



# St Paul's Post

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

St Paul the Apostle Primary School  
44 Buckleys Road  
Winston Hills NSW 2153  
Telephone: 02 8841 3800  
Email:  
[winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.stpawinstonhills@catholic.edu.au](http://www.stpawinstonhills@catholic.edu.au)

Term 1, Week 6

6 March, 2020

## ***From the Principal***

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Catholic Schools Week celebrations**

**WOW!** - what a wonderful week we've had celebrating Catholic Schools Week this week.

We've hosted our student led goal setting conferences, held our 2021 Kindergarten Enrolment Open Day Tours, celebrated our combined Catholic Schools Week Mass and Beginning Year Mass and welcomed our parents and carers into our learning spaces for "open classrooms". A sincere thank you to everyone for supporting and celebrating our Catholic Community this week and every week.

Today we also had the "soft launch" of our PBS4L initiative. PBS4L stands for Positive Behaviour Support for Learning. In this week's school newsletter, Ms Amy Shelton explains what PBS4L is and the steps we've already taken as a community of learners to support positive behaviour choices in all of our learning spaces and on the playground. As part of our launch, we are pleased to send home a small token today with every child to commemorate our launch. The fridge magnet has been designed in your child's house colour and our expectations for being a Safe, Respectful, Learner.

### **Inquiry Learning and Project Based Learning**

Last week, I had the pleasure of participating in a rigorous school based professional learning day led by Mrs Julie Hooper, our Leader of Learning - Inquiry/PBL and Mrs Jane Misk our Assistant Principal. The day was designed to develop our Stage Three teachers' understanding of Inquiry learning and support them in developing new and exciting learning opportunities, both within, and external to, our Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6) learning spaces. Our Inquiry pedagogy will support the recent updates to the mandatory syllabi and we will continue to develop this over the next couple of years, however, we are excited for the opportunities that this approach will offer to our children.

*Peace and Joy!*  
Mrs Megan Baird  
Principal

## ***From the Assistant Principal***

Thank you to all of the parents that have taken up the opportunity to meet with their child/rens teachers this week to set goals for learning. If you have not yet had a chance to meet with the teacher please contact the office to make an appointment.

Evidence shows that setting goals has a strong influence on learning. Goals for learning can be short term or long term. They have less to do about grades but should instead focus on the learning for our individual students. I encourage you to regularly discuss your child/rens goals and work with them to set new goals throughout the year.

Students who can set goals and monitor their progress take the lead in their own learning. They become less dependent on us to tell them when they have learned something, because the proof is right there in front of them. **Assessment capable visible learners are independent learners. Not because they don't need us but rather because they are fully in the learning game.** (Hattie, 2012)

### **Communication**

A reminder to all families that all communication comes out via our Skoolbag App or through the school newsletter. If at any time you are unsure about something please contact the office or email via the school email address [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au). If you need to make an appointment with a teacher please also contact the office and our office staff will arrange this for you.

Jane Misk  
Assistant Principal



## Religion

*"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full" John 10:10*



Loving Father

Open my heart so that I may love like You.

May I listen to the cry of those who call my name  
so that I may sing a song of compassion and tolerance.

Help me to find in You this Lent,  
grace, forgiveness and a fullness of life.

### Year 6 Leaders

Our Year 6 leaders received their badges after Ash Wednesday mass. We congratulate them and pray that the Holy Spirit will guide them on their journey as leaders throughout the year.



### Harmony Day - 21 March 2020

Australia is a vibrant and multicultural country — from the oldest continuous culture of our first Australians to the cultures of our newest arrivals from around the world. Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. It makes Australia a great place to live. An integrated multicultural Australia is an integral part of our national identity. Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values. St Paul the Apostle will celebrate Harmony week in Week 8: 16 - 20 March. Grades will participate in a variety of Harmony Day activities during this week. To conclude the week Year 5 will lead assembly with the theme of Harmony Day. We look forward to celebrating our Multicultural Australia together.



WE'RE PROUD TO CELEBRATE THE  
DIVERSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY  
[HARMONY.GOV.AU](https://www.harmony.gov.au)

HARMONY  
WEEK

**PBS4L** is a whole school framework that helps create positive learning environments to maximise student's learning and enhance student wellbeing. The PBS4L framework is a research based school wide system that establishes clear behaviour expectations. The philosophy of PBS4L is to teach behaviour in the same way we teach educational content.



At St Pauls we currently use a range of recognition systems. Two of these include:

#### o Paw Tokens

When students demonstrate a safe, respectful or learner behaviour they may receive a paw token to acknowledge this positive behaviour. These tokens are placed in a coloured letterbox. The paw tokens are tallied and the leading colour house receives acknowledgement through recognition at the school assembly.

#### o Lions in the Den

Across each Learning Space, classroom teacher, in collaboration with students decide on a goal that is specific to the needs of the grade. Each time the grade teachers notices that the whole class has been demonstrating this learning behaviour, they will move a lion into the den. When the class earns 10 lions, they participate in a chosen group acknowledgement from the recognition menu that the class has previously developed with their teacher.



**Ms Amy Shelton**  
**PBS4L**

### Inquiry learning @ St. Paul's

Our Stage Three teachers together with Mrs Baird and Mrs Misk participated in an Inquiry professional learning day held at St. Paul's last week. The focus of the day was to develop our understanding of Inquiry learning. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Stage Three teachers to collaborate and begin planning a Historical inquiry for our Stage Three students. Throughout the day, there were many opportunities for the teachers to engage with, and reflect on, the historical skills and outcomes that underpin the Historical inquiry.

At St. Paul's student voice about learning is highly valued. Time was allocated during the day for representatives from each Stage Three class to share their ideas with the teachers. They discussed the students' ideas about organising group work and demonstrating their learning.

Inquiry learning provides our students with the opportunity to investigate open ended questions and current issues or problems. Purposeful excursion and incursion opportunities are planned as part of the inquiry to support these investigations and enhance student learning.

Mrs Julie Hooper  
Leader of Learning Inquiry/PBL



### Library News - Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge officially opened on Monday, 2 March 2020 and will run until Friday, 28 August. Participation in the challenge is optional but we would love as many students as possible to enter the challenge this year, it is such a great way of encouraging your children to read for enjoyment.

To experience a book a child can **listen** to the book, **participate** in a **shared reading** of the book or **read part or the entire book independently**.

All student Reading Records are submitted online by parents using their child/rens individual User ID and Password. If your child participated last year they use the same login and password as last year. Every class teacher has a copy of User ID's and Passwords in their classrooms in case you cannot remember them. New students to the school this year will receive a separate note with your User ID and Password.





All students entering and successfully completing the Premiers Reading Challenge will receive an official PRC Certificate. To successfully complete the Challenge the student must have an online reading record entered and validated by Friday 31 August.

Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the Challenge, see table below.

Challenge	Number of books you must read	Minimum number of PRC books	Maximum number of Personal Choice books	PRC booklists you can read from
K-2	30	25	5	K-2, 3-4, 5-6
3-4	20	15	5	3-4, 5-6, 7-9
5-6	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9
7-9	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9

For further information about the Premier's Reading Challenge and to access the booklists please go to <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

If you have any questions regarding the Premier's Reading challenge please see or email Mrs Taylor or Mrs Nobili [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## General School Information

### Bus Travel - Opal Cards

Just a gentle reminder regarding the use of Opal Cards by students. Hillsbus have asked if you could remind your children to TAP on AND OFF when travelling to and from school. Also, students who have not been issued a card as yet from a recent application, will need to carry a copy of the approval notification issued by Opal until the card arrives.



Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

### Grounds update

As you may have seen our access ramp is coming along, we are expecting the handrail to be installed in the next week or so. Once finalised, the builders intend to move to the back playground to begin work on our Indigenous Dry Riverbed, upgrading the amphitheatre and re-imagining the space where the playground equipment was located. The ramp from the road and to the admin block is expected to begin soon also. Thank you all for your patience with these improvements.

### Attendance

CEDP promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.

**If your child is sick or absent you are required to notify the school on the first day of absence if at all possible. All explanations to the school must be provided within 7 days from the first day or any period of absence.**



Absences can be explained using one of the following methods:

1. Skoolbag App
2. Email to the school email address: [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)
3. Telephone the school office
4. Note sent with your child on his/her return to school.

**Where an explanation has not been received within the 7 day timeframe or the explanation has not been accepted, the school will record the absence as unexplained or unjustified on your child's student record. The school will not be able to accept explanations which are not received the 7 day timeframe.**

### Why do I need to notify the school if my child is absent?

Parents of children aged 6 to 17 years are legally required to ensure their children attend school every day or provide an explanation if they are absent. Notifying the school and providing an explanation for your child's absence will fulfil this legal responsibility.

## What is your responsibility?

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Notify the school immediately if your child is absent
- Provide an explanation for any absences within 7 days
- Make sure the school has your correct contact details.

## Reminder: Emails to staff

If you wish to contact your child's teacher, please continue to direct your emails to [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au) which will then be triaged, as per usual practice. We appreciate your assistance and understanding. If you have any questions about the above or in the case of a genuine emergency please contact the school office during business hours on 8841 3800.



## Work Health and Safety Reminders

### Administration Gate

For those parents who utilise COSHC in the morning or afternoon, you are reminded that it is **essential** to ensure that the gate closes behind you every time. This measure is to ensure that students cannot access the carpark without an adult. Under no circumstances should you leave the gate slightly ajar or incompletely closed as this seriously jeopardises the safety of our students. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

### Car Park Safety

Our parish car park is a privilege to use and we are very lucky to have it as an option for before and after school use. **Please remember that the speed limit is 10km per hour. Children often become distracted so it is our responsibility to follow the rules to ensure their safety at all times.**

If you are collecting your child/ren by car, please park your car in the designated car spaces. Also, a small number of cars are "double-parking" making it extremely difficult and dangerous for our community. Should a member of staff ask you to move on or make a better choice, we do expect that you will follow their instructions courteously and respectfully.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



## St Paul Potters Garden Guru

This year St Paul Potters are looking for some students to be a Garden Guru each term. A Garden Guru will help garden club on a Friday by assisting our younger students, leading small groups in, planting, weeding and watering, being able to identify plants, filling watering cans and keeping the garden clean and tidy. As we have so many students wanting to be leaders in the garden, Garden Guru's will be appointed for a term and change each term to give everyone an opportunity. Garden Guru's will replace the Garden Captain role from previous years.

If your child is in year 3 - 6 and would like to be a Garden Guru in 2020, please ask them to write a letter to Mrs Baird or Mrs Wallace explaining what they like about gardening and why they would be a good Garden Guru. Letters can be sent through the school office.



## Staff Development Days for 2020

Students will not attend school on the following dates and we ask that you make alternative arrangements. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

- Friday July 3
- Friday September 25
- Thursday December 17
- Friday December 18

**Happy Birthday to all those celebrating their birthdays in the next few weeks.....**

Scarlett C, Jade B, Estelle D, Peter K, Jasmine P, Marc K, Jessica K, Sebastian P, Amelie S, Oliver E, Ainsley R, Rachael B, Tania T, Maeve J, Dylan B, William M, Serenity H, Abigail D, William G, Callum H.



## In the Classroom

### Year 4

Year 4 enjoyed pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and as part of their Science inquiry. Year 4 has been learning about how materials change when heated and cooled. The children observed and recorded the changes that occurred when the pancakes were cooked. What a great learning experience!

Year 4 have been enjoying participating in Creative Arts this term. They have been practising their performance skills in Dance Fever and Readers Theatre.



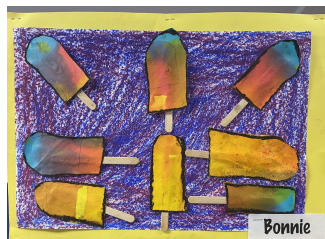
### Year 3

Year 3 we have been investigating how materials change when heated and cooled as the driving question of our Science Inquiry "States of Matter".

We have been:

- identifying solids, liquids and gases
- recognising that a change of state can be caused by adding or removing heat
- describing examples of changes of state in everyday life, and
- predicting and observing the effects of adding or removing heat on a variety of solids and/or liquids

As part of our inquiry we have conducted a variety of exciting experiments where we have added heat, cooled in the fridge and frozen in the freezer a range of food items including honey, chocolate buttons and water. Year 3 have also integrated this learning with Creative Arts and have examined how coloured vegetable dye can be used to demonstrate the melting of ice blocks. What do you think of our masterpieces?





5 February 2020

## Building healthy relationships with teachers

By Michael Grose

As a former primary school teacher with 15 years experience and a parenting educator with 30 years experience, I've learned a great deal about the importance of healthy relationships between a child's parent/s and their teacher. I hold a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education, a Bachelor of Education and a Diploma of Primary Teaching from SCV Toorak University (now Deakin University). I've done the theory and I've also put my boots on the ground. Uniquely, this has allowed me to appreciate perspectives from either side of the school gate.

Studies show that healthy parent-teacher relationships are a more significant factor in student success than parent income levels or social status. Parent-teacher relationships require effort and energy from both parties if they are going to really benefit children and young people. Here are some strategies to help you build a healthy working relationship with teachers in the year ahead.

### Get to know them

For your partnership to be meaningful and successful, you need to meet with your children's teacher(s) with the goal of forming a respectful professional relationship. Be willing to share your aspirations for your child and be willing to build the teacher's knowledge about your family. For balanced perspective, also gain an understanding of the teacher's approach and what focus areas they have for their particular year group. This can be done formally by attending start of the year information evenings and informally through conversations, reading newsletters and staying in touch in digitally and in real-time.

### Trust their professionalism

Children need to know that their parents are fully behind what their teachers are trying to achieve if they are going to commit fully to learning. The best way to support your child's teacher is to trust their knowledge, professionalism and experience. Avoid the temptation to question the expertise of teachers in front of students, particularly when the teachers use methods that you are unfamiliar with. Initiate conversations with teachers around methodology to give them the chance to explain the approach they are taking.

### Go through the right channels

Despite the best teaching practices things do go wrong at school. Kids experience learning difficulties. Conflict and peer rejection happen. Kids will often come home from school with grievances, and call on you for assistance. Resist the urge to react emotionally. If you need to contact teachers do so respectfully, calmly and through the correct channels. A measured response will generally achieve the best result for your child.

### Utilise their resources

Teachers and schools often put a lot of work into sourcing and sharing credible resources that they think will help parents. Take the time to read, utilise and enjoy the information provided to you. It's intended to make your parenting journey easier, which will also benefit your child not just at school, but at home. If your school doesn't yet have a clearly defined source in place, consider suggesting one to the teacher, such as the Parenting Ideas [memberships for schools](#).

### **Build links to student learning**

There's a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent engagement in student learning and their educational success. If you want your child to improve their learning, take an interest in what they are doing. Follow school and teacher guidelines about helping at home and attend as many conferences, meetings and events involving your child as possible. This strategy has a significant, long-term impact on your child's attitude to learning.

### **Stay in touch**

Life's not always smooth sailing for kids of any age. Family circumstances change. Friends move away. Illness happens. Mental health challenges can hit anyone at any time. These changes affect learning. Make sure that you keep teachers up to date with significant changes or difficulties that your child or young person experiences so they can accommodate your child's emotional and learning needs at school.

### **Be loyal**

Show your loyalty to your child's teachers by being an advocate. Talk positively about your child's teacher and school, rather than being negative about them when speaking in the wider community. Teachers hold very public positions and generally work hard to build good reputations both within their school and their wider education community. Consider a teacher's reputation among the community and also with children when you discuss educational matters with others.

### **Building healthy parent-teacher relationships doesn't just happen**

It takes goodwill from both sides, a commitment to setting aside the time necessary to support the home-based learning tasks that are expected, and a willingness to communicate both concerns and commendations through the correct channels.



**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.



# Lent 2020

## CALENDAR

### Daily Lenten Activities for Families

#### MARCH

**SUN 8**

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Mk 9:7

How can you listen more carefully to the way Jesus asks you to follow him this week?

**MON 9**

Forgive and you will be forgiven." Lk 6:37

Ask God to show you how to forgive and to ask for forgiveness from others. Pray an Act of Contrition.

**TUE 10**

"The greatest among you must be your servant." Mt 23:11

Look for an opportunity to serve someone else today. Do a chore without being asked. Pick up after someone else. Whatever you choose, do it with love.

**WED 11**

"I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life." Jn 8:12

Have an adult family member light a candle. Together, watch its warm glow. How can you let the light of Jesus guide you today?

**THU 12**

"And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus." Lk 16:20

Read the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Decide on a way your family can reach out to someone who needs comfort and healing.

**FRI 13**

"God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son; so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life." Jn 3:16

Share the Good News of Jesus with someone else today. Make it happen!

**SAT 14**

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son." Lk 15:21

Check your parish bulletin for dates and times of a Lenten Reconciliation service. Make plans to attend.





# Lent 2020

## CALENDAR

### Daily Lenten Activities for Families

#### MARCH

**SUN 15**

"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Jn 8:7

Be careful of throwing stones at people through unkind words. Think carefully before you speak to make sure your words are filled with kindness and caring.

**MON 16**

"As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, my God." Ps 42:2

Pray today for families and nations who long for peace. Make an effort to practice peace through your words and actions.

**TUE 17**

"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him?" Mt 18:21

Today is the feast day of Saint Patrick who taught about the Blessed Trinity. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.

**WED 18**

"Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven." Mt 5:19

The greatest Commandment teaches us to love God and to love one another as we love ourselves. Talk about ways you are keeping this commandment in your home.

**THU 19**

"Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ." Mt 1:16

Today is the feast of Saint Joseph, who cared for Mary and Jesus. Ask Saint Joseph to pray for your family and to help you care for one another. Wear red today to honor him!

**FRI 20**

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." Mk 12:30

Share ways in which your family members show love for God with your minds, hearts, souls, and bodies.

**SAT 21**

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Lk 18:14

Offer to help someone today without expecting anything in return.

