



ST PATRICK'S GUILDFORD



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Newsletter 1

Thursday, 10th February 2022



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2022 school year! In the past week we have welcomed all of our students and staff back for the commencement of the new school year, including our youngest members (Kindergarten) into the St Patrick's school community along with their parents. All the children and parents returned with an overwhelming sense of excitement and calmness which has permeated across the school. Perhaps leaving your children at the entrance to come in on their own each morning has instilled in them a new sense of confidence to meet their daily challenges. Thank you for your support during this challenging time that we are all currently facing.

We also welcome our new staff members **Miss Andrea Hernandez** (Diversity teacher), **Mr Adam Durkin** (Kindergarten Blue), **Mr Brandon Gulasi** (Year 4 Blue), **Mr Christian Nassar** (Year 4 Green), **Miss Vanessa Pollicini** (School Counsellor Monday & Tuesday), **Miss Genevieve Carey** (School Counsellor Thursday & Friday), **Mrs Elizabeth Hennes** (Library Assistant) and **Mr Arshia Baseri** (IT Support trainee). I hope they quickly feel a part of our special community and I know you will welcome them warmly.

As a parent, this time of the year can be challenging and emotional. One of the greatest challenges can be sending your child off to school, be it for the first day or for their thousandth day. You are entrusting your child to their class teacher and hoping that they will care for your child just as you do. When you drop your child off at the gate each morning, your thoughts are in part informed by your own experience of school. Sometimes this can lead to feeling anxious about the experience your child will have. Be mindful that your anxieties don't become your child's anxieties too. Your child's experience of school will not be the same as yours was. So it is important to remain positive. Thank you for your vigilance with monitoring your child(ren) regarding sickness and COVID, so as to ensure the safety of all within the community.

This year we return to school after another unique Summer of holidaying with COVID so prevalent within the community. I know as I have spoken with many families that the majority were affected in some way whether individually, a member of the family or extended family being 'positive'. As a result, families explored a different kind of Christmas holiday and many creative experiences were had. It has been a delight hearing the children's stories. The start of the 2022 school year will continue to be guided by restrictions. Just a reminder to read the [Term 1 2022 Covid safe measures](#) letter sent out prior to the commencement of the school year. We will still experience the routines, rituals and traditions that shape school life, they will just take a different form. The last two years taught us to embrace the opportunity to look at things differently and explore new possibilities which turned out to be positive.

So as we begin this new year full of hope and possibility, I wish the children every success as they strive to meet their goals in relation to their academic, social and spiritual learning.

Steven Jones
Principal

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

UPCOMING DATES

Week 4

14/2 8:45am [Assembly Zoom](#)
Mtg ID: 698 8325 4427
Password: 912341
16/2 National Apology Day
18/2 9am [Opening School Mass via zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 684 2410 7201
Password: 363350

Week 5

21/2 8:45am [Assembly Zoom](#)
Mtg ID: 698 8325 4427
Password: 912341
24/2 & 25/2 Life Education visit
24/2 1:30pm [Parent Whole School Information Zoom](#)
Mg ID: 655 5623 8567 Password: 212551
6pm [Parent Whole School Information Zoom](#) (repeat session)
Mg ID: 655 5623 8567 Password: 212551

NOTES HOME

*[Term 1 2022 Covid safe measures Important Information - St Patrick's Guildford](#)
*[Rapid Antigen Tests \(RATs\) collection](#)
*[Case of COVID-19 community notification - 2 February 2022](#)
*[Case of COVID-19 community notification - 3 February 2022](#)
*[Case of COVID-19 community notification - 9 February 2022](#)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our newest community members, our Kindergarten students. I am so proud of the way they have settled into big school after only a week. They enjoy coming in each morning to create and inquire in their play pods. We have some future chefs, housewives, beauticians, builders, farmers, car mechanics, palaeontologists, and so much more, in the making. They love singing the songs, drawing, writing and running around in the playground. We are so excited to embark on the next seven years of learning with them here at St Patrick's.



SETTING UP ROUTINES

As we begin a new school year its good to reflect on getting back into routine:

- Establishing a good bedtime routine - You know how much better we as adults function on a good night's sleep .. So it makes sense that our children will be more engaged in their learning if they are well rested too.
- Having a balance between homework and play - It's important to help your child work out the best routine to do what needs to be done for school, while also finding time to be a kid!
- Keep the devices off at bedtime - It's so tempting to fall for the pleas of, "I just want to finish this level! Or I'll turn it off, just wait a second". Social media doesn't have a time limit and there is always another level, so take the device away and put it somewhere visible to you. You would be amazed at how much more relaxed your child will be when the temptation to keep checking their device is taken away from them.

LIFE EDUCATION VISITS ST PATRICK'S

In Weeks 5 and 6 the Life Education Van and Harold the Giraffe will be visiting St Patrick's. Life Education program offers schools a unique, curriculum-based program empowering children to make safer and healthier choices through education. The programs conducted by the Life Education instructor complement the Health units studied here at St Patrick's.

Kindergarten and Year 1 will participate in the "Harold's Friendship" program. After building a model spaceship at school, Harold and his friends, Boots and Red venture into an imaginary world in outer space. As the adventure unfolds children explore:

- how to build friendships and care for others
- feelings and emotions
- safe and unsafe situations and early warning signs
- safe places and people to turn to for help



Year 2 will participate in the "Growing Good Friends" program where Harold battles to figure out what to give his grandma for her birthday, until his friends, Boots and Red step in and offer some good ideas. This animated story takes us to familiar surroundings where students can:

- explore what health messages mean
- identify safety signs
- recognise how physical activity and nutrition contribute to a healthy lifestyle
- explore how positive relationships benefit our health and wellbeing

Year 3 and Year 4 will participate in the "All Systems Go" program. Inside a futuristic machine 'The Venture', the Captain and his crew take the class on a tour of the human body. Travelling through the blood, the class explore and discover how magnificent the human body really is. They learn the functions of various body parts and the actions required to keep these systems working well.

- factors that influence the function of body systems such as exercise and drugs
- exploring ways to manage peer pressure
- the effects of secondhand smoke
- the function of vital organs (heart, lungs, brain, kidneys)
- healthy food choices

Year 5 and Year 6 will participate in the "Relate Respect Connect" program where students participate in a unique, contemporary module that explores building positive, safe and respectful relationships. Presented via a series of fictitious vlogs that resonate with young people moving through upper primary school and beyond this module focuses on:

- understanding how to respect ourselves and others
- identifying characteristics of positive relationships
- strategies to help maintain positive online and offline relationships
- strategies to respond to unsafe or disrespectful situations online and offline
- the importance of relationships to our own and others wellbeing

Merchandise can be purchased during the time Healthy Harold is with us. By shopping in the Healthy Harold shop you are supporting the valuable work and helping to ensure more Australian children are empowered to make healthier choices. All profits from the shop go towards educating more Australian children. The merchandise form will be sent home with your child/ren along with the permission note.

Tracy Hoey
Assistant Principal

KINDERGARTEN 2023 ENROLMENTS OPEN



2023 Kindergarten enrolments are now open

If your child was born between 1st January 2017 and 31st July 2018, please collect an enrolment form via the school website or school office. Please let family, friends and neighbours know that 2023 Kindergarten forms are available.

Open Days: 10th March 2022 - 9:00am to 10:00am, 1 April 2022 - 9:00am to 10:00am, 3rd May 2022 - 5:00-6:00pm
[Click here](#) for more information or to register your interest.

PRAYER TO START THE 2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Lord God, let us find favour before you.

We pray that You will bless us with the spirit of discernment and understanding.

*We pray for the health of students, teachers and other school staff,
as we go back to face to face learning in the midst of the pandemic.*

We pray that we will be protected under your wings.

Lord, please be our refuge and our fortress.

We pray that you will keep us and be with us when we go out to school and when we come back home.

*We pray for what we learn, for our friendships, for our time of fun and games,
but also for the struggles we will face.*

*Lord, we pray that we will let Your love dwell in our hearts and be comforted that through everything that we face
this new year, you will be by our side.*

In Jesus name,

Amen.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS



The Opening Mass to celebrate the start of the 2022 academic school year and commissioning of our new student leaders will be held next Friday 18th February at 9am in the school hall. Parents are invited to join in with prayer and the Year 1-5 students through the zoom link below. Kindergarten and Year 6 will be physically present in the hall.

[Opening School Mass via zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 684 2410 7201

Password: 363350

The 2022 student leaders will be announced early next week and an invitation for two members of their family (who are fully vaccinated) will be extended to attend the mass personally if they wish.

SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to the students in Year 5 who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on the first weekend of the Christmas holidays and those who have been receiving their First Holy Communion during parish masses.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM



The students in Year 2 will be prepared and receive the Sacrament of Penance in Term 2 during class time.

Year 3 students will learn about the Eucharist during Term 2. It will be the Parents responsibility to then complete paperwork and make a booking at a Mass for First Holy Communion with the Parish once the forms are sent home in Term 3.

Year 5 students will learn about Confirmation and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in preparation for Confirmation in Term 4 if they are eligible. The date to be confirmed.

Any parent who has a child in Years 4-6 who hasn't received their First Communion and wishes them to do so will need to contact the Parish for further information.

FEAST DAYS

10th February - St Scholastica

11th February - Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of Prayer for the Sick

14th February - St Cyril and Methodius

22nd February - The Chair of St Peter

23rd February - St Polycarp

Lent begins on the 2nd March 2022

Many blessings,

Wardah Khoury

RAPID ANTIGEN TEST

The NSW government has supplied another two weeks of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for each student attending St Patrick's.

Each student will bring home in a labelled plastic bag 4 RATs for the next two weeks. Thank you to the families who are continuing to be vigilant and testing their children on a Monday and Wednesday morning prior to school.

PARENT INFORMATION ZOOM

In Week 5 on Thursday 24 February Mrs Hoey & Mr Jones will hold two Information sessions via zoom with updates regarding the current procedures at school.

1:30pm [Parent Whole School Information Zoom](#)

Mg ID: 655 5623 8567

Password: 212551

6pm [Parent Whole School Information Zoom](#) (repeat session)

Mg ID: 655 5623 8567

Password: 212551

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION SESSION

In Week 6 a parent information session will be held via zoom for our 2022 Kindergarten parents. During the zoom the teachers will talk about what happens on a typical school day including our Discovery Play time.

6pm 3rd March

Mg ID: 692 8267 5178

Password: 576025

2022 SCHOOL TERM DATES

TERM 1	28th & 31 January 2022 - Staff Development Days 1st February 2022 Years 1-6 Return 3rd February 2022 Kindergarten begins 8th April 2022 - Last day of Term 2 (Good Friday 15th April & Easter Sunday 18th April 2022)
TERM 2	Tuesday 26 April 2022 to Friday 1st July 2022
TERM 3	Monday 18 July to Friday 23 September
TERM 4	Monday 10 October to Monday 19 December

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

At St Patrick's our main communication channels to parents are via:

Compass emails ~ Fortnightly Newsletter ~ Skoolbag App ~ School Website ~ School Facebook Page

Every second Thursday our newsletter is distributed via the channels stated above. Don't forget to make sure that you have the Skoolbag app on your phone, with the notifications turned on. You can use the app to inform the school of your child's absences or change of details.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING & BUS ZONE

Pedestrian Crossings.... To ensure the safety of our students in the morning and afternoon, all families are reminded to use the pedestrian crossings located at both the top and bottom of the school on Calliope Street. Please do not cross the road with your child(ren) other than via these two crossings. Already parents and staff have observed a number of close incidences. It is better to take a minute or two extra to ensure your child(ren)'s safety.

Bus Zones... A reminder that the bus zone outside the school administration office and opposite the St Patrick's church operate in the morning and afternoon. No cars are permitted to stop in these zones during the times identified.

Not adhering to the above may result in a fine and loss of demerit points. Council and the school police liaison have been informed of the school and communities concerns regarding non compliance with the parking regulations, and parking rangers will most likely be present in the upcoming days/weeks. The school and staff do not have the jurisdiction to enforce the No Parking area.

Please do not stop or park at any time across the driveways including Fr Peter and Sr Helen's driveway near the Presbytery.

Within the community of St Patrick's we are making a difference when we are Safe, we are Respectful and we are Learners.

As we start the new school year all the teachers and students are working on their new routines and classroom procedures. The students all have their Paddy Passports and are starting to collect their Shamrocks. The whole school reward system provides students and teachers an opportunity to promote and reinforce positive behaviours and encourage a collaborative, calm and positive learning environment. Paddy our school mascot will also help promote positive expectations in and out of the classroom.



The students will be able to receive;

- A Shamrock award when they have received **20 Shamrocks**
- A Gem award when they have received **40 Shamrocks + 1 Gem**
- A Gold award when they have received **80 Shamrocks + 2 Gems**



All Gems go towards filling the Grade Gem Jar which will give the grade a reward.

Full Gem Jar = Grade Reward



Safer Internet Day



Tuesday the 8th February was **Safer Internet Day**. This global campaign is dedicated to creating a safer online world for everyone, including young children. Celebrated in 170 countries, Safer Internet Day is designed to bring the world together to make the internet a safer, more positive place. The campaign theme for 2022 is **#PlayitFairOnline**.

Our school is committed to raising online safety awareness in our community and helping young people build positive online relationships. This week, students received their *Technology Acceptable Use Contract*. The document is a reminder of how children need to be safe and respectful learners whilst using technology and the internet. For more information about how to help your child engage in safe, enjoyable experiences online, visit the [esafety website for parents](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

We hope some students were able to join the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge over the holidays. Entries close at 5:00pm on **25 February 2022**. There are some great prizes to be won. More information about logging your challenge can be found at <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/2021EDSRC>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
Summer
READING
challenge

WIN A \$500 GIFT VOUCHER!

Entry closes at 5pm on 25 February 2022.
Terms and Conditions apply.



PARENT TEACHER MEET & GREETINGS

During Week 7 (7-11 March) there will be an opportunity for one on one meetings between all parents and class/support teachers for 10 minutes. On **Tuesday 8 March there will** be a late evening meeting. Final details regarding the arrangements and the manner in which these will take place will be decided in the upcoming weeks. Whether in person or via zoom depending on the current COVID restrictions at the time.

SPORTS UNIFORM DAYS

Kindergarten - Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 1 - Tuesday
Year 2 - Tuesday
Year 3 - Wednesday
Year 4 - Wednesday
Year 5 - Thursday
Year 6 - Thursday

LABELLING ALL ITEMS

Please ensure that all personal items (clothing, lunchboxes, bags, etc.) are clearly labelled with your child(ren)'s name. Each year there are numerous items of clothing, especially hats and jackets that have no names or identification in lost property.



NO NAME = difficulty to find the OWNER

2022 STAFFING

Principal:	Mr Steven Jones	
Assistant Principal:	Mrs Tracy Hoey	(Assistant Principal & Kindergarten Behaviour Support)
R E Coordinator:	Mrs Wardeh Khoury	(Religious Education Coordinator & Year 5 Behaviour Support)
Coordinator:	Ms Samantha Barros	(Literacy Instructional Leader & Year 2 Behaviour Support)
Coordinator:	Miss Dalia Fadel	(Numeracy Instructional Leader & Year 1 Behaviour Support)
Coordinator:	Mrs Michele O'Connor	(Wellbeing Leader & Years 3 & 4 Behaviour Support)
Coordinator:	Mr Mark Aggar	(Diversity Leader & Year 6 Behaviour Support)
Special Projects:	Mr Anthony Bechara	(Embedding Digital Technologies within the classroom & Digital Storyteller)
Special Projects:	Mr Alex Meoli	(Student Engagement & Learning Beyond the Classroom)
Administration Staff:	Mrs Cathy Hartsuyker (Finance) Mrs Jenny Titterton (Tues - Fri)	Bernadette Alexander (Business Manager - Fri) Mrs Tiff Cooper (Mon, Tues, Wed (even))
Kindergarten:	KBlue - Mr Adam Durkin	KGreen - Ms Tasmin Higgins
Year 1:	1Blue - Miss Maree Catalano	1Green - Mrs Mary McKenzie
Year 2:	2Blue - Mrs Cassandra Bruscino	2Green - Miss Lena Hanna 2Yellow - Mr Alex Meoli
Year 3:	3Blue - Mrs Leeanne Barber (Mon-Wed) & Mrs Amanda Makdessi (Thurs - Fri)	3Green - Mrs Marica Bosen
Year 4:	4Blue - Mr Brandon Gulasi	4Green - Mr Christian Nassar
Year 5:	5Blue - Mrs Geralyn Fernandes	5Green - Mrs Wardeh Khoury (Mon, Thus, Fri) & Mrs Monica Remaili (Tues/Wed)
Year 6:	6Blue - Mr Anthony Bechara	6Green - Miss Junayna Hanna
Library Assistant:	Mrs Elizabeth Heness (Mon, Tues, Thurs)	
LTST:	Mr Anthony Bechara	IT Trainee Assistant: Mr Arshia Baseri (Tues, Thurs, Fru)
Diversity:	Mrs Samantha Cassar (Kindergarten) Miss Andrea Henriquez (Year 2 & 3) Mr Mark Aggar (Year 6)	Mrs Tracy Hoey (Kindergarten) Mrs Michele O'Connor (Years 3 & 4) Mrs Sara Radwan (M-Th) Mrs Rebecca Simai (Year 1) Mr Ken Bladwell (Year 5) Mrs Tesh Synod (T-Th)
Reading Recovery:	Mrs Rebecca Simai (Year 1)	
Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU):	Mrs Tracy Hoey (Year 1)	Miss Dalia Fadel (Year 3)

School Counsellor:	Miss Vanessa Pollicini (Mon & Tues)	Miss Genevieve Carey (2 days)	
Teacher Assistants:	Mrs Jeanette Carey (M-F) Mrs Gisell Fahd (M, T, Th, F) Mrs Cherly Moses (M, T, W, F)	Mrs Kate Nasrallah (M-F) Miss Belinda Salloum (W-F) Mrs Rita Sassine (M-Th)	Mrs Trish Green (M-F) Miss Brooke Rawlings (T-Th)
Music:	Mrs Amanda Khoury (Tues, Wed, Thurs)		
Sport:	Miss Monica Dann (Tues, Wed, Thurs)		
Maintenance/Grounds	Mr George Burke	Cleaning Staff:	2G Cleaning
Canteen Operator:	Mr Tony Zouein - Bon Appetit Catering		