



# St Paul's Post

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

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Term 4, Week 10

10 December, 2021

## ***From the Principal***

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the year comes to close, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the parent community for the support, love, encouragement and understanding you've expressed as we navigated a very tricky year of restrictions, learning@home, simplified reports for Semester Two, changes to events and, of course, our staggered start and finish times this term, just to name a few.

The strength of our community, the compassion we have for one another and the way in which we support and respect each other reflect the Gospel values and it is, and continues to be, my privilege to serve this beautiful faith filled community. I am also very grateful for the spiritual guidance and support of our Parish Priest, Fr Raning, who has provided much counsel, advice and encouragement to our community.

My prayer for you all is that over the Christmas break you get to create special memories, connect with family and friends in ways we have not been able to do for most of this year and enjoy the things that fill your soul with happiness and love. For some of us, including me, Christmas will be bittersweet as we remember those close to us who we've lost this year and are no longer with us for this special time. Bittersweet because for some of us, we are blessed with the opportunity to create memories with new family members. To our Year 6 students who will graduate on Monday evening, I pray that the values you've learnt and friendships you've developed, during your time at St. Paul's carry you through your high school years.

May the love of Jesus in whom we place our trust, continue to guide and protect us all and those whom we love over the Christmas break and bring us all back together safely in 2022.

## ***Thank you!***

A school is not a school without hardworking and dedicated staff. We are so blessed at St. Paul's to have such a committed team of teachers, teacher assistants, secretaries and a groundsperson who all go above and beyond what is expected of them. I truly thank them for their commitment and compassion for the children entrusted to them and wish for them that, they too, have a restful and rejuvenating break. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful P&F for their constant hard work and support of our families and students.

## ***Staff for 2022***

As with any school, there are always staff changes. At the end of this year, we farewell Mrs Jane Misek who has served the St Paul's community as Assistant Principal with integrity and compassion for the past eight years. Mrs Misek is taking up the position of Principal Leader at St John's Riverstone and they are very blessed to have her. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with, and learning from, Jane who made my transition to the St Paul's community a smooth one. Jane's commitment as a leader has ensured that our children and staff have continued to develop their faith, learn alongside one another and her passion for developing literacy skills, especially reading, have touched each and every student at St. Paul's. Jane's strong leadership skills have been an asset to our school community and every blessing goes with her as she takes on the responsibility of leading another faith-filled community in our diocese.

We will also be farewelling Mr Jack Fitzsimons, who will be taking up a full time roll at his other school, Our Lady of Lourdes Baulkham Hills, Miss Nicole Abood who will be moving to Tangara and Miss Brooke Mindham who will be joining the Our Lady of Lourdes Baulkham Hills community. Miss Emilie Cangy, our wellbeing counsellor will also take on a new role in another school in 2022.

We thank these dedicated staff members for their contribution to our children and our community. Our draft 2022 Staff List is attached to this newsletter

As we journey towards the Christmas season, please continue to keep those less fortunate than ourselves in our hearts and prayers.

*Peace and Joy!*  
**Megan Baird**  
**Principal**

*"Peace with God, Peace with others, and Peace in your own heart."  
We wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a safe,  
Happy New Year.*

## Dates for your diary 2021

Date	Event
13/12/21	Year 6 Reflection Day
	Year 6 Graduation Liturgy and Ceremony
15/12/21	Last Day of 2021 School Year For All Students
16/12/21	Staff Development Day - no children at school

### From the Assistant Principal

Dear Parents

***'How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard'  
(Winnie the Pooh)***



It is with mixed emotions that I write my final newsletter message at St Paul the Apostle. I am excited for the journey that lies ahead but sad to be leaving behind all the wonderful staff, students and families that I have had the privilege to work with over the last 8 years. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities that I have had at St Pauls and I am leaving richer for these experiences, from the people I have met and of course from the children that I have worked with.

Our school community is blessed to have such a generous, hard working and dedicated staff and I thank each and everyone of them for the support they have given to me in my role here over the last eight years. I would like to especially acknowledge Megan Baird who has encouraged me and helped me to develop as a leader. It has been a pleasure to work with a leader who is so dedicated to ensuring the students are always at the centre of everything we do.

I thank our wonderful parent community who give of their time so generously to support our students and staff, working in partnership to support the learning and wellbeing of our students. I truly appreciate all your messages of thanks, congratulations and best wishes for me as I move into my new role at St Johns at Riverstone.

Finally, I thank the children who I have learnt with and learnt from, laughed with, cried for and grown with during my time at St Pauls. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to see their personalities flourish, to see them grow in their faith and to see them develop a love of learning. I am truly blessed to have been part of their lives.

*I ask God to bless you, to guide you, to keep you safe, and to give you peace,  
joy and love this Christmas season.*

### Another note from Mrs Misek

Since returning to school following the lockdown, Mrs Baird and I have engaged a number of teachers and support staff to support the children's return to school, their learning and social needs. There has been at least an additional teacher in every grade since returning to school in Term 4 and we thank these additional staff members who were able to support grades and individual children as the needs arose.

School resumes for students on Tuesday 1 February. In 2022, we will be conducting any Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI's) during class time, thus the need for parents to book in for their child's MAI is not necessary next year. This may change the following year.

**Mrs Jane Misek**  
**Assistant Principal**

### From the Religious Education Coordinator

#### Coins for Christmas

On Wednesday, 1st December the staff and students dressed in Christmas mufti to raise money for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal. Together we raised over **\$900.00**. A very big thank you to all our families for being so generous and supporting this appeal.



## Confirmation

Over the past 2 weeks many of our Year 5 students have completed the Parish Sacramental Confirmation program and have received the Holy Spirit. We congratulate all the students on receiving the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. May these gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit guide them on their faith journey.



## End of Year Prayer Services and Holy Faith Awards

We are very grateful to all the staff, students, parents and grandparents who were able to join us to celebrate the end of the school year. The students were very reverent during the mass and liturgies.



We congratulate the winners of the **Holy Faith Award for 2021**. These students have been chosen by their peers as they live out our school values of empathy, leadership, commitment, integrity and faithfulness.

### Congratulations to the following recipients -

*Django J - Kindergarten, Maeve J - Year 1, Taylor E - Year 2, Samantha U - Year 3, Siarra B - Year 4, Noah S - Year 5.* Our Margaret Aylward Award Recipient will be announced at our Year 6 Graduation Mass next week.



## ***From the Leaders of Learning***

Money! Money! Money! In our current Australian culture, we hear the terms 'Tap and Go' and 'Afterpay'. Of course, as adults we can make meaning of this, but I wonder what our children think of these terms? To some extent, we have become an increasingly 'cashless' society. I wonder if you tipped out your wallet, would you find any cash, or like me, a multitude of plastic cards? What opportunities then, do our children have to play and practice with coins? What incidental learning experiences are we inadvertently denying our children through the convenience of 'tap and go'?

The concept of money and its value can take a while for children to master. In our younger years, children spend time identifying the value of Australian coins, and recognising that 100 cents makes a dollar. Later, children work to perform simple calculations with money, including finding change and rounding money to the nearest five cents.

These holidays, perhaps while you are at the corner shop, or buying ice creams for a treat, I encourage you to use cash. Encourage your children to find the correct coins and notes, and even work out change. Yes, it may take longer and people behind you may have to wait, but it will give your child/ren a context to solve money problems and recognise its value in real world situations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year. While it certainly had its challenges, we have witnessed much learning and growth, thanks to our dedicated staff, eager students and supportive parents. May the peace of the newborn Jesus reign in your hearts and homes this Christmas.

***Liz Sargent***  
***Leader of Learning***

## ***Gift Your Children the Joy of Reading***

Of all the things that you give your children, one of the greatest of all is the gift of a love of reading. I write this not as a teacher, but as a granddaughter who had the blessing of a wonderful grandmother who showed me that books could be loved and when you love books magic happens. There is something beautiful in a child who cannot wait to go to bed so that they can open a book and read in the lamplight.



Reading opens doors for a child more than most other things. It broadens their knowledge and gives them time of pleasure, adventures, joys, fears and laughs.

In this modern time, the book has been replaced by the ipad, smartphone and television screen. Over these Summer holidays I encourage you to read a book with your child, to browse through the shelves in a bookshop or visit the local library. Research tells us that reading aloud to children no matter what their age is the magic bullet for creating lifelong readers.

## **eLibrary**

Students can borrow ebooks via the SORA and Wheelers Platform during the holidays using their CEDP username and password. Click on the word eLibrary above to access ebooks, magazines and audiobooks.

A promotional banner for the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge. The text 'EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S' is in a small, black, sans-serif font. 'Summer' is in a large, pink, cursive font. 'READING' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. 'Challenge' is in a large, pink, cursive font. To the right, 'WIN A \$500 GIFT VOUCHER!' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, 'Entry closes at 5pm on 25 February 2022. Terms and Conditions apply.' is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the banner is a row of colorful watercolor-style books in various colors like blue, purple, orange, and green.

## **The Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge** (Click on the link to enter)

Students can read anything they like to enter, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or animated novel. Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of two \$500 JB Hi-Fi vouchers or one of thirty gift vouchers valued at \$30 each. The competition opens on 1 November 2021 and closes at 5 pm on 25 February 2022. Terms and Conditions apply.

These summer holidays, we encourage all students to take the reading challenge and read, read, read! The more books you read, the more chances you have to win.

I would like to wish the entire school community a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It has been a privilege to work with your children in the face of unprecedented challenges. As a school community we demonstrated such a deep sense of caring and support for each other during challenging times. May God's blessings be with you and your family.

***Michelle Brett***

## **Leader of Learning**

### **From our School Counsellor - Miss Emilie**

#### **A final note**

It's hard to believe that I have only been a part of the St Paul's community for one year. I'm deeply grateful for the trust you have invested in me to support your children and for all the stories you have shared about your most challenging experiences. I'm also thankful for the sense of humour you've brought to my days at work, there's nothing quite like a belly laugh amid chaos.

My last words of advice echo the message I shared during the first 'Parenting in a Pandemic' seminar. Raising children is tough. Raising children and working is tough. Raising children and working and running a household is tough. This is without the common crises of financial difficulty, family conflict and illness.

It is my view that practicing vulnerability and engaging in community are infallible ways of making life's difficulties easier to manage. Being brave and willing to share your story with trusted members of your community reduces feelings of shame and failure. It will remind you that despite your most challenging circumstance, you are not alone and there may well be someone beside you who has shared the same plight.

My goal at every school is to work myself out of a job. When I am asked to move on, I always hope that I am leaving students with a greater sense of resilience than what was present when we first met. My time at St Paul's was cut short, but I hope you, as parents, can carry on the work I started before the new counsellor begins in 2022. Show your children what bravery looks like, they will flourish when they believe in themselves.

**Emilie Cangy**  
**School Counsellor**

## **Work Health and Safety Reminders**

### **Just a reminder**

WHS is a whole school responsibility - if you see something that you think is unsafe, please contact the school office and report it - thank you for your cooperation.

## **General School Information**

### **Class Promotion Day**

Today the children had an opportunity to meet their teachers for 2022. The staff have spent an extraordinary amount of time looking at each individual student, their needs in terms of opportunities for learning and support. Serious consideration has been given to any parent requests and every effort has been made by the teachers to place your child with at least one of their friends and with a teacher or teachers who will support their academic and personal growth. I encourage you to be positive with your child when they come home to discuss their teacher and class for 2022. Moving a child at this late stage is near impossible as such moves affect many children who may have been separated for various reasons in order to create a dynamic and supportive learning environment.

### **New class names in 2022**

We have been advised that our new timetabling system requires consistency when naming roll classes. Often teachers go on leave during the year and this causes issues within the system for roll marking. In 2022 our class names will be Aylward and MacKillop, therefore each grade will be known as A or M and therefore the class name will no longer reflect the name of the teacher allocated to the class, e.g. 1A or 1M, 2A or 2M etc.

### **Families leaving St Paul's at the end of the year**

If your family is not returning to St Paul's for Years 1-6 in 2022, please let Mrs Baird, Principal, know as soon as possible. Please address all letters/emails to Mrs Baird, Principal, c/o the school office or via email [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au). This will assist with placing new students in classes for 2022. Please contact the school office for further information on 8841 3800.

### **Medical Action Plans - 2022**

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, 2022. Thank you for your cooperation and helping us to keep your children safe and well.



## 2022 School Terms & Important Dates

<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Friday 28 January - Friday 8 April</b>
<b>Pupil Free</b>	<b>Friday 28 January Staff Development Day - No children at school</b>
<b>Pupil Free</b>	<b>Monday 31 January Staff Development Day - No children at school</b>
	<b>Tuesday 1 February - First Day for Years 1-6</b>
	<b>Wednesday 2 February - 2022 Kindergarten commences</b>
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Monday 26 April to Friday 1 July</b>
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Monday 18 July to Thursday 22 September</b>
<b>Term 4</b>	<b>Monday 10 October to Friday 16 December</b>

### Staff Development Days 2022

Each year, schools are allocated 6 days for professional learning. These days are used to improve the skills of our teachers, school leaders and school support staff. Our days for 2022 are as follows:

Friday 28 January, 2022  
 Monday 31 January, 2022  
 Friday 10 June, 2022 **(TBC)**  
 Friday 23 September, 2022 **(TBC)**  
 Monday 19 December, 2022  
 Tuesday 20 December, 2022

## Happy Birthday

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

Stella S, Miray G, Zaya H, Ethan M, Georgia S, Sophia S, Elissa B, Lucas A, Grace D, Chelsea S, James M, Arrell N, Thomas C, Lucas N, Jacob K, John Paul L, Myles W, Kayla A, Tanner L, Frankie S, Cooper S, Lulu O.



## Awards

	<b>St Paul Award</b>	<b>Student of the Week</b>
<b>KG</b>	Amelia I	Edison M
<b>KM</b>	Evie G	Charbel C
<b>1A</b>	Savannah N	Sofia D
<b>1M</b>	Lulu O	Lucas A
<b>2D</b>	Ella W	Ashton A
<b>2L</b>	Sarah M	Grace F
<b>3L</b>	William M	Felix K
<b>3P</b>	Valentino B	Amarlee G
<b>4H</b>	Keira D	Archie O
<b>4PH</b>	Christina A	Brandon S
<b>5H</b>	Jasmine P	Isaac D
<b>5L</b>	Grace	Aiden L
<b>6R</b>	Banjo D	Joshua C
<b>6SL</b>	Ronan F	Thomas B



# 2022 St Paul the Apostle Primary School Staff

**DRAFT as at 9th December, 2021**  
*(Subject to change for operational purposes)*

<b>Parish Priest</b> <b>Assistant Parish Priest</b>	Fr Raning Creta Fr Marcus Hazelman
<b>Principal</b>	Mrs Megan Baird
<b>Assistant Principal</b>	Mrs Kathryn Newman
<b>Religious Education Coordinator</b>	Mrs Johra Brackenbury
<b>Leader of Learning</b>	Mrs Elizabeth Sargent
<b>Leader of Learning &amp; Diversity Leader</b> <b>(Formerly known as "Learning Support")</b>	Mrs Michelle Brett

<b>Class Teachers</b>				
<b>Kindergarten</b>	KA	Miss Danielle Grace	KM	Mrs Karen Love
<b>Year 1</b>	1A	Mrs Julie Hooper	1M	Miss Jasmine Szanto
<b>Year 2</b>	2A	Mr James Gough	2M	Mrs Fiona Lambert
<b>Year 3</b>	3A	Miss Amber Paul	3M	Mrs Mary Richards
<b>Year 4</b>	4A	Miss Marissa Mentis	4M	Mrs Melissa Poole (W, Th) Mrs Kylie Windever (M, T, & F)
<b>Year 5</b>	5A	Miss Amelia Lezon	5M	Mrs Lisa Spencer (M, T, F) Mrs Renee Henebery (W, Th)
<b>Year 6</b>	6A	Miss Niamh Gray (M, T, W & F) Mrs Kylie Baker (Th)	6M	Mrs Vanessa Holland

<b>Teachers Supporting Learning and Diversity</b> <i>(formerly known as Learning Support)</i>	Mrs Michelle Brett (Diversity Leader), Mrs Kathryn Newman, Mrs Elizabeth Sargent, Mrs Johra Brackenbury, Mrs Petrina Taylor, Mrs Mary-Lourdes Tedesco, Mrs Kylie Baker, Mrs Margaret Govender, Mrs Felicity Carvalho, Miss Adrijana Drazenovic
<b>Reading Recovery</b> (Year 1)	Mrs Johra Brackenbury
<b>Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) Early Years</b> (Year 1)	Mrs Elizabeth Sargent
<b>EMU Middle Years</b> (Years 3 & 4)	Mrs Fiona Lambert

<b>Reframing Readers Resourcefully (R3)</b> (Year 6)	Mrs Kathryn Newman
<b>Teacher Librarian</b>	Mrs Petrina Taylor
<b>Physical Education</b>	Mrs Kirstie Edwards (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
<b>Creative Arts</b>	Mrs Victoria Matterson (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
<b>Language (Japanese)</b>	TBC
<b>School Counsellor</b>	Genevieve Carey
<b>IT Trainee</b>	TBC
<b>Teacher's Aide's</b>	Mrs Therese Ricketts, Mrs Jenny Usher, Mrs Samantha Smith, Mrs Marie Whiting, Mrs Leanne Thacker, Mrs Kimberly Taufu, Mrs Suzanne McGrillen
<b>Administration</b>	Mrs Berna Robson, Mrs Juanita Gray, Mrs Rita Nobili, Mrs Cheryl Long
<b>General Assistant</b>	Mr David Bonnar
<b>Staff on leave</b>	Mrs Amy Shelton - returning part time in Term 3 and 4 Mrs Teresa Draybi - returning part time in Term 2, Mrs Mirijana Loncar - returning in 2023 Mrs Rita Nobili - returning in Term 2

