



# St Patrick's School NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 1 Term 3  
2nd August 2018

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### AUGUST

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Fri 3                | Yr 6 Peer Support Training   |
| Sat/<br>Sun 4<br>& 5 | First Communion  |
| Mon 6                | Clothing Pool 8:15 to 8:35am<br>Whole School Assembly 2.15pm                         |
| Tue 7                | Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival   |
| Wed 8                | Whole School Mass 9.15am—St Mary MacKillop<br>Delany Cup 1.10pm Debating Competition |
| Fri 10               | Yr 5 & 6 Shamrocks going to concert by Genevieve Bryant                              |
| Sat/<br>Sun 11 & 12  | First Communion  |
| Tue 14               | Voice of Youth 11.30am in the Hall<br>Parents Welcome                                |
| Wed 15               | Whole School Mass 9.15am The Assumption<br>Confirmation Parent Meeting 6pm           |

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

I had the privilege to attend the Canberra Excursion with Year 6 and their teachers last week. The students had a great educational experience and were well behaved. They were a credit to St Patrick's and their families.

The next Parent Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th August at 7pm in the New Staff Room in the new Administration Building. All parents are welcome to discuss the upcoming events that the Parent Group are organising.

### Let consequences do the talking

by Michael Grose

Behavioural consequences are a parent's best friends. When consistently applied, behavioural consequences will improve kids' behaviour and increase personal responsibility.

Too often parents will over talk or repeat themselves to get cooperation from their kids. Too much talk and most kids tune out.

Alternatively, parents who protect their kids from the consequences of poor or selfish behaviour aren't doing them any favours as they are robbing them of terrific learning opportunities.

I love the notion of behavioural consequences as they teach kids to take responsibility for their lives and to make smarter choices. They are also a non-punitive discipline measure, enabling kids to keep their dignity and ensuring that learning is maximised.

Parents can use two types of behavioural consequences: natural and logical.

### Natural consequences

A natural consequence involves no adult interference. For instance, a child who leaves an excursion note at home will miss the excursion; a child who spends all his pocket money on the first day will have nothing for the weekend and a child who oversleeps and misses the bus walks to school. In these examples, children learn from the direct consequences of their own decisions and thus they are not protected from negative outcomes by their parents.

"It's your fault, mum!"

Some kids are experts at manipulating their parents to rescue them from experiencing the consequences of their poor choices. They'll blame their parents for not getting them out of bed on time, or for not reminding them about their responsibilities. It's best to stand back and let the consequences work their magic!

NOTE: you shouldn't use natural consequences when safety is an issue. Act decisively to ensure your child is safe.

**WEEKLY VALUE –**  
*Be Grateful*

### *Logical consequences*

A logical consequence is used more frequently in family situations as it is the type of consequence that requires some form of adult intervention. A logical consequence is used when a child's behaviour disturbs other people, infringes on others' rights or is unsafe. A child who makes a noise in the family room is asked to leave; children who refuse to clean up their toys lose them for a period of time; a child who comes home late from a friend's house loses the right to go out next time.

#### ***The 3 Rs of logical consequences***

Consequences often involve the withdrawal of a privilege or a right. For example, a teenager who spends more time than agreed on Facebook may lose access to technology for a day or two.

Restitution, or making up to someone for unfair treatment or for loss of a possession, is another form of consequence. A child who wilfully breaks his sister's toy may make full or part payment for a replacement. In both these examples the consequences are related to the child's misdemeanours, are reasonable and are respectful of their dignity.

Here are four simple tips to help make sure your consequences are effective:

#### **Tip 1: Set consequences "like whatever?"**

Much of your success with the use of consequences lies in the manner with which they are issued. Issue a consequence using sarcasm or anger and your kids will be angry at you. Issue it free from emotion and without being heavy handed and your kids are more likely to be mad at themselves.

#### **Tip 2: When possible, negotiate consequences**

If a child is going to friend's house for the first time at night, talk about their behaviour and home time. Also discuss the likely consequences if they don't stick to the agreement. As a rule, kids are more likely to abide by consequences when they've had a say in deciding them.

#### **Tip 3: Avoid life sentences**

Ban a child from a going out for a few days rather than leaving the duration open ended. Set a time frame for the consequences and remember the second of the 3 Rs – reasonable – means that parents shouldn't go overboard with consequences.

### **PBS4L - Positive Behaviour Support for Learning**

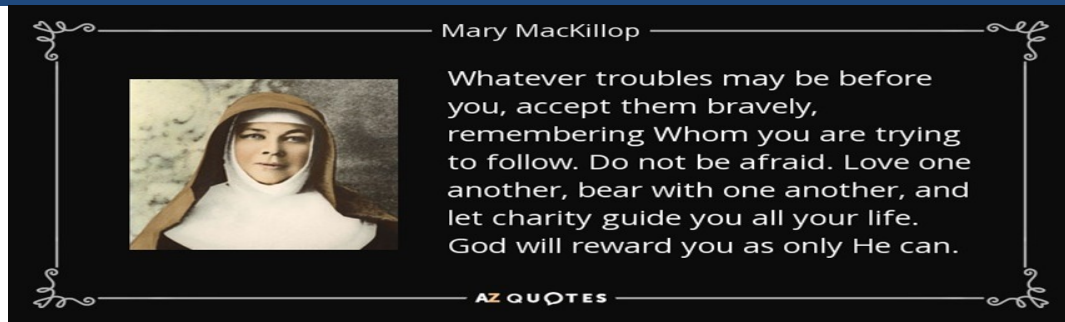
The teachers and students of St Patrick's have been voting for our PBS4L mascot. Our mascot's main purpose is to energize and create community spirit. It will be the symbol that unites our community. We would like you as parents to vote on which mascot you would like. So in the new school office foyer we have placed two images (they are not the final image but representatives of what the image theme will be) a leprechaun and a shamrock. Please select the one you would like to be the mascot and place it in the container provided. At the end of next week we will collate your votes and the students votes and announce a winner!

Below are the images of the two mascots ...



Thank you for your support  
Tracy Hoey

## FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR



**St Mary of the Cross MacKillop** was born in Fitzroy, Melbourne, in 1842 – the eldest child of Scottish immigrants. In 1861 she moved to the small town of Penola in South Australia, where she met Fr. Julian Tenison Woods. Together they established Australia's first free Catholic school. In 1866 she co-founded Australia's first religious order, the Sisters of St Joseph, and took a vow of poverty. Soon there were 17 schools under her care, but Mary's refusal to abide by the rules of the Bishop in Adelaide led to her excommunication from the church. She was accepted back a year later and eventually shown respect by the Bishops for her work with the poor. Mary was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995, as a result of a woman who was cured of leukaemia in 1961 after a group offered prayers to Sister Mary. We celebrate the solemnity of Australia's first saint on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August.

### THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



August 15 is the day that Catholics have long celebrated what is called the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The Feast of the Assumption celebrates both the happy departure of Mary from this life by her natural death, and her assumption bodily into heaven.

The Assumption is a principal feast of the Blessed Virgin and a Holy Day of Obligation -- one of the most important feasts of the Church year.

There is an important difference, of course, between the ascension of Jesus into Heaven after His Resurrection, and the assumption of Mary.

The Assumption signals the end of Mary's earthly life and marks her return to heaven to be reunited with Jesus. While the bodies of both Jesus and Mary are now in heaven, there is a difference between the Assumption and the Resurrection.

Where Jesus arose from the tomb and ascended into heaven by his own power, Mary's body was taken up to heaven by the power of her Son.

For this reason we use different words to describe each event. One is the Ascension of Christ and the other, the Assumption of Mary.

The Assumption is a source of great hope for us, too, for it points the way for all followers of Christ who imitate her fidelity and obedience to God's will.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July the staff were involved in a Formation Day. The day was lead by Dr Edward Sri, a theologian, author and well-known Catholic speaker. He spent the day with the staff of St Patrick's as well as Our Lady of Mount Carmel Wentworthville and St Marys Rydalmere. Dr Sri unpacked Scripture with the staff and in particular the genealogy of Jesus and its significance, as well as how the gospel writers portrayed Jesus and the implications of his words and actions in his time on earth. The day ended with the topic of how we can continue the discipleship and the mass explained through the scriptures. The themes and understandings the staff have gained will be explored further in their professional learning and emanate through the teaching and learning of religion in the classrooms.



## **MASSES**

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



Week 3  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August  
9.15am Whole School Mass  
*St Mary of the Cross MacKillop*

Week 4  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August  
9.15am Whole School Mass  
*The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)*

## **FEAST DAYS**

31<sup>st</sup> July – St Ignatius of Loyola  
1<sup>st</sup> August – St Aphonsus Liguori  
3<sup>rd</sup> August – St Dominic  
4<sup>th</sup> August – St John Vianney  
6<sup>th</sup> August – The Transfiguration of the Lord  
8<sup>th</sup> August – St Mary of the Cross MacKillop  
10<sup>th</sup> August – St Lawrence  
11<sup>th</sup> August – St Clare  
14<sup>th</sup> August – St Maximilian Mary Kolbe  
15<sup>th</sup> August – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*holy day of obligation*)



Please keep in your prayers the students who are preparing to receive their First Eucharist during the month of August.



There will be Parent Meeting Held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm in the Hall for the Parents of students in **Yrs 5 and 6** who are eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parent attendance at this meeting is compulsory as it will be the only Confirmation meeting held.

If you child has already received Confirmation at baptism (Maronite, Melkite, Orthodox) then you are not required to attend this meeting as they have already received this sacrament.

*Many Blessings,  
Wardeh Khoury*

## **FROM THE PARENT GROUP**

Our next fundraising event will be the Fathers Day Stall which will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August.

A flier will go home next week with more information.



# Literacy Learning

This fortnight's *Learning Links* continues to describe the teaching experiences that we use at St Patrick's to help improve children's **Reading**.

## What is Reader's Circle?

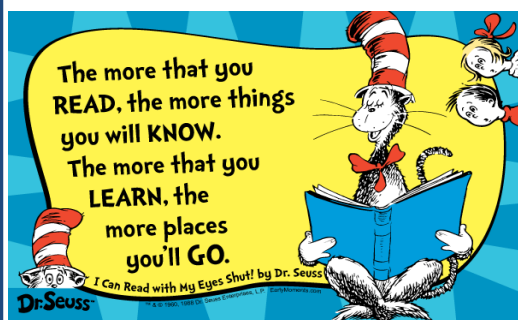
Reader's Circle (a small group instruction mainly used in the older grades) involves a group of students selecting a text offered by the teacher that suits their interests and abilities. The students are asked to individually read a part of the text and then come together to explore their understandings and interpretations. As they read, students are asked to initially keep notes about their likes, dislikes, patterns and puzzles and as they become more experienced to capture a more sophisticated response to the author's craft - a process which assists them to participate in a discussion circle about the text using their notes which mirrors book club discussions. Reader's Circle is an excellent alternative for developing higher-level skills in children who are already reading.

## Did you know?

Boys, in particular, need to see other males reading in the house. Other males, modelling reading, has a profound effect on a boy's attitude to reading.

## Supporting your Child with Reading

### Top Tips for Parents



### Tip 3 - Read Every Day

*Reading is something that you and your child can look forward to every day. By taking the time to read with your child, you show him or her that reading is important and fun to do.*

- \* Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.
- \* Choose a comfortable spot to read, where you can be close to your child. Make it your "reading place"!
- \* Vary the length of reading time according to your child's age

and interests.

- \* Read slowly so that your child can form a mental picture of what is happening in the story.
- \* Praise your child for his or her ideas and participation!
- \* When you and your child are away from home, take along books for your child to read and listen to.
- \* Keep reading to your child even after he or she has learned to read. By reading stories that will interest your child can stretch your child's understanding and keep alive the magic of reading.

Tracy Hoey

Assistant Principal

## MERRYLANDS WEST SCHOOL & WORKWEAR CENTRE

455 -457 Merrylands Road  
Merrylands NSW 2160  
(5 min walk from previous address)

**P: 02 9637 4502**

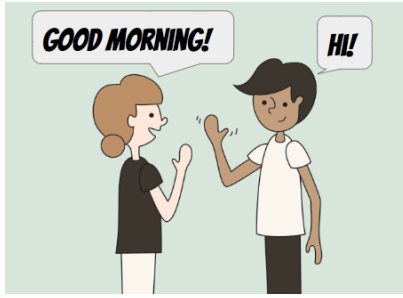
**\*\*Lay-by Welcome\*\***

**Second week of school holiday**

## ALL YOUR UNIFORM NEEDS IN ONE PLACE...

School uniforms for **St Patrick Guildford**  
Grosby school shoes – 30% off second pair  
(equal or cheaper value)  
Boys shirts, shorts and trousers  
Girls dresses, slacks, blouses and skirts  
School socks, sports socks, tights

## **SOCIAL SKILLS**



Each week the children are learning a new social skill in class  
Last week we learnt about the social skill of **GREETING OTHERS**

- *Look at the person*
- *Smile at the person*
- *Say "hello"!*

Parent tips:

*"Hello." "Good morning." "How are you doing?" "Good afternoon." We use greetings daily as a means of communicating with others. It is an important social skill that should be mastered and used regularly.*  
It is the beginning step to helping us connect and build friendships.

- Discuss with your child how meeting someone in a friendly and polite manner shows respect for the other person and makes your child appear more grown-up.
- Make a list together of what constitutes a polite hello, including eye contact, a smile, a clear greeting ("It's nice to meet you"), an extended hand, and in many cases, an introduction ("My name is Michael").
- Role-play greeting people, this provides an opportunity to practise their new skills without feeling self-conscious.
- Ask other family members like Grandma to pretend to "meet" your child each time he or she enters the door.
- When you have visitors or guests come to your house encourage your child to look at the adult, to say hello to them and respond when the adults speak to them.

This week we are learning how to **INTRODUCE OURSELVES**

- STEP 1: Smile and make eye contact with the person you want to meet.
- STEP 2: SAY YOUR "OPENER" "Hi, I'm Sunshine. What's your name?"
- STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE AND USE NAME "Nice to meet you, \_\_\_\_\_!"
- STEP 4: ASK A QUESTION "How old are you?", "What do you like to do?"
- STEP 5: LISTEN TO ANSWER AND RESPOND Acknowledge similarities/differences: "I like to play soccer too"
- STEP 6: ASK MORE QUESTIONS OR OFFER A SMALL INVITATION "Do you want to play soccer at lunch?"

Parent Tip

Teach your kids to introduce themselves when getting to a new place. They can practise in front of a mirror to say, "Hi, I'm Patrick". This is sometimes enough to get to know people. Usually, with young kids, gathering the courage to approach someone and say, "Hi, my name is Liz", is enough to start a wonderful relationship. When they are older, they can practice shaking hands and looking in the eye too. There are so many places where kids are dying to meet other kids and they do not have the courage to go and introduce themselves so help your help your kids to build up the courage.

## **2018 Premier's Reading Challenge.**

# **29 days+ to Go!**

The Challenge ends on Friday 31st August.

Make sure you go online to register your books online.

1. Log onto the following website - <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

2. Go to Logon on left side panel. A pop up box appears and you type in your username and password. Remember to use a full stop in between your names in the username. Do not use spaces at all! Include a number on your username if you have one.

3. Go to Student Reading Record on the Left Box

4. Type in the name or author in the correct column. Do not include A or The at the beginning of a title.

5. Once K-2 children have logged in 30 books and 3-6 have logged in 20 books, a record is sent to the school administrator.

- 276 students requested logins.
- 144 students have begun to log their books onto the website.
- 45 students have COMPLETED the challenge! Well Done!

KEEP READING AND COMPLETE THE CHALLENGE.



## Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

GB:vt

30 July 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I write to you with the news that, following an extensive review, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta has made the decision to redesign its Religious Education Curriculum. This is an exciting opportunity to connect our students more closely with our rich Catholic faith and traditions in a way that makes learning meaningful and relevant to their lives and their world.

The development of a new curriculum will be based on contemporary research and collaboration involving teachers and leaders in Religious Education from across the diocese. As the new curriculum starts to take shape, the insights and feedback of parents will also be critical. With this in mind, parent forums are planned for 2019.

Trialling of the new Religious Education Curriculum is planned for 2019 with implementation scheduled for 2020. In the meantime, the existing curriculum, 'Sharing our Story' will continue to be used in all Catholic schools in the Diocese.

The Religious Literacy Assessment (RLA) which has previously been conducted in Years 4, 6, 8 and 10, was also reassessed. While recognising that the RLA provided data about students' religious literacy, it has been decided that it will no longer be used or reported on as a measure of achievement across the Diocese. Suitable alternatives for the RLA are currently under consideration.

Our schools are shaped by their Catholic identity and their call to students to live out the example of Christ. Consequently, the teaching of Religious Education will remain the defining feature of our Catholic schools. Religious Education will continue to be reported on in school reports twice a year as part of the regular school reporting process.

Thank you for your continued support of Religious Education in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Regards

**Gary Borg**  
Director Mission  
Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta