children by 3:10pm.

WALKERS

- Students walking home assemble in two lines - 'crossing' and 'pipeline' on the **artificial grass area next to the Library**.
- Students need to be sitting with their siblings.
- Students exit the gates on the left hand side of the Church.
- Students walk along the footpath until they reach their parents.
- Teachers walk students in an orderly manner along the footpath of Calliope St to the bridge. Teachers are to ensure that all students have been collected by an adult prior to returning to school.
- Students whose parents are not there will return to the office and wait for their parents there.

BUS DUTY/AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- Teachers walk students in an orderly manner to the bus lines.
- Students line up next to the office and exit gates next to the office.
- Students remain seated until their bus arrives.
- Students board the buses in a safe and orderly manner, ensuring they tap on their Opal card.
- After school care students wait with the bus students next to the office until their carers arrive.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please notify the school if you have changed address or any contact details such as emails or phone numbers. It is vital that we have the correct information in case of emergencies and to ensure accurate billing information. This can be done via the Skoolbag App under e-forms.

OPAL CARDS

All students should be reminded to 'tap on & off' with their Opal cards as they travel to & from school. Whilst travel is free of charge for many students, validating travel is particularly important during Covid for the purpose of contact tracing.

[Here is a link](#) to some general info regarding school students & Opal.

All school students over 12 years of age must [wear a face mask](#) when travelling on public transport.

For any student catching the bus, it is expected that they remain seated for the duration of the trip.

RESPECTING PROPERTY AND ENSURING ALL ITEMS LABELLED

At Monday's assembly I spoke to the students about respecting school and other students' property. If your son or daughter comes home with something that does not belong to them or a piece of clothing with another student's name, please return it to the school via the school office or ring the school to arrange return of the item.

To assist in the returning of lost property to students, please ensure that your son or daughter's name is clearly labelled on all items (clothing, lunch boxes, drinks). Each day there are various items handed into the school office or found in the playground with no name on them. This makes it extremely difficult to hand back to the owner.

STUDENT PHONES

It is an expectation that all students who are required to bring a mobile phone to school, sign their mobile phone into the office (student foyer) prior to the commencement of school every morning. At the end of the day students are to collect their phone from the school office and sign it out. At no time during the school day is a student able to use their phone (or watch) to contact their parents or access games and or social media. Should any student do so, they will have their phone confiscated and their parents will be required to collect it from the school office. These procedures are in place to ensure the privacy of all community members, appropriate use of phones and ensuring learning is not disrupted. If you need to contact your child for any reason you can do so by phoning the school office. The school can not accept responsibility for the loss or damage of a phone that has not followed the above procedures.

ART



Art at St Patrick's



Our budding artists are well along their way at producing some amazing masterpieces and Mrs Hoyle is super proud!

Students from K-2, please provide a *paint shirt for your child that is clearly labelled with your child's name*. This shirt could be an art smock or simply an old t-shirt from Dad! The paint shirts will be stored in your child's learning space and put on ready for painting before even entering the Art room ... let's protect those uniforms!

Students from grades 3-6 that would like to bring in a paint shirt, they are more than welcome and their classroom teacher will inform them where it is to be stored.

It has been a pleasure to meet many parents at dismissal and hear of their child's love of Art! This makes my job even more worthwhile.

Until next time,
Mrs Hoyle

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

On Monday **1 March** there will be a **Staff Development Day** (pupil free day).

On this day staff will be analysing the student data and observations collected at the start of the year to devise goals and plans for students and cohorts.

CLOTHING POOL

The school clothing pool will re-open this Monday 22 February from 8:30am - 9:15am in the parish/school hall.

Entry will be via the single gate at the bottom of Calliope Street. Alternatively you may complete a ["Wish to Order" form](#) located under the 'forms' tab and return to the office. Parents will attempt to meet the request if items are available.



SCHOOL FEES

School Fee Statements should be mailed out mid February and payment for Term 1 Fees will be **due on the 17th March**.

If you have any questions or you require any financial assistance please call Catherine Hartsuyker - School Finance on 8728 7300.

KINDERGARTEN 2022 ENROLMENTS OPEN

2022 Kindergarten enrolments are now open



**ST PATRICK'S
PRIMARY GUILDFORD**

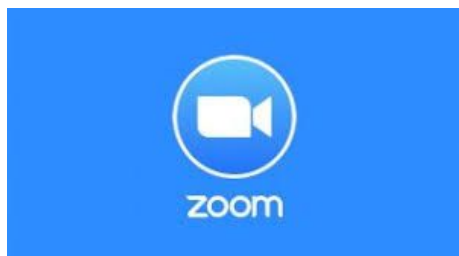
ENROL NOW

OPEN DAYS
11 MARCH 9.15am - 10.15am
23 March 5.00pm - 6.00pm
7 May 9.15am - 10.15am
Subject to Covid-19 restrictions

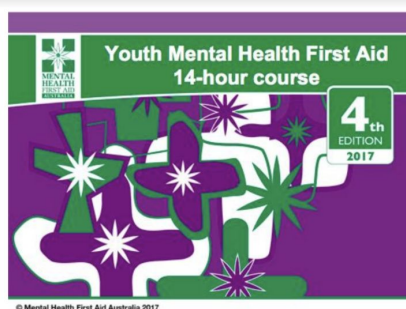
Kindergarten enrolments are now open for 2022. If your child was born between **1st August 2016 and 31st July 2017** please collect an enrolment pack from the school office. Alternatively, you can visit our website ['How to Enrol'](#). Please let family, friends and neighbours know that 2022 Kindergarten forms are available.

ASSEMBLY PROTOCOLS

Just a reminder that whole school assemblies will continue to take place on a Monday at 8:45am via zoom. Parents are invited to attend. For parents attending, please ensure that you identify yourself by name as a participant (zoom settings), mute and switch off your video.



FROM THE COUNSELLORS



210244: Youth Mental Health First Aid Course

Next course:

Term 1 Week 6 at AKC Mt Druitt
Thurs 4th - Fri 5th March 2021
8:30am - 4.00pm

Registrations essential
NESA accredited (Standards 04.1.2, 04.4.2, 06.2.2, 06.4.2, 07.4.2)

Youth Mental Health First Aid Course - Edition 4

Targeted at secondary school staff and upper primary school staff. Free for all staff working within Diocese. All participants will receive a comprehensive YMHA Edition 4 manual free.

The course teaches adults how to assist adolescents who are developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis. Course participants learn about the signs and symptoms of the common and disabling mental health problems in young people, where and how to get help when a young person is developing a mental illness, what sort of help has been shown by research to be effective, and how to provide mental health first aid in a crisis situation.

SPORT

Expression of Interest - Gala Days 2021

As an expression of interest, we are inquiring if any students would be interested in the following sports:

- Basketball
- Gymnastics
- Touch Footy
- Soccer
- Netball

Please complete the Expression of Interest by clicking on this [link](#).

This survey does not guarantee automatic entry, however the information you provide will inform the school of sporting interest and the viability of participation in respective Gala Days.

Kind regards,
Alexander Meoli
Sports Coordinator

PARENT GROUP NEWS

The Parents Group meets each term to discuss and organise upcoming events and to collaborate with the school and parish in the education of our children. Their aim is to support the school in providing ways to enhance student participation and learning experiences and to collaborate with the parish, school and parent body in the achievement of these aims. All parents, carers and guardians of the students are invited to attend the meetings to enable them to best represent the goals and concerns we have for our children.

The next **Parent Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 2 March at 6:00pm**, and will be held in the school hall.

This column is compiled by Parent Group Communications. If you have any queries or wish to contribute, please email StPatsGuildford@parra.catholic.edu.au and attention it to Parent Group Communications.



Representing

Catholic school parents and carers



CCSP assists parents and carers by:



Promoting family, school and community partnerships



Lobbying state and federal governments for school funding



Providing input into curriculum development



Influencing state and federal policy formulation



Developing useful resources and tips on a wide range of topics.



Communicating relevant developments in education, wellbeing and the life of the Church.

The Council of **CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS NSW/ACT** is the peak body representing parents and carers of children and young people in Catholic schools.

Trust our experience

For over 25 years, we have been the voice of Catholic school parents in decision-making within and beyond the NSW Catholic education sector.

The Council is comprised of parent and carer representatives from each of the 11 dioceses in NSW/ACT and the Congregational schools. In addition, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee provides a voice for the families of First Nations Peoples in our schools.

Use our resources

CCSP publishes resources for families and schools including our regular newsletter, *Parent Talk*. On our website, you can also find our media releases and submissions, research papers, educational tips, activities and fact sheets. As a valued and trusted source of expertise, we are the 'go to' agency for a wide range of stakeholders.



Parent Talk Newsletter

8 ISSUES PER YEAR

Keep informed about the latest developments in education, wellbeing, CCSP advocacy initiatives and significant Catholic news and events.

www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/newsletters



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