



St Paul's Post

At St Paul's we are Safe, Respectful, Learners

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Term 4, Week 4

6 November, 2020

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Tuesday, it was a pleasure to gather in grade groups in the Church to continue the tradition of our Holy Faith Awards. Although very different from years past, we are very thankful that we could continue with this very special tradition of acknowledging a student from each grade who, as voted by their peers, demonstrates our values of empathy, leadership, commitment, integrity and faithfulness. With COVID19 restrictions still in place, the parents of the children who were recognised attended to represent our parent community. Special thanks to our Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs Johra Brackenbury for organising the six separate liturgies and to our IT Trainee, Mr Liam Hooper who assisted on the day with photos, videos and cleaning the Church between each liturgy. Sr Brenda Kennedy sent lovely messages of support to the children and last year's recipients spoke with confidence about what the award meant to them.

This year's recipients are: Kindergarten - Ariana F, Year 1 Amelie S, Year 2 Kayla A, Year 3 Imogen G, Year 4 Allanah C, Year 5 Michael R - Congratulations to you all, what a wonderful achievement.



Whilst there may be some events that we need to cancel or postpone this year, please be assured that we are working very hard to be creative with opportunities to celebrate our liturgical events as well as our community events - these will look very different this year and we appreciate your understanding as it is only with the support of our parents and families working in partnership that we can strive to be **victors through faith**.

End of Year 6 Activity Day

Yesterday, the Year 6 teaching team, Mrs Misek and I met to go through the student and parent suggestions for the end of year activities for the Year 6 children. Given that the children have missed so many opportunities and activities in 2021, we are planning for them to have an activities day with a "Summer Fun" theme this year. They will also have the opportunity to participate in their Reflection Day this year (not on the same day as their Activities Day though). The **Summer Fun Day will take place on Wednesday 9th December** - more details to follow soon. (we have a back-up date also in the event of wet weather)

World Teachers Day - Thank You!

Thank you once again to all who contributed to the lovely lunch for 'World Teachers Day' last week and to the P&F committee recognising the wonderful work our staff do each and every day. On behalf of all the staff, our appreciation and thanks to all our lovely families for their thoughtfulness, sweet treats and kind words.

Peace and Joy
Mrs Megan Baird
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

This week we have welcomed our Kindergarten 2021 students to the school. While this orientation looked a little different to other years as we were only able to have small groups of 8 students at a time it was still wonderful to be able to meet all the students and parents. Each student was still able to take home their information pack and receive their library bag with a picture book as a welcome gift from the school and a hat which was a gift from our Parents and Friends Association. Our staff also worked hard last term to make a series of videos to introduce our new families and students to St Pauls. These videos are up on our website. It is amazing the way the staff at St Pauls have continually come up with new ways to ensure that we are able to connect with our community in these changing times and we will always be grateful for all their hard work this year.



We look forward to welcoming all of our new students together at the start of 2021.

Regards
Jane Misek
Assistant Principal

YEAR 6 REFLECT ON HOW TO SHOW 'THE FACE OF GOD'

Year 6 are continuing their inquiry in Religious Education looking at what guidelines God has given us for His mission. We listened to 'The Face of God' by Louise and Mark Raue and the students reflected on the question:

"In this song God is telling us that our existential purpose is to bring upon the presence of God so we can live our life to the fullest. When we turn away other people, we turn away our leader, God. God is our eyes, voice, hand and face to speak out and spread the word of God".

Helena F

"You are my hands to reach out and touch my people"....I remember something that Mother Teresa said: "Christ has no hands but yours, no arms or legs but yours.....that means that God is our Spirit and we need to carry out his mission so go out of your way to help others because you are the face of God".

Matthew T

"When we look around we will see people in need so that we then have to help them get over their fear and poverty if people around us say that they need help. We should help them and not just walk by and act like nothing is happening".

Declan A

"I can be the face of God by following in his footsteps and teaching younger generations about what He and His Holy family did to help deepen our faith in God".

Lucy W



Inquiry learning

Inquiry learning is underway at St Paul's. Each stage is inquiring into a driving question and there have been a range of activities happening across the school to support the learning. Activities that have taken place recently include science experiments, group research tasks, guest speakers and friction investigations.



Driving Questions across the School

Early Stage 1: How do we use, locate and look after places that we belong to?

Stage 1: How do we decide what is the best material to use?

Stage 2: How can objects affect other objects with or without touching them?

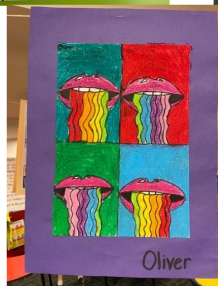
Stage 3: What connections do we have with foreign people, places and environments?

Year 5 Learning

Year 5 students have been exploring Surrealism in visual art. They have been inspired by the work of Salvador Dali and his passion for art to create their own artworks using different forms and mediums. These are some of the amazing artworks Year 5 have made depicting Salvador Dali and pop art images.



Julie Hooper
Leader of Learning



Literacy

Reading with your child every day is one of the most important things that we, as parents, can do for our children - Even if it's only for ten minutes a day, the benefits are immeasurable and vital for their literacy development. Following are a few ideas to assist you to help your child.

Hints for helping your child with their reading -

- Before reading, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about.
- During reading, discuss what has been read up to that point, and imagine what will happen next time.
- After reading is finished, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures.
- When reading a harder book together, take turns. Beginning readers can read the repetitive parts and more experienced readers can read a paragraph or a page.

On finding an unknown word:

Pause to give your child time to work out the word

Prompt

- go back to the beginning of the sentence, or read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence.
- look for a clue in the picture or the words
- look at the first letter and think about what the words could be
- ask "Does this make sense?"
- try to sound out the word - if necessary tell your child the word

Praise your child for trying even if mistakes are made.

Margaret Ferguson
Leader of Learning

Mathematics

PAT-M Years 2-6

This year our students in Years 2-6 will participate in the PAT-M test. This is an online assessment which takes place in many of our diocesan schools. The data we collect helps to inform teaching and learning in mathematics.

Kieran Jackson
Leader of Learning

General School Information

Attendance

Just a reminder, if your child is absent from school, it is a requirement by Law that the absence is explained. You may do this by using the Skoolbag App, by sending a note when your child returns to school or ringing the school office. If the absence is not explained within 7 days it will go on your child's record as unexplained. Thank you for your cooperation.

CAPTIVATE Band @ St Paul's in 2021

During 2020, St Paul the Apostle conducted Instrumental Music lessons facilitated by Teaching Services Australia. We are very excited to let you know that in 2021, St Paul the Apostle Primary School will be introducing a classroom band program for **all** students in Years 4 and 5 that will occur within school hours. This program will allow students to learn to play an instrument and read music in a band setting developing their ensemble awareness and skills. This program will be delivered by CAPTIVATE, the arts unit of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP). From 2021, Teaching Services Australia (TSA) will no longer be facilitating Band tuition at St Paul's. We thank TSA for their long association with our school and for their support.



Staff Development Days Reminder

The term will end for students on Wednesday 16 December - Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December are pupil free days. If you require care for these days, please contact COSHC who will be happy to help.

Kindergarten 2021 Information Evening For Parents

Our Kindergarten 2021 Parent Information Evening usually takes place during Term 4. With current COVID19 restrictions, we have looked at other ways to keep our parent community informed about transitioning to Kindergarten next year. In preparation for sharing this information with our K2021 parents, the Kindergarten team is in the process of creating a slideshow which will be shared with all of our Kindergarten 2021 families. Should restrictions change, we will consider what that may mean for changing this plan.

2021 School Terms & Important Dates

Term 1	Wednesday 27 January - Thursday 1 April
Pupil Free	Wednesday 27 January - Staff Development Day - No children at school
Pupil Free	Thursday 28 January - Mathematic Assessment Interviews, by appointment
	Friday 29 January - First Day for Years 1-6
	Friday 29 January - Kindy Mathematic Assessment Interviews by appointment
	Monday 1 February - 2021 Kindergarten commences
Term 2	Monday 19 April to Friday 25 June
Term 3	Monday 12 July to Friday 17 September
Term 4	Tuesday 5 October to Friday 17 December
	Our other Staff Development Days for 2021 are not yet confirmed. Parents will be informed of these dates as soon as possible.

2021 Bell times

There are some changes to our internal bell times in 2021 to ensure that we are meeting our legal requirements for the teacher enterprise agreement. The 2021 bell times are outlined below for your information. Please note that there are **NO CHANGES** to the start and end of the day. The only changes are to the internal bell times.



8:52am		Music to move to assembly/line up area
8:55am		Official start of the day and first learning session. All children are expected to be ready for announcements at assembly or to be ready to move into classrooms for the first learning session.
8:55am - 10:55am	2 hours	Learning Session 1 (Infants grades incorporate "crunch & sip" into this session)
10:55am - 11:25am	30 mins	Recess
11:25am - 1:25pm	2 hours	Learning Session 2
1:25pm - 1:40pm	15 mins	Lunch - sitting and eating
1:40pm - 2:10pm	30 mins	Lunch - playtime
2:10pm - 3:10pm	1 hour	Learning Session 3
3:10pm - 3:15pm	5 mins	Student pack up and dismissal preparations
3:15pm		Official end of school day

REMINDER: School Uniform 2021

Due to Covid-19 there will be no uniform fittings for students. Orders are to be placed on the 'Qkr' app by MasterCard.

Delivery to the school is every Thursday afternoon during the school term free of charge and orders must be placed by 4pm Wednesday for delivery on Thursday

While we do not refund if you simply change your mind, we gladly exchange within 14 days if the sizing is incorrect. Returned merchandise **MUST** be in its original condition with all tags still attached and accompanied by proof of purchase. Worn items can not be exchanged.

Please place your uniform order as soon as possible to ensure you will be able to exchange uniform sizing if necessary and to guarantee students receive their uniform to start the new year. **Please note: all orders for 2021 new students need to be placed before Wednesday 11 November 2020 to ensure delivery before the end of the school year. The last delivery for St Paul the Apostle uniform orders is Thursday 12 November 2020.**

If you have any other questions or enquiries please contact Elle via email: elle@ozfashions.com.au or call on 0421 216 414.



Work, Health and Safety Reminders

Kiss and Drop Kindness

With restrictions still in place many of our families are utilising Kiss and Drop in the morning and we thank you for doing this. Please continue to demonstrate our Catholic values of compassion, kindness and patience in this area and remember the rules for Kiss and Drop.

- If you are using Kiss and Drop in the morning, children **MUST** have their bags with them in the car. No child is to go to the rear of their car to collect a bag from the boot.
- If you need to assist your child to get their bag out please park your vehicle and walk your child to the gate.
- At all times the safety of our students, staff and parents is our top priority.



Thank you all for your support and cooperation in keeping all members of our community safe.

Social Distancing COVID-19

Our staff continue to be vigilant with monitoring and acting regarding children who appear to be unwell. Please keep your child at home if you think they are sick, runny nose, cough, headache etc If a child presents as unwell at school, they will be isolated from other children and staff in the sick bay or an area of the office. Parents will be contacted to collect their child immediately. We understand that this may be difficult but it is in the best interests of the school community as a whole.

- Additional cleaning is taking place on a daily basis.
- Our staff are reminding students how and when to wash their hands.
- There are soap dispensers in the toilets, and these are topped up regularly.
- Signs have been placed in classrooms and toilets to remind the children and to demonstrate to them appropriate hand washing procedures.
- Each class has been provided with hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and additional paper towels.
- All learning spaces have designated "used tissues only" bins with lids which are emptied daily.
- The school has discouraged handshakes, hugs and kisses.
- Please limit the number of people in the foyer to five - if there are 5 or more, please wait outside.
- Our amended line up afternoon dismissal procedures are in place and we ask that parents do not enter the space under the COLA, please wait on the outer area for your child.



Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to all those who celebrated their birthdays recently and who are celebrating in the next few weeks.....

Tyson W, Cooper N, Adeline B, Gemma L, Aiden McG, Scott B, Ray Y, Frederick M, Rebecca U, Sarah B, Reuben S, Mia B, William D, Lucas H



Student Awards

Although we haven't been publishing student names in our newsletter this year, COVID19 has restricted our ability to hold assemblies. So, whilst restrictions are still in place, we will acknowledge students in our fortnightly newsletter.

Congratulations!

	St Paul's Awards	Student of the Week Award
KL	Pacey D Bradley R	George N Sarah K
KM	Riley O Lucas A	Lacey M Scarlett C
1H	Jacinta G Taylor E	Sarah M Mark T
1JC	Savanna D Monique M	Maddison W Joseph S
2BH	Evelyn G Nate B	William M Syerra F
2D	Jacinta V Elouise D	Bede M Kayla F
3L	Grace B	Harrison C
3P	Gabriella S	Josh K
4SA	Anders S	Dilan J
4SH	Grace K	Noah S
5G	Johanna D Tyson W	Samuel M Kayla S
5H	Jenna D Banjo D	Adeline B Joseph N
6PR	Joshua G Nicholas D	Harrison B Peter E
6S	Lily B Eli H	Josip K Joey E

INSIGHTS

Parenting in challenging times



Life has a way of throwing curve balls that really test the strength and resilience of families. Personal tragedy, natural disasters and global pandemics are the types of events that challenge us all to the core, testing our emotional and social resources.

When difficulties occur children look to the adults in their lives to maintain their security and safety. When change and uncertainty reigns, kids want strong, empathetic leadership from the significant adults in their world. As a parent it can be difficult responding to a child's needs when you're trying to adjust to changes that are forced on you.

Following are some elements to consider when parenting through times of challenge, change and difficulty:

Attention

Like a television antenna your attention is tuned to pick up the strongest signal. In times of difficulty a child may not necessarily signal that they are struggling, so you may need to fine tune your attention to pick up their needs. Start to notice the small comments and subtle behavioural changes, as they may not be small at all, and can provide helpful clues to their state of mind.

Priorities

In challenging times your focus may need to shift away from schoolwork, household neatness and chores. It can move toward relationship building, maintaining wellbeing and helping each other out. Parental priorities need to shift to the immediate rather than the future, the emotional instead of the behavioural and from thriving mode to survival mode in tough times.

Permission

Children and young people often struggle to express their feelings and thoughts in the face of adversity. They look to the significant adults in their lives for guidance about how they should respond to change, loss, uncertainty and disappointment. Allow them to speak about how they are feeling. Prompt conversations through closeness and connection. Display your own vulnerability and in doing so give your kids the permission they need to express themselves in safe ways.

Collaboration

Difficult times will invariably suit a family that enjoys a collaborative, close parenting style. In collaborative families kids feel listened to and also have an ability to impact family decision making. Shared mealtimes and regular family gatherings are generally a prominent feature of collaborative families. In difficult times those families that prosper are those that value and promote close connection between siblings and parents.

Wellbeing

parenting*ideas

Child and parent wellbeing becomes paramount in times of hardship. That may mean reprioritising the importance of school and work, doing something joyful every day and practising regular wellbeing strategies such as exercise, mindfulness, deep breathing and spending time in nature. The wellbeing bucket needs to be regularly refilled during challenging times.

These five elements form the basis of a planned parent response when major difficulties occur. Be patient, be kind to yourself and be willing to reach out to the wider community for help.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.

School Travel for 2021



2021 school travel applications are now open

Applications for student travel in 2021 opened from Monday 12 October 2020.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass for 2021 can now [apply](#) online. A new application should be submitted if a student is applying for a school travel pass for the first time or requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who have changed school/campus, changed address, repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should [re-apply or update their details](#).

*Applications must be completed by the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is aged under 16 years. Students 16 years and over must complete the application form themselves.

Where there is a change of distance eligibility based on a student's grade, the system will automatically update a student's entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new [eligibility criteria](#), they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition which is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

[Term Bus Pass](#) holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

If a student needs to update their information or re-apply, they should go online to <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails>

Applications need to be submitted before **31 December 2020** to ensure that current student entitlements are updated and their current entitlement/card remains valid. If their application is submitted after 31 December 2020, the system will automatically cancel an entitlement/card and a new one will need to be issued.

Students in the Opal network applying for a SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2021.