



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@porro.catholic.edu.au
www.stpawinstonhills.catholic.edu.au

Term 4, Week 10

16 December, 2020

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the celebration of Christmas Day draws nearer, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy 2021. May the birth of Christ our Saviour bring every joy and happiness to us all.

This has been an extraordinary year in our world and our community. So many changes had to be implemented within a short period of time. The response to these changes was positive from the parents, children and teachers. We survived all the uncertainty of COVID19 and united together in partnership to support our children. Your commitment to COVID19 protocols and keeping everyone safe in our community was outstanding and on behalf of the staff I thank you for your continued support.

Special thank you to our Parish Priest Father Raning for guiding and supporting our faith filled community and to Fr Marcus and Seminarian Adam for assisting in this area also. Our links with our parish are strong and very valued.

We are blessed at St Paul's to have a supportive and active Parents and Friends Association who are always willing to create fun and exciting activities for the children and to support the staff. Thank you also for your support.

To our children, you are the shining light in our school and your smiles, enthusiasm and determination make St Paul's a wonderful place to be - thank you for always doing your best and being kind.

To the families and children who are leaving St Paul's this year, we wish you God's blessing as you journey to a new learning community.

Merry Christmas everyone and I look forward to seeing you again in 2021.

Peace and Joy
Mrs Megan Baird
Principal

The Staff of St Paul the Apostle take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and New Year. If you are travelling, travel safely, if you are staying at home, spend time relaxing and resting. We look forward to welcoming you back and working with you and your children in 2021. May the love and joy of Christmas be with you and give you peace.



From the Assistant Principal

The end of the year always comes with some relief but also with some sadness as we farewell staff and students from our community. Each member of our St Paul's family contributes towards making our school a richer and more vibrant community of learners. We wish all of those leaving us this year well. We hope that our students, our staff and our families will go forth knowing that they will always be a part of our St Paul's community and that they are always surrounded by love and friendship.

"In life, there will always be many paths to follow; We hope you always choose the right one... If you give a part of yourself to life, the part you receive back will be so much greater. Never regret the past, but learn by it. Never lose sight of your dreams; a person who can dream will always have hope."

Believe in yourself; if you do, everyone else will. You have the ability to accomplish anything, but never do it at someone else's expense. If you can go through life loving others, you will have achieved the greatest success of all."

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Regards
Jane Misk
Assistant Principal

Class Placement Process

St Paul the Apostle Primary School creates class cohorts annually based on the professional judgement of the current classroom and support teachers, in collaboration with the school leadership team. Teachers and the school leadership have extensive knowledge of how children learn and relate in their current classes and on the playground. All of this information is carefully considered in the discernment process taking into consideration the academic, spiritual, social and emotional needs of each student. In forming classes teachers and the leadership consider a number of interrelated factors in this process including:

- a balance of current learning abilities and learning dispositions in each class e.g. literacy, numeracy capabilities, able to work more independently
- a balance in each class of students receiving specific learning intervention programs e.g. literacy and/or numeracy support, Reading Recovery, Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) intervention, R3 (Reframing Readers Resourcefully)
- socially & emotionally balanced class groups so new learning relationships can be formed across the children's primary schooling years
- behaviour
- gender & numerical balance
- pastoral considerations e.g. school counsellor

Parent requests, not including friendship or teacher requests, have been reviewed in light of this process. There are many factors which affect the placement of students - parental requests being just one of these. Parents and caregivers are asked to respect the decisions made and trust that the school has taken all factors into consideration in the best interest of EACH child. Our most current up to date staff list, subject to change, is included in this newsletter.

Class Teachers/Staff List for 2021

Leadership Team 2021	
Principal	Mrs Megan Baird
Assistant Principal	Mrs Jane Misek
Religious Education Coordinator	Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Leader of Learning	Mrs Elizabeth Sargent
Leader of Learning - Terms 1 and 2 Leader of Learning - Terms 3 and 4	Mrs Michelle Brett Mrs Margaret Ferguson
Leader of Learning	Mrs Julie Hooper
Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 Coordinator	Terms 1 and 2 - Mrs Michelle Brett Terms 3 and 4 - Mrs Margaret Ferguson
Year 3 and 4 (Stage 2) Coordinator	Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Year 5 and 6 (Stage 3) Coordinator	Mrs Elizabeth Sargent

Class Teachers 2021				
Kindergarten	KM	Miss Marissa Mentis	KG	Miss Danielle Grace
Year 1	1I	Mrs Kathryn Ireland (Term 1 - Weeks 1 - 7 inc. Mrs Amy Shelton)	1A	Miss Nicole Abood
Year 2	2D	Mrs Teresa Draybi	2L	Mrs Karen Love
Year 3	3L	Mrs Fiona Lambert	3P	Miss Amber Paul
Year 4	4H	Vanessa Holland	4P H	Mrs Melissa Poole (Monday, Tuesday & Friday) & Mrs Renee Henebery (Wednesday & Thursday)
Year 5	5H	Mrs Julie Hooper	5L	Miss Amelia Lezon
Year 6	6SL	Mrs Lisa Spencer (Monday, Tuesday & Friday), & Mrs Mirijana Loncar (Wednesday & Thursday)	6R	Mrs Mary Richards

Teachers Supporting Learning/Diversity	Mrs Michelle Brett, Mrs Elizabeth Sargent, Mrs Margaret Govender, Mrs Johra Brackenbury, Mrs Petrina Taylor, Mrs Mary-Lourdes Tedesco,
Reading Recovery	Mrs Johra Brackebury
EMU Early Years	Mrs Elizabeth Sargent
EMU Middle Years	Mrs Fiona Lambert
Reframing Readers Resourcefully - Stage 3	Mrs Margaret Govender
Teacher Librarian	Mrs Petrina Taylor
Physical Education	Mrs Lyndelle Batten (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
Creative Arts	Mrs Victoria Matterson (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
Language (Japanese)	Mrs Jessica Richard
Teacher's Aide's	Mrs Therese Ricketts, Mrs Jenny Usher, Mrs Cheryl Long, Mrs Samantha Smith, Mrs Marie Whiting, Miss Niamh Gray, Miss Jasmine Lai
Administration	Mrs Berna Robson, Mrs Juanita Gray, Mrs Rita Nobili
General Assistant	Mr Jamie Sorensen
CAPTIVATE Band - Years 4 and 5 (CEDP)	Kerrie Jiear and Bronwyn McColl.
Wellbeing Counsellor (CEDP)	TBC
IT Trainee (CEDP)	TBC

Religious Education learning

Congratulations to our most recipients of the Sacrament of Confirmation - Myles C, Phoebe D, Ashleigh D, Banjo D, Ronan F, Blake K, Brooke K, Lara L, Amelia M, Cooper N, Johanna D, Jackson E, Caitlin M, Joseph N, Sebastian P, Chloe R, Kayla S, Chelsea S. ***May the Lord Bless you all.***

End of Year Celebrations

The staff and students gathered in grade groups in the Church to celebrate the end of the school year. Kinder, Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3 celebrated with a prayer service and Year 4 and Year 5 celebrated mass. Thank you to Fr Raning and Fr Marcus for presiding over our masses and thank you to the parish community for allowing us to celebrate in the church.



Thank you Lord for the past year and may your blessings and grace be upon us in the coming year. May our travels bring us closer to you, our weakness make us stronger in faith, and may we know that your light is always shining on us. Amen

Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Religious Education Coordinator

Literacy learning

Literacy Learning never stops (even for us as adults) and the holidays are a great time to reinforce with your children all the great strategies that they have learnt at school throughout the year. Reading is so important. It builds vocabulary, increases knowledge, assists with writing, improves memory, focus and comprehension skills and also can provide tranquility and peace. You can always find a friend in a good book.

Over the holidays we encourage you to continue reading with your children. Make time to read aloud and together, make reading a social activity and model to your children a love of reading.

Mrs Margaret Ferguson
Leader of Learning

Numeracy

Numeracy involves being able to understand how numbers work in everyday situations. We see and use numbers daily when we go shopping, follow a recipe or work out how much paint is needed to freshen up the lounge room. It is important to help your child to develop a positive attitude towards numbers and to build numeracy skills.

Counting everyday:

You can incorporate counting into everyday activities such as:

- Cut fruit into six pieces and ask your child to count the pieces.
- Add the total number of cutlery items at the table or in the drawer.
- Count how many steps it takes to walk from the kitchen to the bathroom.
- Count each toss of the ball as you play a game.



Hunting for numbers:

Number hunts are a fun and engaging activity for your child. Ask your child to find numbers around you. Look at and say the numbers on car number plates, signs, calendars, newspapers and shopping catalogues.

Using playing cards:

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.

Playing games:

Making maths fun and interactive by playing games will help engage your child. Board games are a fun way to involve the whole family with maths. Help your child when rolling dice to count, move, and stop after moving the number shown on the dice. When using dice your child may count all the dots on the die face to determine the total number. Over time they will begin to recognise automatically the value on the die face without counting (subitising). You can also play number games online with your child.

Playing with shapes:

Playing with shapes helps develop your child's awareness of different shapes. It also improves their hand-eye coordination.

Here are some tips and activities:

- Jigsaw puzzles, tangrams or shape sorting toys help teach your child problem solving skills and spatial awareness.
- Name and notice the similarities and differences between shapes. For example, shapes with curves, corners or edges.
- Help your child draw shapes, cut them out and sort them into groups. Ask your child to explain why they have sorted the shapes this way.
- Use biscuit cutters to explore different shapes using playdough. Encourage your child to identify shapes in their everyday life, such as a round ball, square window or hexagonal 'STOP' sign.
- Use building blocks to create a tower. Using the same number of blocks, ask your child to build another tower that's different to the first tower.

Making patterns:

Recognising and making patterns are important maths skills for exploring numbers, shapes and symmetry.

Activities include:

- Identifying and explaining visual patterns on clothing, wrapping paper, buildings, crockery, cards and furniture.
- Using coloured pegs, blocks, beads or cutlery to create and describe a pattern.
- Incorporating some patterns in rhythm. Create a clapping pattern and ask your child to copy and then create their own pattern.

Measuring things:

Understanding measurement and scale are crucial to your child's understanding of maths.

Here are some tips and activities:

- Use a wall measuring chart to measure the height of people in your family.
- Cut a one metre piece of string for your child. Use the string to measure the objects in your house to find out what is longer or shorter than one metre or about one metre long. Ask your child to identify things that are the same length.
- Explore other ways of measuring, such as using a cup, jug, teaspoon, icy pole sticks, footprints or hand lengths.

- Estimate and measure who can jump the furthest, or stand on one foot for a longer period, or how many buttons might fill a jar.
- Explore the size of different containers by pouring and filling. Estimate, then check to see which holds more or less.

Maths at home can be a lot of fun. Always try to model a positive attitude towards mathematics and to use correct mathematical terminology.

Mrs Kieran Jackson
Leader of Learning



Inquiry learning

Inquiry learning has wrapped up for the year. Over the last two weeks our students have been busy completing the end product for their current inquiry. There have been a range of activities happening including treasure hunts, creating designs and presenting learning.

As the school holidays begin, there are many ways you can continue to provide opportunities for your child to wonder and explore at home. Participating in activities with your child such as cooking, craft and outdoor play are just a few. Spend time with your child in the backyard and explore your surroundings by looking, listening, touching, collecting and sketching. Talk about what you and your child notice and wonder. Let your child's curiosity lead the way. Exploring can be a lot of fun and it's a great way to spend time together too.

Mrs Julie Hooper
Leader of Learning

General School Information

Medical Action Plans - 2021

If your child is on a Medical Action Plan, could you please take the time over the school holidays to check that it is still valid. Medical Action Plans are valid for 12 months, so a visit to the doctor may be required if your child's plan is approaching the end of its validity.

We would appreciate it if updated Actions Plans could be brought to the office within the first week of Term 1, 2021. Thank you for your cooperation and helping us to keep your children safe and well.

School Fees - Changes to Family Levy

We advise that your school fee statement may look a little different next year due to changes requested by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP). You will notice that the Resource Fee has increased and there is no longer a Family Levy as the Family Levy and Resource Fee have merged. In the majority of cases this has little or no impact. For families with 3 or more students there will be a slight increase in the combination of these fees.

For 2021 there will be no increase in diocesan tuition fees or the building levy and therefore you will find that the total school fees increase is within the bounds of normal annual increases.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please contact Berna Robson in the office brobson1@parra.catholic.edu.au

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. Our Kindergarten team has created a slideshow which has been shared with all of our Kindergarten 2021 families.

The slideshow is also available on our website, [here is the link](#)



Canteen for 2021

Recently, the Canteen contract went up for tender and sadly, our current contractors, Healthy Kids Cucina, will not be returning to St Paul's in 2021. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ritta and John for all their hard work over the past two years. We will miss your hospitality, your delicious food and most of all, your generosity of spirit. May God bless you and we wish you every success for the future.

Our new Canteen provider is Claudia's Kitchen. Details about ordering and the menu will be sent home early next year.

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.

URGENT REMINDER: School Uniform 2021

A friendly reminder that all orders are to be placed on the QKR app by MasterCard. Please download the app, search your school and follow the prompts.

The uniform shop will not be open during the school holidays. First deliveries for 2021 will be Thursday 28 January, 2021.

Kind regards

Elle

M: 0421216414

E: elle@ozfashions.com.au



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

Happy Birthday

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

Lucas A, James M, Chelsea S, Thomas C, Jacob K, Lucas N, John Paul L, Kayla A, Francis S, Tanner L, Cooper S, Lulu O'B, Adele V, Joshua C, Sarah M, Daniel I, Felix K, Michael M, Azalia B, Isabel S, Amarlee G, Leon S, Syerra F, Audrey G, Elijah D, Jacob J, Bonnie H, Arielle T, Olivia H, Joel S, Austin C, Samuel McC, Jordan P, Ella W, Riley O'C, Eli H, Josephine R, Audrey S, Josh K, Mary K, Savannah Y, Kingsley A, Selena A, Sienna D'C, Kobe P, Christina A, Elizabeth T, Alyssa E-B.



Student Awards - Congratulations!

	St Paul's Awards	Student of the Week Award
KL	Gemma L Oliver S	Savannah N Victoria M
KM	Mikaela K Allegra T	Jayson B William D
1H	Aniella	Braxtyn
1JC	Scarlet D	Khyah P
2BH	Jessica M	Valentino B
2D	Indy F	Elijah D
3L	Olivia B	Jordan P
3P	Rachael B	Brandon S
4SA	Zara F	Arielle T
4SH	George C	Jessica K
5G	Kleo H Chelsea S	Rebecca U Tyson W
5H	Matthew C Alannah T	Brooke K Myles C
6PR	Isabella EI-R	Grace M
6S	Markus M	Jackson C