



Newsletter 3, Term 1
8th March 2018

St Patrick's School

NEWSLETTER

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DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH	
Fri 16	St Patrick's Day Celebration – See R/E page for details Whole School Mass
Mon 19	St Joseph's Day Clothing Pool Open
Wed 21	Year 3 Mass
Thur 22	Cross Country
Thur 28	Yr 2 Mass

WEEKLY VALUE

Act With Respect

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Happy Catholic Schools Week.

This is not only a great time to celebrate the amazing contribution of our teachers and students, but also that of the dedicated staff that support St. Patrick's and all Catholic Schools.

Latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) confirm just how important their contributions.

Did you know there are around -

- 593 Catholic Schools in NSW
- 22,998 Full-time staff in Catholic Schools in NSW
- 255,906 students in Catholic Schools in NSW

Addressing the Congregation for Catholic Education last year, Pope Francis said "the true educator is like a father and mother who transmits a life capable of having a future."

I'd like to thank our teachers and support staff for the part they play in creating bright futures for the children of St. Patrick's.

Enrolments for 2019 Kindergarten can be collected at the school office.

Yours sincerely

Philip Mahony

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

Father Blayney will be available to sign High School Enrolments after the following Masses: Saturday Vigil 6pm, 8am & 10am Sunday. Please note that this is the only time Father will be able to sign these forms. Thank you.

AGILE LEARNING SPACES, HOW DO WE PERSONALISE THE LEARNING?

Personalised learning is the way in which schools tailor education to ensure that every student achieves at the highest standards possible.

At St Patrick's our agile learning spaces provide for a highly structured learning approach that places the needs, interests and learning styles of our students at the centre. With 3 or more teachers working collaboratively with each other they can support more effectively each student's progress along a personalised pathway that reflects specific goals, strengths and motivations. Agile learning spaces allow for the teachers to be flexible in the delivery of educational pathways so as to meet the specific learning needs of each of our students.

Collaboration or teamwork in the 21st century has become an important part of the working culture. Many businesses now look at teamwork skills when evaluating a person for employment. In agile learning spaces teachers model what it's like to work as a team, working together to plan, share ideas and support each other. Students learn to function in this team environment and therefore develop teamwork skills. When everyone in the school **works together** to accomplish goals, everyone achieves.

PBS4L - POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

Students of St Patrick's are working hard, in the playground, this week to follow our PATS Rules (**Respect through Pride, Achievement, Thoughtfulness and Safety**) and earn a green pom pom for their grade's pom pom jar. As each grade fills their jars they get a special reward from the school. Grades have nominated what they would like to receive. For example Kindy would like to have a mufti day or a games day. Year 2 would like to watch a movie and Year 6 would like extra sport or a week of no homework. Let's see how they go!!!



Our pom pom rewards system has been designed to encourage positive behaviours in the playground. Each week, teachers will explicitly teach and reinforce expected playground behaviours through focused lessons that involve discussion, role play and reflection. The students doing the right thing will be rewarded with a pom pom for the jar consistently and often.

FROM THE PARENT'S COMMITTEE

We have a number of fundraising events this year and we are looking for parents to help out. Our first fundraising event is for St Patrick's Day on Friday March 16th.

If there are any parents who are interested could you please contact Rania 0408 014 900 or Rima 0421 893 649.

Thankyou

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Lenten Reflection

What have you given up for Lent? Popular items that children have traditionally given up are: chocolate, candy, fast food, pop, television, swearing. Recently, the list has been expanded to include social networking, video games, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. Maybe you can be more creative and include other things that you enjoy.



One of the things that you can give up is your time that you can give to others. You can give extra time to help your parents and/or siblings. You can do extra things to help your grandparents or other relatives. You can visit elderly people in a care home or visit someone you know who is sick.

Reflection & Prayer

Giving up is supposed to be a sacrifice. It is supposed to be difficult. It needs to make you think twice. Giving up ordinary things can be difficult, but it will be more memorable and create more impact if you think of something different as well as difficult. Ask Jesus for some inspiration. Psalm 22 says that all the earth turns to the Lord, so why not you?

Lord, I'm not always energetic in doing your will. I'd often much rather take the easy road..

*Please be with me on this Lenten journey
and help me to be creative and enthusiastic that your
own spirit can guide me in the right direction.*

I want to "fix" my laziness.

I know that with your help, anything can be done.

MASSES

Parents and Friends are welcome to attend Mass with the Parish and school this term:

Week 7

Friday 16th March
9.15am Whole School Mass
Celebrating St Patrick's Day



Week 8

Wednesday 21st March
9.15am Year 3 Mass
5th Week of Lent

FEAST DAYS

8th March - St John of God
9th March - St Frances of Rome
17th March - St Patrick
19th March - St Joseph



St Patrick's Day Celebrations

We will be celebrating the feast on Friday 16th March as a school community.

The children are to come dressed in green mufti clothes. The Parent Group are organising treats to be sold on the day. A flyer will be sent home on Friday outlining the events of the day and cost of items for sale. Hope you can come and enjoy the Mass at 9.15am followed by open classrooms. Parents are welcome to have a picnic lunch with their children at 1.25pm.

Yours in Christ,

Wardeh Khoury

EASTER 2018

**Chrism Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
Wednesday, 28 March at 7:30pm**

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

**Holy Thursday, 29 March
(No 9:15am Morning Mass)**

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Vigil at Altar of Repose until Midnight

Good Friday, 30 March

10:00am Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7:30pm Vigil at the Tomb

Holy Saturday, 31 March

7:00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, 1 April

8:00am and 10:00am



SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday, 24 March

9:30am-10:15am

5:00pm-5:45pm

Tuesday, 27 March

5:30pm-7:00pm

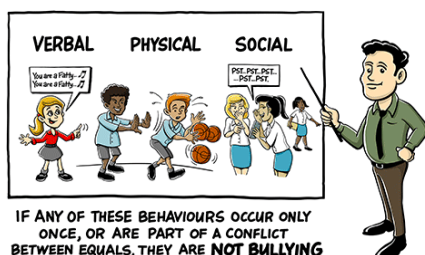


St Patrick's will be participating in the 2018 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 23rd March. On this day we will stand united with more than 2000 other schools across Australia hoping for a world free of bullying. We're saying "Bullying. No Way"!!!!

As parents and carers you can also play a key role in preventing and responding to bullying. Over the next few weeks I will outline in the school newsletter some practical ways you can support your child, and the school in preventing and responding to bullying.

What is bullying and what is it not?

Bullying is a very serious issue and there is little doubt that bullies are not kind to others. Experts define bullying as **intentionally** aggressive behaviour, usually involving an **imbalance of power**, and is **repeated** over time. It can be verbal (put-downs, taunts, name-calling), physical (pushing, kicking, punching) or social (rumours, social rejection, exclusion).



For an incident to constitute as 'bullying', it must contain these three highlighted elements. In other words, bullies usually are bigger, older or have more social power than their targets. They also intentionally say or do mean things more than once. The goal of the bully is to harm the other person in some way so that they have more control and power over them.

On the other hand not every unkind thing kids do constitutes as bullying. Kids are active and impulsive, and they're going to have spur-of-the-moment scuffles, friendship spats and wrestling matches that occasionally get out of hand. And while it is important to address these behaviours, it is inappropriate to label the child as a bully.

Some of the most common unkind behaviours that get labelled as bullying are:

- Being Left Out: It is not considered bullying if children exclude someone on the playground now and then or don't invite them to a party.
- Disliking someone: Children may verbally or nonverbally communicate their dislike of another child. This is okay, as long as they don't start rumours or verbally abuse the other child.
- Experiencing Conflict: Kids bicker and fight and learning to deal with conflict is a normal part of growing up. The key is for children to learn how to solve their problems peacefully and respectfully. A fight or a disagreement does not represent bullying, even when kids make unkind remarks unless it is repeated over time.
- Being bossy: It is natural to want friends to play a certain way, and some children take the role of being the director too seriously. Learning to lead skilfully is a lifelong process, and most kids haven't mastered it yet.
- Arguments: We all argue, and arguments inevitably happen at school.

Together, let's try to distinguish between hurtful or unkind behaviours and bullying behaviours. Kids, especially young kids, are still learning how to get along with each other as this is normal.

They need parents, teachers and other adults to model kindness, resilience, conflict resolution and responsibility.

READING CORNERS

At the start of the year we asked teachers to create a reading corner in their classrooms that communicates to the students that we value and encourage a love of reading at St Patrick's. Many weeks of hard work has resulted in exciting new reading corners, (quiet and comfortable places full of books, for students to read independently or with a small group), in every grade across the school. As a thank you Mr Mahony has purchased lots of new books for the children to read.

Kindergarten

Year 1



Year 3

Year 6



Year 4

Year 2



Year 5



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CODECAMP

Build your own iPhone app these school holidays!

More than 30,000 Australian kids have loved Code Camp

Been before?
Try our new camp

Blast 3D



Camps we offer at Code Camp

Sponsored by 

Powered by 

Little League

Ages 5-6

2 days of fun where our littlest coders make the first small, but important steps to becoming creators of technology, not just consumers.

Spark

Ages 7-12

3-4 days of creativity, design, fun and coding. Our most popular Code Camp where every child aged 7 and above starts their coding journey.

Ignite

Ages 7-12

Ignite is for those who have conquered Spark or who already have a coding experience elsewhere. They'll build their own top-down adventure game!

Blast 3D New!

Ages 8-13

Brand new for 2018, your kids will immerse themselves in a 3D world of their creation! Unlock the next level of their coding adventure at Code Camp Blast 3D.



17-19 April
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM



St Patrick's Primary School



\$349 for 3 days
BYO Laptop or Hire

www.codecamp.com.au/stpatrick

Alternate dates and locations available (no camps on public holidays)





ENROLLING now for 2019

Catherine McAuley is a Catholic girls' secondary school, located at Westmead. Our broad curriculum encourages young women to pursue independent lifelong learning.



OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday 13 March 2018
4.00pm - 7.00pm

This school open event will give visitors the opportunity to tour the school and view facilities as well as meet our School Principal and School Leadership Team

CONTACT OUR SCHOOL ON 9849 9100 FOR AN ENROLMENT PACK.
APPLICATIONS CLOSE 6TH APRIL 2018

Catherine McAuley, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead | www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au