



St Paul's Post

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

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Term 2, Week 10

3 July, 2020

From the Principal

As Term 2 comes to an end I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your support and understanding during a complex, and sometimes difficult time. As parents, taking on the responsibility for learning @ home during COVID19, as well as juggling work and home commitments was no easy task, you should be really proud of the time, effort and commitment put into your child's learning @ home activities and for supporting their return to school this term. Our community continues to demonstrate compassion and gratitude towards our staff and the hard work they've undertaken as a response to COVID 19 and our students have shown resilience and strength in their approach to returning to school. Thank you!

This week, we celebrated a very special and unique St Paul's Feast Day. Usually, we would have a large number of our parents and community members celebrating with us however, with the COVID19 restrictions, this year we had to re-think what this might look like. As the children "walked in the words of St Paul's" with their teachers on Wednesday, they were very reverent and thoughtful as they contemplated the displays and words of St Paul. Walking the new ramp was part of our Feast day celebrations as was a special treat of popcorn and a Zooper Dooper.

Religious Education - New Draft Curriculum update

Religious Education in the Diocese of Parramatta has undergone much change in the last two years. Term 3 2020 marks the next step towards a new curriculum that will replace 'Sharing Our Story', the current curriculum that has been in place for over 20 years.

The process of developing a new approach, currently known as the Draft New Curriculum, has been a collaboration with students, parents, teachers, clergy and system leaders. This innovative and ambitious project has led to the development of Learning Cycles (one per term), that apply scripture and tradition in a meaningful way to the contemporary life of young people. This endeavour supports our students to grow in faith and understanding through prayer, reason and action in daily life.

In Term 3 and 4 (from week 5 in Term 3 and continuing to Week 4 in Term 4), using experiential learning through student inquiry, students in Stage 3 will engage with one Learning Cycle (previously known as a "unit of work") from the Draft New Curriculum. In preparation for the 2021 implementation, teachers are continuing to participate in extensive theological formation and professional learning with our Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs Johra Brackenbury, supported by personnel from CEDP.

This is an exciting opportunity for our faith community of St Paul the Apostle Primary to further exclaim our commitment to empowering all our young people to discover a meaningful and flourishing life. We look forward to sharing this journey with you and will keep you updated about opportunities that will extend the learning experience further for students and their families.

Happy Holidays

I sincerely hope that COVID19 restrictions will continue to ease and that you all experience good health and God's loving warmth and protection over the school holidays. I know that these holidays will be a time for rest and rejuvenation for many in our community, including our staff and myself! If you are travelling, travel safely and I look forward to seeing all the children at school in Term 3.

Peace and Joy!
Mrs Megan Baird
Principal

*Stay Safe
and
Healthy*

From the Assistant Principal

Last week our school undertook an external safety audit to assess work health and safety at our school and to provide suggestions for improvement to our procedures for safety at St Pauls. Following the audit we receive a very comprehensive report that gives suggestions to ensure that all staff, students, parents and visitors to our site are safe. While preparing evidence for such an audit is a big job, the process is a valuable one as we are always looking at ways we can improve the safety and well being of everyone in our school community.

I am pleased to report that we were commended for many of the processes that we have in place at St Paul's as well as some suggestions to implement to ensure the continued safety of our community.

As you will see from Mrs Brackenbury's information below, this week our students reflected on some of the words of St Paul. Many of the letters from St Paul have teachings that are very relevant to us in our lives today.

One quote that the students reflected on seems to have much relevance for us in 2020. Many things have been out of our control and as parents we can look back and think about how this has affected our lives, our families and our children. Like many of us my own son has missed out this year, he was one day into his work experience when the COVID shut down happened and unfortunately he won't get the chance to continue this. He has missed out on his weekly cadets and all the associated camps and activities that go along with this, not to mention all the sporting activities and social events that we have all had to sacrifice. Yet, like many of our students and indeed ourselves he has had to develop a new resilience to change. Perhaps the first half of 2020 has been a hidden opportunity for us all to transform how we look at things and be appreciative that we are safe and that we are loved.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

Happy holidays to all our families and friends. I hope that you all have time to relax and enjoy our beautiful winter weather.

Regards
Jane Misek
Assistant Principal

Religious Education

Ramp Blessing

Our Bishop, The Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen (OFM Conv DD STL) and our Parish Priests Fr Raining and Fr Marcus as well as members of our parish, blessed our new Administration access ramp on Sunday after the Parish celebrated our Feast Day mass. Bishop Vincent thanked all those who played a part in its planning, construction, engineering and financing. He read from scripture and blessed the ramp for all to be safe and give access to all. We all enjoyed the walk and the view from the ramp.



St Peter St Paul Feast Day

On Wednesday 1 July 2020 as a school we celebrated the Feast Day of St Peter and St Paul. The grades each had a small and special grade prayer in their grade spaces and then they walked the words of St Paul.

Kinder - Love is patient, love is kind.



Year 1 - but by love serve one another.



Year 2 - In a word, Never let go on these three things: Faith, hope and love.



Year 3 - So we, being many, are one body in Christ.



Year 4 - to thy faith add knowledge



Year 5 - Surely you know that you are God's temple, where the Spirit of God dwells.



Year 6 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.



St Paul the Apostle Parish Sacramental Program Update

Reconciliation - Attention Year 3 parents and parents of children who are wishing to make their reconciliation this year.

Due to COVID19 guidelines the parish has informed us that this program will not be running this year. The program will run early 2021.

Holy Communion and Confirmation - To the parents of Year 4 and Year 5

Sandra Sheehan is awaiting confirmation from Bishop Vincent, Fr Raining and with the guidelines of COVID 19 to hopefully run these programs later this year. Sandra Sheehan will email parents as soon as details are confirmed.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Johra Brackenbury
Religious Education Coordinator

Inquiry

Last week, each class teacher had the opportunity to participate in an Inquiry professional learning session at our school. The teachers worked together to plan an engaging Term 3 inquiry for the students in their stage. In stage groups, teachers discussed and organised an ignite, end product and potential incursion opportunities they felt would best support student learning.

Our students were also involved in the planning process. Representatives from each grade had the opportunity to share their ideas and suggestions with the teachers and give feedback on the direction of the inquiry. It was a wonderful experience for our staff and students to collaboratively plan for their Term 3 Inquiry.

Mrs Julie Hooper
Leader of Learning



Kindy Inquiry

Kindy were excited to receive a video message from our class toys asking for their help in creating a comfortable transport for them to move around the Kindy Learning Space. A welcome challenge for our students!



Our Kindy inquiry began with a focus on the physical characteristics of objects and the effects of these on how they move. Students have investigated how push and pull forces create movement and developed an understanding of force and motion. Students planned and conducted investigations around sliding, rolling, bouncing and

spinning. They explored the observable properties of materials and how they can be used for making useful products. All in preparation for the end product... Kindy students designed their transport and with the help of their Year 6 Buddies, applied their learning to make their modes of transport!



Numeracy

As the school holidays are upon us, playing games with the family is a great opportunity to have some fun together and to practice math skills! There are so many different board games that involve maths skills including: Bingo, Snakes and Ladders, Uno, Monopoly, Battleship, Yahtzee and Risk. At the end of the day, no matter what board game you play, if you get your child to keep track of the score, they will be doing maths.

A simple deck of playing cards can also yield hours of family fun and countless maths games for students at varying skill levels. Most games offer the flexibility to make the play easier, harder, or more complex. A deck of cards is something portable and inexpensive that you can take anywhere you go: car trips, restaurants, or just relaxing at home! A quick Google search will introduce you to a great range of card games that target specific maths skills. Happy hunting!

Mrs Kieran Jackson
Leader of Learning

Literacy

In Week 2 of Term 3, the whole school will be taking part in a mini writing festival. Every day the students will take part in an online writing workshop with an Australian author and illustrator. They will engage in a follow-up activity with their class at the duration of each workshop. Every workshop is linked to the 2020 Book Week theme, *Curious Creatures, Wild Minds*. The cost of this incursion is included in your school fees.

Mrs Margaret Ferguson
Leader of Learning

Communication @ St. Paul's

Effective communication is an essential aspect of our partnership with parents. At St. Paul's we use a range of methods to communicate with you including this newsletter, our Skoolbag app, letters home, our website and our Facebook page. Should you need to contact the school to discuss concerns/issues regarding your child, there are a number of ways to do so.

1. Email the school winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au or call the office on 8841 3800 or write a letter to your child's teacher stating your concern and requesting a meeting (if required).
2. Following this, you can request a meeting with the Stage (Year Group) Coordinator. In 2020, our Stage (Year Group) Coordinators are:
Kindergarten and Year 1: Mrs Kieran Jackson
Year 2: Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Year 3 and 4: Mrs Margaret Ferguson
Year 5 and 6: Mrs Jane Misk
3. If you need to take further steps, after speaking with the Stage/Year Group Coordinator, please contact the Assistant Principal, then Principal.

2020 School Fees

To families who are not directly financially impacted by COVID19, we appreciate your continued support in paying your fees (school fees are generally due 30 days from the date of the school tax invoice). CEDP have not included a due date on instalment 2 fees as some families require flexibility with school fee payments. If you would like to organise a flexible payment plan for your 2020 school fees please contact Mrs Berna Robson via phone or email in Term 3 (winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au). Please click on the following link for Covid-19 school fee relief if required: <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/feerelief>

Work, Health and Safety Reminders

WHS External Audit

As part of the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta's (CEDP) and St Paul's commitment to safety, last week, we took part in an external WHS audit conducted by Minerva. We look forward to receiving the final report from CEDP and Minerva in the coming weeks and thank everyone in our community for supporting a safe site.

Safer access to our school

We are pleased to advise that our New Administration Access Ramp is now open. The safety fencing was removed earlier this week. It is hoped that our new School Entrance ramp (from Buckleys Road) will be completed and opened for use following the school holidays - stay tuned! Gregory's Green will remain closed until the grass is established. Thank you for your understanding and patience whilst these works were completed.

Car Park

As you are all aware, we are very fortunate to have the use of the Parish Car Park. So many of our neighbouring schools in the diocese are not as lucky. We have had many complaints about double parking, parking in disabled spots and speeding.

Please remember

- The speed limit is **10km per hour - SLOW DOWN it could save a child's life**
- Keep in mind - **Children are unpredictable - they can appear from nowhere!**
- Kiss 'n' Drop - Please drive to the end of the Kiss 'n' Drop area to keep the traffic flowing freely
- **Children should get out of the car on the passenger side ONLY**
- Children need to have their bags with them so that they can exit the vehicle quickly and safely

HELP US TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE - THEIR LIVES MATTER!

Social Distancing

A reminder that all adults entering St Paul the Apostle are asked to adhere to COVID19 Social distancing guidelines and hygiene practices.



REMINDER NEW Building Child Safe Communities - Volunteer Undertaking

As we get back to our 'new normal' after COVID19, we will hopefully be able to welcome our volunteers back to classrooms at some point in term 3. To get us ready for this, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) has launched a new and improved Volunteer Training System, see below for more information.

All Volunteers have until 30 September 2020 to submit a new Undertaking in the new system.

In Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta (CEDP), we see parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. Parents and carers are encouraged to become involved in our schools in many important ways such as supporting classroom learning, being part of advisory groups, mentoring programs, coaching sporting teams and supporting other extra-curricular activities, canteen support and other kinds of help.

A range of checks and undertakings are required for people who work for or provide services to CEDP. These checks reduce potential risk and form part of our strategy to build child safe communities.

CEDP has launched a new *Building Child Safe Communities* form and online training module that all volunteers are required to complete.

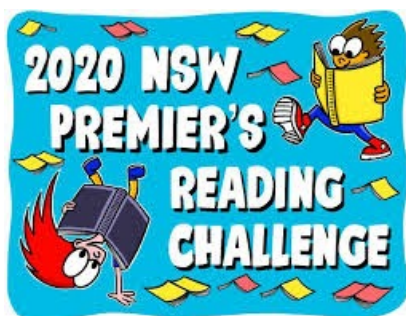
The purpose of this training is to inform you of the standards of behaviour and other requirements that must be adhered to when volunteering for CEDP.

The undertaking should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and the training module approximately 10 minutes. Once the form and training modules are submitted, an automated email will be sent to you within two business days to confirm the status of your submission.

The undertaking form will expire within two years or when your Working With Children Check expires (if applicable), whichever is sooner. At that time you will need to complete the undertaking form and training module again. You will receive an automatic reminder email when this occurs.

Further information on the new online form and training module can be found at www.parra.catholic.edu.au and clicking on *about us/building child safe communities*. Within the form you will also find help sheets and a video tutorial to assist you.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Congratulations to the following children who have completed the Premiers Reading Challenge. **Well Done to all of you!**

Olivia S (K), Michael M (Yr 1), Ethan S (Yr 1), Amelia M (Yr 5), Marcus T, (Yr 5) **Keep on reading!!**

Reminder

**Please remind your children to wash their hands.
Help us to keep them safe.**



Happy Birthday

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

Anders S, Ella W, Grace L, Amelia F, Ariana F, Olivia K, Joseph N, Andria G, Oscar D, Isabella A, Thomas B, Millie P, Joseph E, Olivia S, Nicholas M, Ava S, Leandro A, Alice S, Emma D, Lucy W, Luke B, Jake D, Jordan M, Michael P, Cynthia K, Johanna O, Erin L, Micah N, Samuel M, Deon C, John S, Sienna H, Charlie M.

