



# ST PATRICK'S GUILDFORD



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Newsletter 4

Thursday, 10th June 2021



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Over the past few weeks teachers have spent many hours writing students' Semester One reports that I have the privilege to read. One thing that always stands out for me is the incredible number of students with outstanding effort in all areas of their learning. As a result, many Principal certificates will be handed out to students with their reports. This initiative is to continue recognising the outstanding effort of students regardless of their A-E grade.

There would not be a single family in Australia who, at some stage in the life of their children, hadn't encouraged them to "do their best". When we, as parents, tell our children to do their best, we also need to tell them that their best is never going to be the same from one period of time to the next. Everything is alive and changing all the time, so their best will sometimes be high quality and at other times will not be as good; it could depend on whether they are feeling wonderful and happy or upset and moody. When our children don't do their best, they are somewhat denying themselves the opportunity to be who they really are.

So, how can we support our children to do their best? Well, most children become what adults tell them they can become. Children take words to heart, especially words from the adults they love; they want and need to believe what their parents say about them. Through our speech and behaviour towards our children, we communicate to them the boundaries of their potential.

Sometimes, children will need feedback from their parents that might be negative in nature. However, we need to take care that the manner in which we give the feedback is not counterproductive to our children not thinking well of themselves and accepting the need to perhaps change their behaviour. When we do give feedback, we need to focus on the behaviour not on our child's general worth as a person.

To help children to do their best we need to show a genuine interest in them and let them know how much we care about them. We need to acknowledge what's important to them and provide affirmation about who they are and what they're doing. We need, on occasion, to say "well done" or "I was really impressed with the effort and time you put into..." for nothing worth doing is ever easy; worthwhile things always take time and effort. When the need arises, we might offer to lend a hand; if our children see that we are willing to commit our time and energy to their interests, they will be more committed to see things through and be less likely to give up on themselves.

*Steven Jones*  
Principal

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

## UPCOMING DATES

### Week 9

14/6 Public Holiday - Queen's Birthday  
16/6 9:00am-12:30am Year 2 Incursion  
(Marvellous Mixtures)  
9:15am Mass (1Green)  
11am First Penance (2 Blue)  
18/6 11am First Penance (2 Green)

### Week 10

21/6 8:30am Assembly  
22/6 3:00-5:00pm Parent Teacher Interview  
23/6 9.15am - Mass 1 Yellow  
8.00-12.30pm Year 6 Incursion  
(Properties of Materials)  
3:00-6:00pm Parent Teacher Interview  
**25/6 Staff Development Day - Student Free Day**

## NOTES HOME

Year 6 Canberra Excursion  
Sacred Heart Mass and Food  
Donations  
Soccer Gala Day  
Tell Them From Me - Mr Greg  
Whitby

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Books can help parents discuss difficult topics.

Sometimes it is hard as a parent to discuss certain issues such as death, divorce, a sibling with special needs, bullying, moving house, a sick family member, anxiety, puberty, and so on with your children.

Books are a great way to help say the 'right' things and explain things the 'right' way to children. Books are non-threatening and have pictures to help children relate to the topic of discussion. Books open the door to conversation and allow children to ask questions. Most children see reading books as a normal part of their everyday life, so they feel comfortable.

Here are some books that may be useful for your family. It is highly recommended that you read the book before presenting it to your child - every child is different, and as a parent, you know if the book would be suitable or not for your child.

Anxiety: Ruby finds a Worry by Tom Percival

Bad days: Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst

Bullying: Red by Jan De Kinder

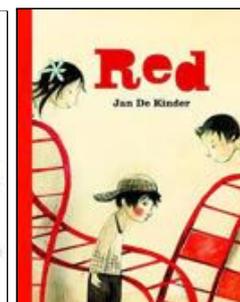
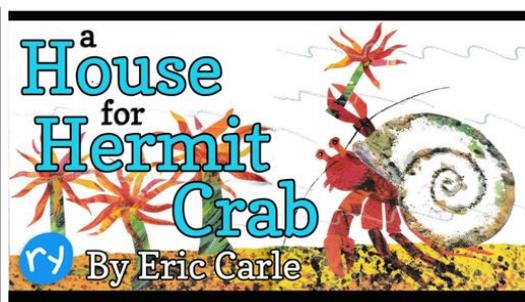
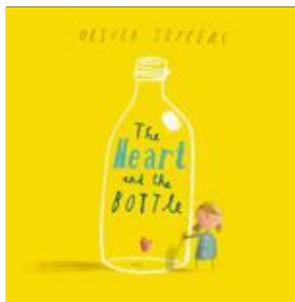
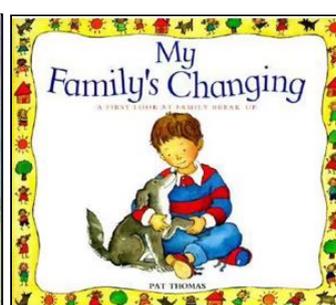
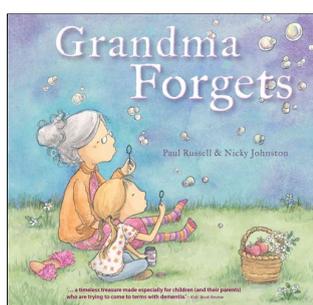
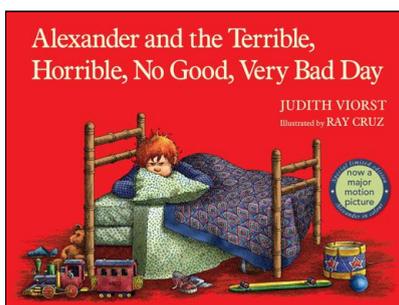
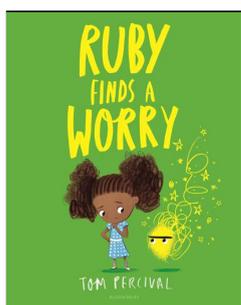
Dementia: Grandma Forgets by Paul Russell and Nicky Johnston

Divorce: My Family's Changing by Pat Thomas

Grief: The Heart in the Bottle by Oliver Jeffers

Moving: A House for Hermit Crab by Eric Carle

Puberty: So That's What's Happening! By Gina Dawson



Tracy Hoey  
Assistant Principal

## SACRED HEART MASS

Today we came together to celebrate the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Students and teachers from Years 3 to 6, along with Parents and Parishioners gathered in the hall to celebrate Mass.

The solemnity reminds us of the neverending love that our God has for us, which was demonstrated through his Son Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Fr Peter encouraged the attendees to replicate Jesus' outpouring of love in our lives by caring for those in need in our community.

Thank you to the families who have already contributed food donations for the needy in our parish. We will continue to accept these until 23rd June 2021. Please ensure the food is non-perishable or still within its use by date. Each grade also has a mission box where they can also donate money to. This will go towards the Manning Foundations work within our community.



## NATIONAL SORRY DAY

National Sorry Day is a special day that occurs in Australia on 26th May every year. It is a day of remembrance and commemoration held to highlight the impact of past policies of forcible removal on the Stolen Generations, their families, and their communities.

National Sorry Day is of particular significance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia. The day is an opportunity for all Australians to remember past mistakes and build stronger bridges for a richer, stronger future together.

Students have spent some time over the past week discussing how we can build strong relations and the importance of respect, forgiveness and appreciation of each other's similarities and differences. Examples from the Scriptures have been used to show students how Jesus modelled these values as he interacted with the people from his time.



## FEAST DAYS

- 11th June The Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 12th June The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 21st June St Aloysius Gonzaga
- 22nd June Sts John Fisher and Thomas More
- 24th June The Nativity of St John the Baptist

Yours in Christ,

*Wardah Khoury*

## DRAFT NEW CURRICULUM FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Living Life to the Full is the name for our Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education

For several years now, our Catholic community has been working together to update the way we share our faith with children and young people. This draft new curriculum for Religious Education will be known as **Living Life to the Full** and is now available on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website together with a guide to help community members learn more.

Faithful to Sacred Scripture and Tradition, Catholic Teaching and Values, **Living Life to the Full** is designed to be age-appropriate for children and young people. When it is launched in late 2021 the Draft New Curriculum will replace 'Sharing Our Story', the current curriculum that has been in place for more than 20 years.

### MERIT AWARDS - Congratulations to the following students

KBlue	Jacob Ibrahim Lovini Nau	KGreen	Tatiana Al Issa Lucas Galayini		
1Blue	Rose May Khairallah Dylan Jabbour	1Green	Elias Moussa Elias Mansour	1Yellow	Nathaniel Taouk
2Blue	Jeziah Makiroa Eva Panta	2Green	Daniella Alam Emily Loulach		
3Blue	Emily Beattie Ashtami Aji	3Green	Rachelle Sukkar Mehrad Kataneh	3Yellow	Emily Salem Ella Saba
4Blue	Danny Atie Ellie Bailey	4Green	Elijah Mouawad Jordan BaniAyyoub		
5Blue	Michael Dias Jamielee Al Tahech	5Green	Georgia Camilleri Pesi Amone	5Yellow	Isabella Remaili Angelo Semaan
6Blue	Sienna Contreras Annaliese Loulach	6Green	Mario Elbayssari Emily Tito	6Yellow	Christopher Tarabay Seini Ohi



## WELLBEING



This week Year 3 filled their Gem jar. They are looking forward to their reward day this Friday 11th June. They will enjoy a mufti day and a movie.

Wishing the 3 finalists of the Bullying No Way competition, Eva Panta, Terese-Sophia Saba and Tala Haddad good luck for Friday 11th June when the overall winner will be announced at the virtual Interrelate awards ceremony.



## TELL THEM FROM ME SURVEY OPEN - PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COMPLETE

The 'Tell Them From Me Survey' is now open and will continue to remain open for the next three weeks. We are inviting students from Years 4 to 6, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience at our school using this survey. The information provided will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership, to further improve student learning and wellbeing. No usernames or passwords are needed as the survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.



We are encouraging ALL FAMILIES to access <http://tellthemfromme.com/stpatsguildford> to complete this online survey. Please see Greg Whitby's letter below.

## STANDARD COLLECTION NOTICE

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) collects data from schools to determine the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA). CEDP is currently working to provide relevant details to the Catholic Education Commission of NSW. Data collected is de-identified of personal information. Parents and caregivers must advise the school by Wednesday 14 July 2021 if they do not want their child's data included in this report via email [staptsguildford@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:staptsguildford@parra.catholic.edu.au).

## STAFFING

**Mrs Clancy Hoyles** has accepted an Art position at Holy Cross Glenwood from the commencement of Term 3 2021. As a result Mrs Hoyles will finish at St Patrick's at the end of this term. We congratulate Mrs Hoyles on her appointment and know that she will be missed by all within the St Patrick's community.

We welcome **Mrs Sara Radwan (Monday - Thursday)**, **Mrs Tesh Naidoo (Tues, Wed & Fri)** and **Mr Brandon Gulasi (Tues, Wed & Fri)** who have joined our staff for the remainder of the year. Mrs Radwan, Mrs Naidoo and Mr Gulasi are all completing their final year of their teaching degree and are being funded via 2021 Covid Intensive Support funding. These staff will be taking small groups within grades.

### SCHOOL PHOTOS

Don Wood Photography has advised that our school photos are currently delayed. Photos are scheduled to arrive in Week 10 or Term 3, Week 1. Apologies for the inconvenience.

### SPORTS UNIFORM SWAP

Due to the Year 2 incursion this upcoming Wednesday there will be the following change in Physical Education days and sports uniform to be worn...

Year 5 - Wednesday  
Year 2 - Thursday

### COMPASS PARENT PORTAL

Have you downloaded it yet? So many benefits ... Parents can enter unexplained absences, update their details (ie mobile number, address).

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

A reminder that the **last day of Term 2 (25 June) and the first day of Term 3 (12 July) are staff development days (pupil free days).**



### CASUAL STAFF

As winter approaches and more viruses are present you will start to notice more casual staff at St Patrick's. Just as our families must keep their children home with flu-like symptoms, our teaching staff have the same expectations in regards to their own health, or the health of their children. Our first preference is to always book our regular casual teachers, who are familiar with our students and school expectations, however, sometimes this is not possible.

At times we are unable to book any casual staff due to the limited number of casuals available on the day. On these occasions our classes must be split. This is always a last resort, but one all schools are relying on more often due to the current restrictions and limited casual teaching staff. Families can be assured that students are provided ample and relevant work, have access to the same technologies they would normally have and are still supported by a class teacher when needed.

## STUDENT ILLNESS - COVID RESTRICTIONS STILL APPLY

Over the past two weeks we have seen the resurgence of COVID-19 in Victoria. While many things could be argued about that situation, when you drill down to the centre, someone had cold symptoms and didn't get checked.

During the past week we have had a number of children who have come to school and been sent home as they are unwell. We are still required to operate under the protocols that were advised during 2020. We understand that some children may suffer from seasonal hay fever or allergies and these symptoms can present as covid symptoms. If this is the case for your child, parents are asked to obtain a clearance letter from their doctor for their child to attend school.

Currently,

- No student is to attend school if they are unwell. This includes a runny nose or sore throat.
- Students who are absent from school with flu like symptoms, or, who have been sent home because they have flu-like symptoms must have a COVID-19 test
- Students are not able to return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free
- A negative COVID-19 test result must be provided to the school before a student can come back to school. The test results can be a NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre letter, SMS or email and/or a medical certificate
- These same protocols apply to school staff.

We also understand these processes may be frustrating, however, in order to protect the health and safety of all we are required to follow them. Parents are also asked to be respectful to school staff who call to ask for a child to be collected. We are not doctors and take into consideration what a child is saying and what the class teacher has observed, however, in the end we must follow the procedures expected of us by NSW Health authorities and the NSW government.

## LIBRARY



**2nd March - 28th August 2020**

The Premier's Reading Challenge has now begun and there are 10 weeks left in the challenge. Once you have returned the permission slip, a note will be sent home with the Username and Password. Parents will need to enter the books their child has read into their Reading Log on the PRC website.

In the meantime, have a look at the Premier's Reading Challenge website and familiarise yourself with the rules. <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>. The school library and public libraries have many books that appear on the PRC booklists. K-2 will borrow books with the red PRC sticker, 3-4 green PRC sticker and 5-6 purple PRC sticker. They may read books above their level but not below.

Congratulations to the following students who have finished the Challenge so far:

Jasmine Abboud KBlue, Emily Abboud 3Yellow, Christian Sleiman 3Blue, Irini Younan 3Green, Eden Perera 5Blue

## BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL DROP OFF & PARKING

Just a reminder that parents and guardians are to make sure that they comply with the street signage around the school and respect and consider our neighbours...

### **Morning...**

- drop students off in the designated areas (please note that directly outside the administration office is a bus zone from 8am and stopping there will result in a fine from Council rangers)
- any student dropped off on Calliope street opposite the school should be walking across the pedestrian crossing (please do not walk your child(ren) across the road and in front or behind cars departing/arriving or reversing)

### **Afternoon...**

- a reminder that the parking signs outside the school is a 15 minute zone
- if crossing Calliope street, use the pedestrian crossings at either end of the school

**Please do not park across or in driveways or on pedestrian strips for the safety and respect of all within the school community.**

## HEALTHY LUNCHBOX

School is a time when children start to make independent choices about their lifestyle such as food habits. Involving children in planning and preparing their own lunch boxes gives children an opportunity to learn about healthy eating.

A healthy lunchbox should include:

- fresh fruit – cut up in pieces or put in a container, this makes it easier for children to eat.
- fresh crunchy vegetables
- milk, yoghurt or cheese - For children who cannot tolerate milk products, offer appropriate alternatives like calcium fortified soy or rice drink or soy yoghurt
- a meat or meat alternative food like some lean meat (e.g. chicken strips), hard-boiled egg.
- a grain or cereal food like bread, a roll, flat bread, fruit bread or crackers (wholegrain or wholemeal choices are best) - Consider giving half a sandwich or roll for morning recess, as this is an easy way to get a healthy fill.
- water.

**A healthy lunchbox will allow children to have the energy to concentrate and learn at school.**

Source: [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)



## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The athletics carnival was a huge success this year with many students participating in the majority of events. There are many people to thank who made this day run smoothly.

Firstly a big thank you to all the parents who come early to set up, assist with running activities, running the canteen and the officials that helped with recording. Parents like yourselves are the backbone to events like this. We truly appreciate all you do and could not be more grateful. Miss Dann, our Physical Education teacher, commented on how she has never been at an athletics carnival with so many parent helpers who displayed such professionalism and cooperation.

Special mention to Mrs Dann who managed not only to provide us with extra equipment and expertise in track and field events, but for making arrangements with her other school to attend our athletics carnival. We appreciate everything you do Mrs Dann and find you a huge asset to our school community.

Finally to our teachers. Thank you for being so organised, flexible and on top of marshalling the students throughout the whole day. The Staff at St Patrick's always go beyond their limits as teachers, to ensure students receive a fair, fun and rewarding day. Again thank you for all your efforts in making these events transition smoothly.

### PARRAMATTA DIOCESAN RUGBY

Good luck to Finau Maka who has been selected and will represent the Parramatta Diocesan team at the Mackillop Rugby trials in Forbes on Sunday 20 June and Monday 21 June. Mr Jones will also be attending the Mackillop trials as the Parramatta Diocesan Rugby coach.

*Sports Coordinator*  
*Alex Meoli*

The St Patrick's Clothing Pool will be **OPEN** on Monday 14th June from 8:15-8:40am in the School Hall.

Alternatively, you can complete a "[Wish to Order](#)" form at the office. School staff will attempt to meet the request if items are available.



## MOBILE PHONES

All students are reminded that should they be required to have a mobile phone at school it must be handed into the office. Any student using their phone (or watch with phone capabilities) whilst on the school premises without the express permission of a member of staff may have their phone confiscated. This procedure is in place to ensure the safety and privacy of all members of the school community. The school will not accept responsibility for any phone that is misplaced or damaged due to not having adhered to the above expectation.

## PARENT GROUP NEWS

Thank you to all the students who participated in our recent sausage sizzle fundraiser at the Athletics Carnival last week. We raised **\$1636** for the school.

We would like to thank all the parents who helped throughout the day – from cooking the BBQ, preparing the lunches, serving in the canteen, and helping with the events.

The Committee would also like to acknowledge the generous donation of the fruit and water.

Our next fundraiser will be for Father's Day. More information to follow closer to the event.



9 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

You may already know that your child's school is participating in the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) online surveys for students, teachers and parents and carers. Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta values your input into our community; I strongly encourage all families to have their say.

The survey is anonymous, voluntary, and you can skip any questions that you do not wish to answer. It's open until Friday 25 June, and each school should provide every family with a link to participate. If you need help accessing this information, please contact your school office.

These surveys provide us with important information about how we can better support our school communities. We work with each school on the areas that are identified through this process as needing attention or further focus.

The open text question in the surveys is read by your child's principal only. Any detailed information in the open text could potentially identify the respondent so generic comments are recommended.

If you would like more information or have any concerns, please contact your school.

Thank you for being part of this process that helps us to better serve your family, and children and young people in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G B Whitby'.

**Gregory B Whitby AM KSG FACE FACEL**  
 Executive Director  
 Catholic Education  
 Diocese of Parramatta



**Parramatta Centre, Term 3, 2021 Group program**

Group	Group Dates	Location/ Technical requirements	Pre-group interview	Fee
<b>Managing Anger</b> (male and female participants)	<b>Wednesdays</b> (8 weeks) 28/7 to 15/9/21 5.30 to 8pm	This program will be conducted <u>face to face</u> at: Level 6, 126 Church Street, Parramatta	Pre-group interview Wednesday 14/7/21 Arranged by appointment	Based on a sliding scale & household income.
<b>Parenting After Separation – Focus on Kids</b> <b>GROUP FULL</b>	<b>Mondays</b> (8 weeks) 9/8 to 13/9/21 5.30 to 7.30pm	This program will be conducted <u>on line</u> . We will supply information on this when you call us to enrol for your group.	Pre-group interview Monday 26/7/21 Arranged by appointment	Based on a sliding scale & household income.
<b>Bringing up Great Kids</b>	<b>Tuesdays</b> (6 weeks) 20/7 to 24/8/21 11.30am to 2pm.	This program will be conducted <u>face to face</u> at: Level 6, 126 Church Street, Parramatta	Pre-group interview Tuesday dates tba Arranged by appointment	Based on a sliding scale & household income.
<b>Couple Communication</b> (for couples to attend together)	<b>Saturday</b> 28/8/21 10am to 4pm	This program will be conducted <u>on line</u> . We will supply information on this when you call us to enrol for your group	N/A	Based on a sliding scale & household income.
<b>FAMILY SAFETY GROUPS</b>				
<b>Women: Choice and Change</b>	<b>Fridays</b> (8 weeks) 10am to 12.30pm 30/7 to 17/9/21	This program will be conducted <u>face to face</u> at: Level 6, 126 Church Street, Parramatta	Pre-group interview Friday 16/7/21 Arranged by appointment	Fee waived
<b>Taking Responsibility: A course for Men</b>	TBA	Call 9806 3299 to register for information session for July Group.	Pre-group interview Arranged by appointment	Based on a sliding scale & household income.

Source: Parramatta Relationships Education Program - Contact: Relationships Australia, Parramatta- 02-98063299 to register your interest. Client services@ransw.org.au