



ST PATRICK'S GUILDFORD



Principal: Steven Jones
34 Calliope Street
Guildford 2161
Phone: 8728 7300
Email: StPatsGuildford@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.stpatsguildford.catholic.edu.au

Parish Contact Details
Parish Priest: Fr Peter Blayney,
Parish Associate: Sister Helen Cunningham OP
Phone: 9632 2672

Newsletter 3

Thursday, 11th November 2021



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents

The past three days have been an extremely challenging time for all members of the community as we continue to live with COVID-19. Whilst it may have been challenging and at times tested everyone's resilience, patience, understanding and perseverance; the St Patrick's community has once again risen to the challenge.

To the **parent community** who responded to the many requests and messages, and adhered to particular instructions, I am so appreciative. Thank you for your understanding and to the many who have articulated their appreciation to the school.

To the **Kindergarten parents** who received phone calls on Wednesday evening from Mrs Hoey and myself and responded with absolute understanding, compassion and acceptance. The majority has tested their children and it was only due to following the request from school that we hopefully have stopped the spread. Not only did they accept the challenges that were presented, many asked about the health of the positive members of the community.

To the **staff** who continue to be resilient, adaptive, responsive and understanding of the ever changing world of schooling in 2021. They united to ensure the safety and well being of all students. As parents have experienced during remote learning, being a teacher is not an easy role, but it is extremely rewarding. Special thanks to **Mrs Hoey** (Assistant Principal) whose leadership and support was once again outstanding.

Whilst we may not necessarily be in the clear and the past few days could occur again, if we all continue to be cautious and ensure the safety of all members of the school community. To support this, please...

- continue open communication with the school - if you receive a positive result ring the school immediately and if outside school hours email to stpatsguildford@parra.catholic.edu.au at anytime of the day or night
- do not send your child to school if they are sick (please note that the Kindergarten outbreak was not the result of a child being sent to school sick)
- get your child tested when there is even the slightest possibility, even if your child doesn't want to
- do not engage in false information that is circulating online - we advise our parents to always exercise caution when reading information online regarding sensitive or controversial issues. If you ever have concerns or hear something you are unsure of, always get in touch with the school for clarification.

As Mrs Hoey and I reflected last night we both acknowledged how proud we were of the St Patrick's community. It is during times of challenge that the structures, processes and the culture of a school are tested.

*St Mary of the Cross,
you faced difficult times with a heart filled with trust,
always believing in the watchful presence of God.
Walk with us now in this difficult time,
and may we be for others, examples of hope and trust.*

Please continue to stay safe and vigilant.

Steven Jones

Principal

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

UPCOMING DATES

Week 7

15/11 8:45am [Whole School Assembly](#)
[Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 648 4536 5127
Password: 275716

Week 8

26/11 Year 5 Leadership Day

NOTES HOME

School updates - refer to Skoolbag

[Important School Community Update 9 November 2021](#)

[Important School Community Update AM 10 November 2021](#)

[Important School Community PM Update 10 November 2021](#)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Many children, especially struggling readers, forget some of what they've learnt during the summer holidays. To avoid this summer slide try some of the following strategies during the Christmas holidays:

Six books to summer success: Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right — not too hard and not too easy. Take advantage of your local library. Ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities.

Read something every day: Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Find them throughout the day. They can read the newspaper — even if it is just the comics or today's weather, magazines, online websites, etc. For example, if your child likes the food channel, help them to look for a recipe on the network's website — then cook it together for more reading practise.

Keep reading aloud: Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't. This will increase their knowledge and expand their experiences with texts, so that they will do better when they read on their own.

Join the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge and win a \$500 Gift Voucher: Students throughout the Diocese of Parramatta have the chance to win one of two \$500 JB Hi-Fi vouchers or one of thirty gift vouchers valued at \$30.

HOW TO ENTER

Read at least one age appropriate book, e-book, animated novel, comic, play or piece of poetry and enter the Competition through <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/2021EDSRC>. Entrants must fill out all required fields on the entry form as well as telling Mr Whitby in 50 words or less why you loved the book, e-book, animated novel, comic, play or piece of poetry. After submitting the required information on the entry form, you will receive one (1) entry into the drawing. The more materials read, the more chances of entering the competition. You can enter as many times as you like BUT you must describe why you liked a different book, e-book, animated novel, comic, play or piece of poetry each entry.

The competition opens on 1 November 2021 and closes at 5pm on 25 February 2022. You can enter as many times as you like!

Students can access e-books from our student e-book platforms [SORA](#) or [Wheelers](#). Please see [Terms & Conditions](#) of entry.

Reading sparks our imagination and creativity. This challenge is a great way for students to continue learning outside of the classroom.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

Summer
READING
Challenge

WIN A \$500 GIFT VOUCHER!

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of two \$500 JB Hi-Fi vouchers or one of thirty gift vouchers valued at \$30 each.

THE MORE BOOKS YOU READ, THE MORE CHANCES YOU HAVE TO WIN.

Enter online
www.parra.catholic.edu.au.

 CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

Competition opens on 1 November 2021 and closes at 5pm on 25 February 2022. Terms and Conditions apply.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

REMEMBRANCE DAY

We keep in our prayers today all those who have 'fallen' while protecting and defending countries and people.

"The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them." John 15:13



**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, or the years condemn
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning.**

We will remember them.

Response: *We will remember them*

Leader: Lest we forget

Response: *Lest we forget*



CONFIRMATION

Please keep in your prayers the children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 20th November at 5.30pm.

FEAST DAYS

11th November- St Martin of Tours

12th November - St Josaphat

15th November - St Albert the Great

16th November - St Margaret of Scotland, St Gertrude

17th November - St Elizabeth of Hungary

18th November - The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter and Paul

21st November - Christ the King

22nd November - St Cecilia

24th November - Sts Andrew Dung-Lac

Keep safe.

Yours in Christ,

Wardeh Khoury

MERIT AWARDS - Congratulations to the following students

KBlue	Savannah Boumelhem Jacob Ibrahim			KGreen	Darshith Thapa George Atie		
1Blue	Elijah Cindric Michelle Scott	1Green	Kassandra Tuha Anthony Hechme			1Yellow	Xavier Attlee Jocelyn Huang
2Blue	Charbel Diab Antonio Diab			2Green	Prisha Pandey Aita Fakava		
3Blue	Hannah Tarabay Angelina Farah	3Green	Anthony Galloub Michelle Chen			3Yellow	Prayaan Sitoula Georgia Scaltrito
4Blue	Isabella Arriguetti Rita Makdsi			4Green	Samantha Nabuuma Tayla Geaitani		
5Blue	Jamielee Al Tahech Michael Dias	5Green	Joy Sovula Tayla Fares			5Yellow	Chanelle Gittany Morad Shammout

6Blue	Chiara Ranieri Raquel Ters	6Green	Sophia Mondino Elizabeth Hasham	6Yellow	Isabella Scaltrito Noah Nohra
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WELLBEING

This week the school focus was on St Patrick's school expectations of ***Being a Lerner***. The children are being reminded and encouraged to

- Make responsible learning choices
- Follow instructions
- Sit in their designated spots
- Be active participants
- Achieve their goals
- Be problem solvers
- Take responsibility for their decisions and actions.

As the children follow the school expectations and receive their shamrocks for their Paddy Passports we are getting more gems in our jars. A big congratulations to Years 3 and 5 who filled their Gem Jars this week. They will look forward to a grade reward in the coming week.

SCHOOL GEM UPDATE



Kindy Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6



LIBRARY

It's great to see the students back at school and coming to the library to borrow and read.

There are still a large number of books that were borrowed prior to lockdown that need to be returned to the library.

Could parents please have a look at home for these books and return them to the school as soon as possible.

Library days are as follows...

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 - Wednesday

Year 3 and Year 4 - Thursday

Year 5 and Year 6 - Tuesday

Year 6 especially needs to return their library books as any overdue items stay attached to their record and will follow them to high school.

Mrs Sandra Fogarty
Library Assistant

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE



2021 NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to those students who completed the Premier's Reading Challenge in 2021, they are now eligible to receive a certificate that will be sent home with their report at the end of the year.

Special mention goes to Emily A, Emily B and Georgia S from Year 3 who will receive a Gold Certificate for completing 4 Reading Challenges and Sienna C, Zachary O and Isabella S from Year 6 who will receive a Platinum Certificate for completing 7 Reading Challenges.

CANTEEN

For all families who ordered lunches on Wednesday 10 November, the canteen provider has organised for all funds to be credited back into accounts through Flexischool. These should have been credited overnight.

UNIFORM

A reminder that it is an expectation as part of the uniform policy that both girls and boys should be wearing **ankle high white socks** (i.e they must be seen above the shoes)

2022 ENROLMENTS

We still have limited spaces available for Kindergarten - Year 6 for 2022.
If you know of any family or friends who have a child starting school next year, please ask them to contact the office.

STUDENT VACCINATIONS



9 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In the past days, there has been some misinformation circulating online suggesting that planning was underway for mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations of students at school.

I want to be clear that this is not the case. There are no plans for schools to arrange mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for students.

I hope that you find this clarification helpful.

Yours sincerely

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

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

Bethany Centre 470 Church Street Parramatta NSW 2150
Locked Bag 4 North Parramatta NSW 1750
9840 5600 www.parra.catholic.edu.au