



ST PAUL'S POST

Weekly Newsletter

11 March, 2015

Term 1 Week 7

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Our Vision Statement

Reach new heights through a community celebrating faith, life and learning.

Principal's Message



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Paul's,

My prayer this week is for a lady who is retiring from her parish ministry after 13 years at St Paul's. **Mary Keft** has been the parish secretary and associated with the school over many years. Her own children attended this school and now her grandchildren Taylah and Chloe attend St Paul's. Mary, thank you for many years of service for our community of St Paul's parish and school. We wish you much happiness in the next stage of your life – enjoy all of your adventures with family and friends. I invite you to pray this prayer of blessing for Mary:

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hands.*

Traditional Gaelic Blessing

Thank you to our huge team of helpers who assisted with the **Sunset disco** last Friday evening. It was a sunny afternoon that turned into a beautiful evening. There are so many people that assisted in the preparation, planning, running and cleaning up on the night and I thank each and every one of you. Thank you also to the many teachers who came in support. Unfortunately, I have a few concerns about the evening. If you were at assembly on Monday, you would have heard about the poor behaviour, poor manners and disregard for property some of our students displayed on Friday night.

Since the disco, I have received various forms of feedback – both positive and negative. It is important to have social events like the Sunset Disco. It would be a shame if we had to cancel such events in the future. I believe it is the parent's responsibility to supervise their own children. This is, after all, a family social. We are so much better than we displayed on Friday night. I would welcome your thoughts and feedback regarding the event.

Our School Prayer

Heavenly Father
At St Paul's we pray
that you watch over us
in all we do and say.
Help us to live our
values of empathy,
leadership,
commitment, integrity
and faithfulness.
Guide us to be victors
through faith. We ask
this through Christ our
Lord, Amen.

Contact us

School
St Paul the Apostle School
44 Buckleys Road
Winston Hills NSW 2153
Tel 9639 2555 Fax 9686 2212
Email:
winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

Parish
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40 Buckleys Road
Winston Hills NSW 2153
Tel 9639 6516 Fax 9686 1727
Email:
office@stpaultheapostleparish.org

I want to remind you about **confidentiality** when working with children in literacy groups or at any other time. If you work with children I expect that what you witness or hear or feel about a child's ability or capacity to learn, remains with you. Please do not discuss a child with anyone else. If you have concerns or need some help with the behaviour of the children, please speak to the teacher. It is not nice to hear on the playground or from other parents about your child and their learning experience or capability.

As we continue through **Catholic Schools Week** there are still some opportunities to be a part of the learning at St Paul's. Tomorrow you are invited to attend music or sport lessons. Check the last 2 newsletters for details. On Friday we will complete CSW with a whole school mass at 9.10am followed by art lessons in the learning spaces and a picnic morning tea. Please join us if you are able.

By now, the families who have been selected to complete the **Quality Catholic Schools (QCS)** survey will have received their instructions. Please take some time to complete this survey. It is non identifiable and the raw data goes to a company called Insight who analyse the results and feed the responses back to the school. It gives us valuable information about our strengths and challenges and defines for us areas that we need to work to improve. Please contact either Juanita or myself for clarification.

Tonight we are hosting an information evening about our **Catholic Out of School Hours Centre (COSHC)** The CEDP will be leading the meeting at 7pm in the library. All parents who were displaced by Cubby House know about the meeting but we have been advised to invite anyone interested to attend. We appreciate this is short notice but as we want to open our Centre on day 1 of Term 2, we need to move quickly.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who availed themselves of the opportunity to attend the student/parent/teacher **goal setting meetings**. Thanks also to the teachers for all of their hard work in preparation and their generosity of time. I would welcome feedback regarding the process – email, phone call, note or conversation. If you have not had the opportunity to meet with your teacher, I urge you to make an appointment so that together you can set some goals for your children to strive towards and gain a better understanding of learning at St Paul's. Parents from 2N will receive a note by the end of the week regarding the rescheduling of appointments.

Have a great week everyone.

Marian Bell

Marian Bell
Principal
mbell@parra.catholic.edu.au

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Liturgical Events
Unless otherwise stated Mass
will commence at 9:10am

Week 1 – No Mass
Week 2 – No Mass
Week 3 - Opening School Mass
Week 4 – Ash Wednesday
Whole School Mass 12:00
Friday – Welcoming Ceremony -
9:15am, Parish Centre
Week 5 – Stage 2 (Yrs 3 & 4)
Week 6 – Stage 1 Mass (Yr 1 & 2)
Week 7 – Whole School Mass
Week 8 – No Mass
Week 9 – Early Stage 1 Mass
(Kindy)
Week 10 – Stage 3 Mass to be
held on Sunday 29 March (Yrs 5
& 6) 9:30am

General Events

13 March – Whole School Mass
16 March – Kindergarten 2016 -
Enrolments commence
17 March – St Patrick's Day – 'A
Touch of Green'
19 March – Feast of St Joseph
20 March – Cross Country
24 March – Stage 3 Soccer Gala
Day P & F Meeting 7:30pm
25 March – Feast of the
Annunciation
27 March – Stage 3 Touch
Football Gala Day Mini Vinnies
receive Badges at Assembly

RE News

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. John 3:16



Lent is a time for penance and preparation. During the season of Lent we are encouraged to focus on becoming better Christians through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is hoped that by focussing on these areas we may become more Christ like in our interactions with others and Christ. None of these ways are easy to partake in and we need to be dedicated to improving our relationship with God to truly have a change of heart during Lent. Last Friday it was my privilege to attend Stage 1 mass. The focus of the Mass was 'Lent: A Time for Prayer'. During the homily, Father Raining spoke about his visit and discussion with the children in Year Four. The children asked him if, how and where he prays. He spoke of the importance of praying and encouraged the children to give some time to the Lord to pray in the morning and evening. This can take place in the church or at home as God will hear our prayers where and whenever we open our heart to Him. On the topic of what should we pray for, he asked the children to look at their hand and use the fingers as a guide. The thumb – is the closest to us so it indicates to pray for those we are closest to. It may include our parents, friends and carers. Then he moved to the pointer finger. This finger reminds us to pray for those people in our life who give us direction such as our teachers, doctors and mentors. The index finger is the tallest finger and it represents our leaders, so praying about the leaders of our Church, appointment for a Bishop or the leaders of our country may be something to focus on. The next finger is the wedding finger. It reminds us to pray for married people. It is also the weakest of all fingers so it reminds us to pray for the people in our society who are seen as weaker such as the homeless, poor and oppressed. The last finger is the smallest finger and this is where we are reminded to pray for our own needs. I think we can all benefit from following this example as we continue through the Lenten period and use prayer to help us to allow Christ into our lives.

This year's first School Sunday Mass will be a Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) and will be held on Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Children in Years 5 and 6 will prepare and organise the mass. We encourage all parents to join with their children and take the opportunity to share your faith at Mass. There is no more fitting a way to engage your child with Holy Week and the journey Jesus took **so that all who believe in him might have eternal life. (John 3:16b)** If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and you would like to help with the morning tea, please email me at lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au

God Bless

Leanda Standing

Religious Education Co-ordinator
lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au

SPORT DAYS TERM 1

KINDY – Monday & Thursday

YEAR 1 – Monday & Thursday

YEAR 2 – Monday & Tuesday

YEAR 3 – Monday & Tuesday

YEAR 4 – Monday & Tuesday

YEAR 5 – Monday & Wednesday

YEAR 6 – Monday & Thursday

Assembly Term 1, 2015

Assembly – Fridays 2:30pm

Week 1 – No Assembly

Week 2 – Whole School

Week 3 – No Assembly

Week 4 – Whole School - Year 6

Week 5 – No Assembly

Week 6 – Whole School – Year 5

Week 7 – No Assembly

Week 8 – Whole School – Year 2

Week 9 – Mini Vinnies

Week 10 – No Assembly

Uniform Shop Trading Hours

Thursday 2:30 – 4:00pm

Saturday 3:30 – 5:00pm

For all uniform enquiries
please contact Elle on

0421 216 414 or

elle@ozfashions.com.au

Mini Vinnies News

St Patrick's Day

We have been investigating St Patrick, in the lead up to his feast day on 17 March. This year the money raised will be donated to the School of St Jude - a school in Tanzania, Africa. We will be running a drawing competition, 50c per entry. The children are encouraged to draw a picture to match our school prayer. The winners of the competition will be used to illustrate school prayer cards. We hope you all enter the competition. We will be selling entries on St Patrick's Day. **You can also wear a "touch of green" and donate a gold coin** that will be added to our donations for St Jude's.

(Ebony - Mini Vinnies Team Members)

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS **NOT A MUFTI DAY** - School Uniform is to be worn with a green ribbon, a green hat, green socks, etc.

Saint Patrick

Patrick was born in England and at the age of 16 was kidnapped by pirates. He was sold as a slave and spent a long time looking after sheep and pigs. During this time he was very lonely and spent a lot of time praying to God and Mary. After six long years he dreamt he needed to escape and make his way back to Britain. Because he trusted God he escaped and made his way back. Patrick became a priest and went to Ireland to teach about God. While he was there he became a Bishop and continued to spread the Good News and convert many people to Catholicism, even though it was very dangerous as many people wanted to hurt him because of his beliefs. He is remembered because of his strong commitment to his faith and his Feast day is 17 March.

(Giada, Tia, Stephanie, Madeline - Mini Vinnies Team Members)

Classroom Snapshot - Featuring Year Two

Year 2 children have been guided to understand that the season of Lent is a time to draw closer to God through prayer. They have been rostered to lead class prayer daily. We have looked at how we can use our 5 fingers to pray for others and ourselves. Most of the children pray for Family and Friends. We are encouraging them to pray for

- The sick and poor
- Leaders
- Teachers
- Themselves

Library Borrowing Term 1

Kindy – Tuesday
Year 1 – Tuesday
Year 2G – Tuesday
Year 2N – Thursday
Year 3 – Thursday
Year 4 – Tuesday
Year 5 – Friday
Year 6 – Thursday

Please ensure your child brings their library bag on their Class Library day.

Bell Times

Block 1: 8:55 – 11:00
Recess: 11:00 – 11:30
Block 2: 11:30 – 1:00
Lunch: 1:00 – 1:45
Block 3: 1:45 – 3:15

Please remember some of our children have food allergies, we are a NUT FREE school. Help us keep our children safe

At the same time we are continuing our unit on Baptism - Jesus Helps Me To Love. Through this unit we have explored The Good Samaritan, The Ten Lepers and The Unforgiving Servant. These parables have helped the children to realise the importance of helping/serving others, saying thank you/being grateful and forgiving others. The children have reflected on what it means to be a child of God.

Classwork, Homework and Stage 1 Mass reinforced the above mentioned concepts.



Dear Heavenly Father,
Please take care of the poor and
sick. Lord hear my prayer.
Dear Heavenly Father ✓

Dear God of the world, you
are the father of my life.
You give me love and you
give me peace. Please make
the poor smile in every
way they can. Please help
them get food and shelter to
live.
Amen. help poor



Happy Birthday

To those children celebrating their birthdays between 12 March and 18 March - *Jaia Saad, Jackson O'Brien, Sebastian Papaluca*

A Prayer from my Heart
Dear dad,
thank you for the nice Dinners that you make
and the things that you have done for me. Amen
Dear mum,
thank you for my brother. Amen Inc
Dear Jesus,
thank you for wonderful food and the water. Amen

If you would like to contribute a reflection on your Lenten journey please send it to lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au and I will add them to upcoming newsletters.

St Vincent de Paul - Toiletry Collection Drive

The St Vincent de Paul van helps people in poverty 364 nights per year. They have taken time out of their own life and put it towards conscientiously caring for these people. They are currently running low on toiletry supplies. They urgently need the following and we will place a box in the office to collect these items -

soap (bars or bottles), shaving cream, razors, women's hygiene products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, hairbrushes, sanitary wipes/gel deodorant, tissues.

Thank you for your generous support so far!!!

By Claudia F, Darby & Georgia Year 5

Whole School Mass

On Friday 13 March, the whole school will be celebrating Mass at 9:10am in the Church to mark the end of Catholic Schools Week. We extend a warm welcome to families and friends to join us.

Curriculum Corner

Things you can do to help your child to learn to read

The following information is taken from a Board of Studies publication "Helping your child learn to read - A guide for parents" The Board of studies has a dedicated page for parents on its website www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/parents/ - parents are able to download a range of publications which can help you to support your child on their reading journey.

Jane Misek
Assistant Principal
jmisek@parra.catholic.edu.au

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1
Create a positive reading environment at home

Be a reader yourself and encourage your child to read for pleasure as well as information.

2
Make learning to read part of every day.
Show your child the written words and symbols that are all around us.

3
Make reading an activity that you and your child can both enjoy. Let your child participate in the reading.

4
Provide a variety of texts at the level your child can read with you. Stories, comics, poems, plays, cartoons, reference books, magazines and children's recipe books all help your child to read.

5
Re-read books. Let your child become familiar with the word, the story and the fluency of an adult reader.

Sports News

Cross Country

Fun, exercise, school spirit! Friday, 20 March, is our annual school cross country. This year we look forward to all children participating from Kindergarten to Year Six. The children will not only be participating in a cross country race but will be invited to show their colours by coming to school in race appropriate gear with a twist. They are encouraged to wear their sport house colour maybe as a t-shirt, shoelaces, sweatbands, hair colour, etc. Parents are invited to help cheer the children on with their efforts before joining their children at 11am for morning tea.

This is going to be a great community event. Many thanks to those parents who have kindly volunteered to assist with the running of this event. I would greatly appreciate if any other parents or friends are now finding that they are able to assist on this day to contact me at alehmann@parra.catholic.edu.au or see the bottom of the cross country note.

Thank you for your continued support.

Andrew Lehmann
Sport Coordinator

Star Spot

Today we are highlighting a dancing and sporting achievement –



Isobel Cassin, was part of a team from her dance school, the team performed as the guest dance school at the Project Pink fundraiser concert at the State Sports Centre last Saturday night. She has given up part of every weekend for the last month to rehearse. The concert featured Delta Goodrem, Rob Mills and Sam Moran plus a number of other professional and amateur dance groups. There was an audience of over 2000 people and the evening raised more than \$50 000 for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. What a great thing to be part of well done, Isobel.

Last week Stephen Courtney was chosen to be part of the Parramatta Diocesan football (soccer) team as the team's goalkeeper. He will trial for the MacKillop team in Canberra on the 1 May. There were over 70 boys at the trial, and they narrowed it down to 26 before selecting the team of 14. Stephen was the only goalkeeper selected! Congratulations Stephen.

Awards

Student of the Week

Student of the Week is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding application across all Key Learning Areas

KI	Johanna Osborne
KP	Jasmine Doueih
1G	Oliver Drover
1L	James Wong
2G	Isabella Pace
2N	Emily Gonzalez
3L	Chanel Elias
3V	Jacob Drover
4J	Marcus Scuderi
4P	Thomas Valjak
5S	Hannah Dolla
5ST	Hayley Keenan
6L	Joshua Featherstone
6M	William Green

St Paul's Award

St Paul's Award is given to the child who demonstrates our five school values – Faith, Commitment, Leadership, Integrity and Empathy in their interactions with others

KI	Heidi Smith
KP	Matthew Cooper
1G	Morris Maroun
1L	Zoe Sale
2G	Georgina Mouawad
2N	Kathryn Rendulic
3L	Delany Marturia
3V	Leyla Doueih
4J	Nicholas Biason
4P	Peter Matis
5S	Madeleine Palos
5ST	Thomas Ng
6L	Amy Harkin
6M	Christian Scuderi

Library News

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE - A Reminder...

Once again our school has registered to participate in the Premiers Reading Challenge. This is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. It would be wonderful if our school could have a record number of children involved this year. It is simple to participate. All you need to do is read the required amount of books from the suggested list and enter the books online using your username and password. All students reading records must be entered online between now and the 21 August. Usernames and Passwords will be exactly the same as last year. If your child has forgotten their password they will need to see either their class teacher, Mrs Taylor or Mrs Nobili in the Library/Office. New students to the school have been issued a separate letter with this information.

Important Information

Dance Fever Challenge

Wednesday 25 March, 2015

The children are very enthusiastically practising for the Dance Fever Challenge. Most of the children who have expressed an interest in attending have either paid their money for the bus or let us know that their parents will be taking them to the event.



Just to clarify – Parents will need to purchase a ticket on the night at a cost of \$5. There is no pre-purchase of tickets, so if you are transporting your child on the night you will need to purchase a ticket for them too. Children who are travelling on the bus have been asked to forward \$10 to the office which will cover both the bus and entry to the event. We are all looking forward to a fun night.

There will be a separate note next week detailing specific arrangements for the night.

Jane Misek
Assistant Principal

P & F News

EASTER RAFFLE

Our exciting Easter Raffle is here again. Each year this has been a very popular fund raising event for the students of St Paul's. To make this event successful we are asking each student to donate an Easter egg or small bag of eggs to their own class by Wednesday 25 March. Eggs can be brought to the school prior to 25 March and will be collected by the class teachers. The Easter Eggs donated will be made into baskets and raffled within the school.



Tickets will be sold by the teachers for 50c each or 3 for \$1. Every child who donates an egg will also receive a free ticket in the raffle. Tickets will be on sale in the classrooms on Friday 27, Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 March.

Raffles will be drawn on Wednesday 1 April.

We will be wrapping the baskets on Thursday 26 March.
If you have some time to spare on this day we would appreciate your help. **We will be meeting in the art room at 9.00am.**

Thank you for supporting the school in the Easter egg raffle.

Mirna Jasser & Danielle Haddad
Social Coordinators

Fundraising

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

We are seeking goods and services as donations to be used for prizes this year for our three major raffles.

If any families, own, operate or have connections to source these goods, e.g. electronics, vouchers etc. we would be grateful if you would please contact us on the numbers below or by email.

Thank you in anticipation of your help

Alyssa Dwyer
0411 270 296
alyssa_barry@hotmail.com

Lauren Alley
0421 818 606
loz12c@hotmail.com



ST PATRICK'S DAY Green Cake & Green Jelly DAY On Tuesday 17 March

The P&F are holding a St Patrick's GREEN Cake & GREEN Jelly day at lunch time next Tuesday 17 March. A donation from this event will be made to the School of St Jude in Tanzania.

We will be selling a variety of cakes for 50c - \$1, green jelly cups for \$1 and bags of fairy floss and popcorn for \$2.

We will need the help of parents from **Kindergarten & Year 5** to **donate** some cupcakes, slices, lamingtons or biscuits, with a **touch of green** if possible that we can sell at the stall. Any donations should be dropped off to the school office on the morning of 17 March.

We will also need **parent helpers** on the day to sell at the stalls, any parents that can help from 12.30- 2.00pm for lunch we would love to see you there. Your children would love to see your smiling face at the stall. Thank you in advance.

Any enquiries to Danielle Haddad 0419 440 922 or Mirna Jasser 0414 896 037

Thinking about the election...

DID YOU KNOW? According to the most recent figures available (2012), the average net cost of educating a student in a NSW Catholic school was \$11,532 per year. This is less than the cost of educating a student in a government school (\$12,118) or in an independent, non-government school (\$16,654). Catholic schools still rely on Federal and State Governments for more than 75% of our funding needs. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

DID YOU KNOW? Catholic schools support increased Government funding for ALL schools – government and non-government – because each school is an integral part of NSW's economic and social infrastructure. Every student is entitled to receive the best education possible, regardless of the school they attend. This is why funding support from Federal & State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

DID YOU KNOW? Non-government schools educate more than one-third of all NSW students, yet receive just 12% of the capital funding provided to schools by the NSW Government. Furthermore, non-government schools will receive almost 20% LESS funding in 2014/15 than they did six years ago – despite educating 33,600 more students in that time. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

Community News

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The next Session of CCSS Solo Parent Services Bereavement Support Program for those whose spouse or long term partner has died is on **Tuesday 17 March**, Venue: 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, **from 10.00am – 12.00pm** Topic: *"The Social Effects of Grief"* Registration: Eileen or Rita Ph. 99330205 or soloparentservices@ccss.org.au See Flyer on Notice Board

YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

CCSS Solo Parent Services' Younger Widowed Support Group is held on the 3rd Tuesday of this month. The Support Group is for men and women widowed at a younger age with or without children. **Next gathering: Tuesday 17 March**. Venue: CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. **Time: 7pm – 9pm** Cost: \$5.00. Registration: Eileen or Rita Ph. 9933 0205 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au Flyer on School Notice Board