



St Paul's Post

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

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Term 4, Week 8

4 December, 2020

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the 2020 school year is fast approaching and as Christmas draws near it will be a time to pause and reflect.

As the year draws to a close, we will farewell several of our staff who are leaving St Paul's.

Congratulations to Mrs Margaret Ferguson who will be taking on the role of Acting Assistant Principal for Terms 1 and 2 at OLOL Seven Hills. We look forward to seeing Mrs Ferguson back in Term 3 next year. Congratulations to Mrs Kieran Jackson who is leaving to take up her new leadership role at OLQP Greystanes. We farewell and thank Mr David Smith, Miss Brooke Mindham, Mrs Felicity Carvalho, Mrs Genevieve Smith, Mrs Karen Holm and Mrs Elizabeth Mulcare who worked with us in 2020. We hope to see them all at some stage in 2021 as casual teachers.

Farewell Year 6

Next Monday and Tuesday evening we will farewell our 2020 Year 6 cohort. Over the last seven years, these students have grown in confidence into young men and women who will be moving on to high school. We have been truly blessed to have been part of their educational and faith journey. Thank you to each and every one of you for the contributions you have made to the community of St. Paul's. We wish you every happiness and success with your future endeavours and studies and may God, in whom we place our trust and confidence, guide and support you always. God Bless!

Thank you!

To our parent community, thank you for your ongoing support, encouragement and understanding this year - a year that has brought about many challenges for all of us. As parents you had to step in, when at very short notice, we had to implement learning@home (remote learning) during the COVID19 pandemic. A school's community is only as effective as their parent body in that it supports the staff and school in the education and development of your child. For your time, generosity and understanding with the constant changes and challenges that 2020 has brought, the staff and I are truly grateful. We look forward to your support again in 2021.

Reports

Next Wednesday, December 9, you will receive your child's end of year school report. You will notice that we have returned the previously used A-E grading and report template for Years 1-6. We encourage you to celebrate your child's successes with them. If you would like to arrange a phone interview to discuss your child's learning and development, please contact the school office and a mutually convenient time will be arranged with you.

School Leaders

This term the Year 4 and 5 students, together with the staff, elected the following students as our 2021 School Leaders.

School Captains	Lara Laycock and Marcus Prideaux
School Vice-Captains	Eloise Vizcarra and Michael Rizk
School Leaders	Olive Alley, Annabelle Casey, Heidi Smith, Liam Hall, Benjamin Sedrak, Marcus Thompson

Congratulations to you all. You are the face of our school and the students we want to represent our values. I look forward to working with you next year.

Our final 2020 St Paul's Post school newsletter will be published on Wednesday 16 December with our 2021 staff list and draft teacher/grade allocations. If teacher/grade allocations change in the school holidays, we will advise you via Skoolbag.

Peace and Joy
Mrs Megan Baird
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

This term each child from Years 1-6 will receive A-E grades on their report. (Please note that Kindergarten Students do not receive the A to E Grade on their reports). The A to E grade scale summarises the standard (or quality) of achievement associated with each grade. The scale describes:

- the depth of knowledge and understanding and
- the range of skills that students working at that standard typically show.

Grades are given for individual achievement and each student will get the grade that best matches the standard of their achievement up to this point in time. Teachers use a range of formal and informal assessment opportunities throughout the learning cycle to help them determine the grade for a student.

Please remember that grades are only one aspect of school reporting to parents. Other important tools include:

- teacher comments
- parent-teacher interviews and
- information about student effort and application.

Understandably, we have been limited in the opportunities for face to face discussion about your child's learning this year, however, if you have concerns please take the opportunity to talk with the teacher via a phone call.

It is also important to note that if a student receives the same grade for two consecutive reports they have made progress. For example, if a student receives a Grade C at the end of last year and again at the end of the year they will be making progress.

Between the two reporting periods the student will have learned new knowledge and skills of a more advanced nature. In order to receive a Grade C on the second occasion the student has "*a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes*" in relation to this new and more challenging material.

Regards

Jane Misek
Assistant Principal

Religious Education learning

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to our Year 5 students who have received the Holy Spirit over the past two weeks.

Sienna A, Annabelle C, Zed C, Kleo H, Frances N, Lucas N, Cooper S, Alice S, Alannah T, Olive A, Adeline B, Blake B, Tanner L, Olive M, Johanna O, Jack O, Marcus P, Tyson W, Luke B, Nathan B, Matthew C, Eloise V, Owen W, Emily W, Rebecca U, Oliver C, Thomas C, Joshua C, Sienna C, Zara D, Ellie G, Liam H, Marcus T, Michael R.

Due to COVID restrictions, a limited number of staff were in attendance to support the children at this special event. Each Monday, following the children's confirmation they were presented with a small gift from the St Paul's community.

Come Holy Spirit

Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit O Lord, and they shall be created.

And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,

Did instruct the hearts of the faithful,

Grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise

And ever enjoy His love.

Amen.



Mini Vinnie Christmas / Summer Mufti Day

Thank you to the community of St Paul the Apostle for their fabulous generosity. Together we raised **\$1042.80** for families less fortunate than us who are supported by St Vincent de Paul.

Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Religious Education Coordinator



Literacy Learning

This week Kim Platts from CEDP visited our school to work with teachers to continue unpacking the data to plan for deep learning for our students. We thank the CEDP for their ongoing support and commitment to learning.

Mrs Margaret Ferguson
Leader of Learning

Year One Update



In Year One we have been exploring fractions. We have been noticing that there are different ways to find halves, quarters and eighths and that it is important that fractions are equal in number or size.



After receiving a very welcome visit from our Elf on the Shelf, we are madly writing to and about him! Each day, the children are excited to see what our cheeky elf has been up to while we're not at school. Santa is also very high on our list for letter writing.



With the wonderful skills our Year One authors have developed this year, it would be great to create some authentic writing opportunities at home over the holidays to consolidate and develop these skills.

Numeracy

School holidays are all about relaxing and enjoying a well-earned break with family and friends. School holidays can also be a great opportunity to practice maths skills. Board games such as Bingo, Snakes and ladders, Uno, Monopoly, Battleship, Yahtzee and Risk are fun ways for children to use and develop their maths skills. Cooking, gardening and outdoor play are other activities that also provide many opportunities to use maths. By doing this, you will be helping to ensure that your child will be ready to tackle all of the fun learning challenges that await them in the new year.

Kieran Jackson
Leader of Learning

Inquiry

Year 6 has been investigating the connections Australia has with other countries around the world and sharing their findings with their peers. They have explored how countries are connected through trade, migration, foreign aid, tourism, defence and sport. Children have identified the countries Australia is connected to and why these connections are important.



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

Meet the Teacher afternoon

Next Friday, December 11, the children will have an opportunity to meet their 2021 class teacher and spend some time in their 2021 classrooms with their grade. On this day, our new staff to St Paul's will also spend some time getting to know our school and meet their new students.

We need your help! Library Books and Class Readers

It's that time of year! Please start looking for those missing library books and Class Readers. Check under the bed, in the car, or maybe at the Grandparents. Check the bookshelf and your school bag. Please return all library books and class readers to school ASAP. These books are expensive to replace and we appreciate your support and help with this request.



Staff Development Days 2020 - Reminder

The term will end for students on **Wednesday 16 December**. **COSHC will be UNAVAILABLE on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December.**

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](#)



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

The last delivery for school uniforms will be **Thursday 10th December 2020**.
The first delivery of 2021 will be **Thursday 28 January, 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.

Kind regards

Elle

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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

Work, Health and Safety Reminders

Parking

Please be considerate of our neighbours when you are parking out the front of the school. Please **do not** park over driveways or so close that residents are unable to access their properties. Thank you for your cooperation.



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.

Christmas Treats

In these last weeks of school, children like to carry out the Christmas spirit by sending and receiving Christmas cards with lovely messages of joy and thanks. This is a lovely gesture. As there are a number of children at St Paul's who have severe allergies we kindly ask that you do not send in any edible treats for the children to give to each other. This includes gingerbread, chocolates, candy canes, marshmallows or any other lolly, biscuit or cake. We ask this so that we can ensure that our school community remains safe for all of our children. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

Important Allergy Information

At St Paul's we have a number of children who have severe allergies to nuts. While allergic reactions are common and most are not serious, for some people the reaction can be life threatening. This is called anaphylaxis and can occur in minutes of an exposure to a trigger, in these children's case, nuts. At St Paul's we see prevention as a major part of providing a safe environment for these children. So please do not send nuts or foods containing nuts to school with their children.



Happy Birthday

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

Sarah K, Gabriella S, Tyler L, Lorena V, Xavier D'S, Joseph S, Savanna D, Pacey D, Allegra T, Jenna D, Miray G, Zaya H, Georgia S, Sophia S, Ethan M, Ava S and Luke N.



Student Awards - Congratulations!

	St Paul's Awards	Student of the Week Award
KL	Mikka P Isabella F Zoe H	Madeleine C Jacob K Ruby M
KM	Beatrix C Jacob J Michael S	Azalia B Eric U Lulu O
1H	Jamie P Savannah M Mark K	Josephine R Ryan P Michael M
1JC	Isabella Ethan	Isaac Patrick
2BH	Fletcher M	Evelyn H
2D	Samuel McC	Jade B
3L	Tania T Emma R	Ethan A Deon C
3P	John Paul L Evanna T	Harry Mc Felicity C
4SA	Jacob K	Christian B
4SH	Christopher D	Blake P
5G	Rebecca U Kleo H	Marcus T Zara D
5H	Tanner L Amelia M	Thomas B Emily W
6PR	Riley B	Christian K Daniel J
6S	Nicholas A	Ava S