



St Paul's Post

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

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Term 4, Week 2

15 October, 2021

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 4. We are so very excited to welcome the children back to school in a staggered way over the next two weeks. It has been such a long time since we have seen their beautiful faces and smiles in person and we are very much looking forward to seeing them soon. We have truly missed the sense of community our parents, children and staff create.

- **On Monday 18th October** our Kindergarten and Year 1 children are scheduled to return to school and we have many plans and exciting activities for them
 - Detailed information about Week 3 and drop off and pick up has been shared, via Skoolbag, with Kindergarten and Year 1 parents
- **On Monday 25th October**, we welcome back children from Years 2 to 6. A learning grid for Years 2 to 6 for Week 3 will be shared with families, via Skoolbag, on Sunday afternoon as usual.
 - Detailed information about arrangements for Week 4, drop off and pick up will be shared, via Skoolbag next week.

We will continue to provide supervision for children in Years 2 to 6 next week for those who need it. Please be aware that if your child in Years 2 to 6 is attending school next week, they may not be supervised by their class teacher, or be in their own learning space. Please ensure that if you are sending your child to school for supervision that you complete the "request for supervision" Google Form so that we have sufficient staff to supervise next week.

Restrictions and guidelines for schools

At the time of writing this newsletter, many restrictions and guidelines remain in place for schools and we truly appreciate your support and understanding during this transition time back to school. Plans and restrictions have been changing on a daily basis and we are actively responding to these changes. The safety and wellbeing of all in our community is our priority.

If dropping off or picking up your child, you must:

- stay in the car at Kiss and Drop in the morning. If your child is not able to independently get out of the car with their school bag, please park and walk them to the gate
- follow the physical distancing advice and avoid gathering outside of school gates in the morning when dropping off your child and in the afternoon when collecting your child
- remain outside of school grounds
- adhere to mask-wearing requirements when dropping off or collecting your child.

Our focus for the children's return to school

When the children return our focus will be to ensure that the children are happy, safe and learning. Please continue to have a conversation with your child about school being a safe place and I encourage you to be positive about their return to school so that they are calm and happy to return once again.

Initially, the focus will be on having the children settle back into the classroom routines and ensuring that the children have the opportunity to build relationships once again with their teacher and with their peers. Some time each day will be spent on helping the children develop their social skills, build team spirit and work collaboratively. This time will also give the teachers a chance to reiterate our community values of being safe, respectful and a learner. As per the recommendations, we will endeavour to reduce the mingling of grades and each grade will be working separately in their learning space.

We are so excited to welcome back the Kindergarten and Year 1 children next week. No doubt there will be challenges; however, I'm very confident that as a community of faith-filled, compassionate people we will rise to these challenges together, just as we have done so in the past.



pbs+1
Positive Behaviour Support for Learning

Staffing update

This week I wrote to you to congratulate Mrs Jane Misek, who has been appointed as Principal Leader of St. John's Primary School, Riverstone. Jane has been part of the St. Paul's community for almost eight years and I am certain you will join me in acknowledging her hard work and commitment to our students, staff, families and parish. Jane's strong faith, exceptional leadership skills and caring nature will be assets for the St. John's learning community. On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Jane for the past three years and will miss the camaraderie, friendship and kindness that Jane has shared with me. We have accomplished some fantastic things together for our wonderful community and have learned so much from each other.

***To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.
Cf. Ps 16:6,8***

Peace and Joy

**Mrs Megan Baird
Principal**

From the Assistant Principal

It is difficult to believe that after such an unprecedented year for all of us we are now in Term 4 and are starting to plan for the end of the year and look towards 2022. While our staff will be very busy welcoming our children all back to school and helping them to settle comfortably and happily back into the routine of school, behind the scenes they are also starting to organise some of the administrative work that needs to take place this term.

Classes for 2022

Importantly, this term, our teachers will be working together to formulate our classes for 2022. Our goal is to form parallel, even class groups in each grade. The teachers look at the learning needs of each student, their behaviour and their social, emotional needs.

If you believe your child has any of the above needs which should be considered for their placement in a class for 2022, please put this information into a letter to myself or Mrs Baird.

This is not an invitation for you to nominate your child's teacher. It is, however, an opportunity to highlight any special needs that will help the teachers form class groups for 2022.

When the children return to school this term, teachers will also provide them with an opportunity to nominate 2 or 3 friends that they would like to be with in 2022. The school will endeavour to have at least one of their friends progress with them if this is in your child's best interest.

Later in the year, the children will have the opportunity to meet their 2022 teacher together with their new classmates.

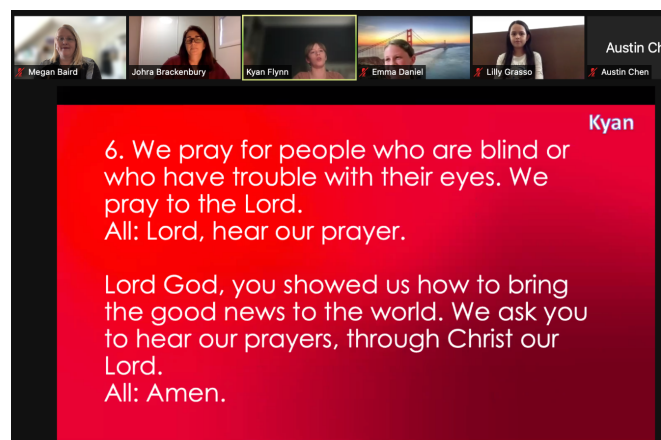
Planning for Kindergarten 2022 Transition

We have been busily working behind the scenes creating resources and making preparations, whether it be via Zoom or on-site, to transition our Kindergarten students for 2022. Obviously due to current restrictions things will have to be a little different and we are awaiting decisions from CEDP to be able to share our plans with you. Hopefully we will be able to pass this information onto you in the very near future. Thank you for your understanding and patience

Regards

**Jane Misek
Assistant Principal**

From the Religious Education Coordinator



Mission Week

The students at St Paul had the opportunity over the past 2 weeks to learn about people who are less fortunate than themselves and the people who help them (Missionaries). To celebrate Mission Week the Mini Vinnie Team of 2021 led the school last Thursday in our Mission Zoom Liturgy. Thank you to all the students who took on an active part in the liturgy and thank you to the community who joined us for supporting the Mini Vinnie team.

Vinnies Shops Christmas Appeal 2021

The Mini Vinnie team during the year were due to raise money and collect goods for the St Vincent de Paul Society. As we have been unable to facilitate these fund raising events the Mini Vinnie team are asking you to donate, if you can, to the Vinnie Shop Christmas Appeal. The local Vinnies Shop is the well-loved face of Vinnies.

Vinnies Shops are run by dedicated volunteers and employees and offer a range of quality clothing, furniture, books, toys and other household items at affordable prices. Each shop is a treasure trove for bargain hunting fashionistas and for people who enjoy reusing and recycling.

Profits from the sale of goods stay in the local community, going directly towards funding our services and programs to assist people experiencing disadvantage and homelessness. Vinnies Shops also directly assist people experiencing disadvantage through the donation of furniture, clothing, and household goods.

Donating to Vinnies Shops

Good quality, clean, pre-loved goods or unused items are welcome donations at Vinnies Shops.

Remember: if you would give your items to a mate, then it is worthy enough to donate.

Clothing, accessories, books, toys, bric-a-brac, household items, sporting goods and bedding are all suitable.

When to donate

Please donate when the shop is open or leave inside the collection bins located in our Parish Carpark.

Johra Brackenbury

Religious Education Coordinator



From the Leaders of Learning

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you! What a mammoth achievement you have made in supporting your children during remote learning. The majority of you didn't sign up to be teachers, yet you took on the role with courage and conviction. I understand the juggling act you have made - the guilt, the pressure and the frustration of remote learning, coupled with the joy of witnessing your child uncover new interests, stress-free mornings and no lunch boxes! The work you helped your child submit on Google Classroom was outstanding. It brought us much joy in witnessing the patience and determination from our children. You are such stars and we sincerely thank you for your messages of support and encouragement.

The changing proposed return to school has no doubt brought about a range of emotions for yourselves and your children. From elation and relief, to anxiety and confusion, this sure has been a time of mixed emotions and uncertainty. What is certain though, will be our approach to your child's return to school. The importance of creating positive, predictable and safe learning environments will be pivotal in helping our children resettle into school life again. All staff will be committed to creating learning environments which promote connection to children's known environments and peers to help ease anxiety and refamiliarise students with learning expectations and routines.

This approach is supported by our Positive Behaviour in Schools for Learning (PBS4L) teams across CEDP based on research from other countries (*PBIS, Returning to School After Crisis, 2021*) when returning students to school earlier in 2021. We wish to reassure you, that while the academics of school life are important, school life is based on much more than this. The socialisation and emotional regulation of your children lead to happy children. And happy children create happy learners.

Therefore, in the initial weeks of your child's return to school, expect to hear about play, games, group work and team building as we work to reteach important social nuances. We will welcome a reduction in screen time and create opportunities for dialogue between children, and between staff, to focus on communication and social skills. At times, lessons may also be held outdoors, providing students with quick breaks and opportunities to rebuild their learning 'stamina'. There will be repeated attempts to refamiliarise students with the literacy and numeracy blocks, as well as much revision of concepts presented during remote learning.



We are really looking forward to meeting the children again and supporting their transition back to school. We will literally be 'rolling out the red carpet' to welcome back our 'rockstar learners'. It is our goal to make their transition as positive as possible. Once children have returned to school and have settled into the routines of school life, we look forward to sharing our more traditional learning reflections from Key Learning Areas.

Mrs Liz Sargent on behalf the Leaders of Learning, Mrs Michelle Brett, Mrs Johra Brackenbury, Mrs Julie Hooper

Snapshots of Learning from Stage 3

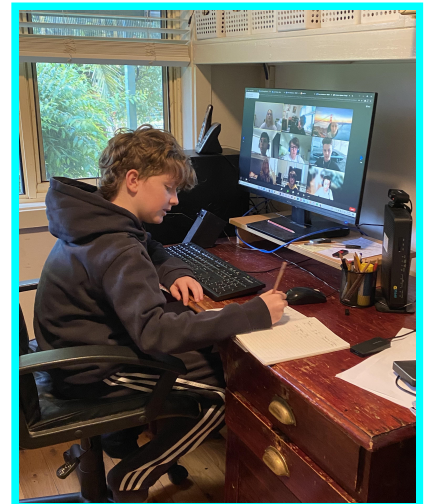
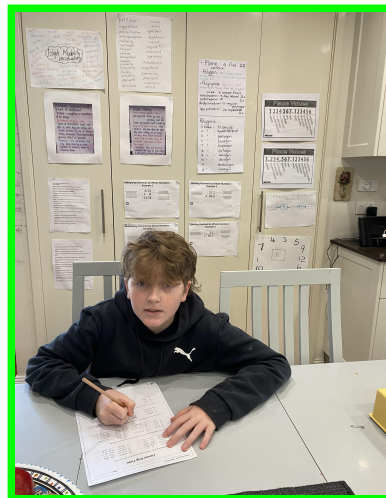
From Year 6

Year 6 students were given the task of describing the view from a window in the room of their house during lockdown. We were very impressed with the high standard of descriptive texts including sophisticated language. Here is an example of one student's writing.

View from my Window, by Eloise V

The sky is flooded with calming shades of enchanting blue. The sun is a glowing orb blemishing into my room filling it to the rim with soft and majestic light. Clouds are little ornaments smeared into abstract shapes that compliment the gentle and smooth sky. The tranquil wind waltzes with the cherry blossom petals as they hold each other's hands tightly, travelling across the serene neighbourhood. Birds soar through the sky singing mellifluous tunes. I see cars drive by on the small narrow road. Mellow and pleasant feelings are captured outside my window blurring out all bitterness. Gradually the world turns bright and blissful again and I can see everything so clearly. I wouldn't have ever expected that just a simple view could change your whole perspective of life.

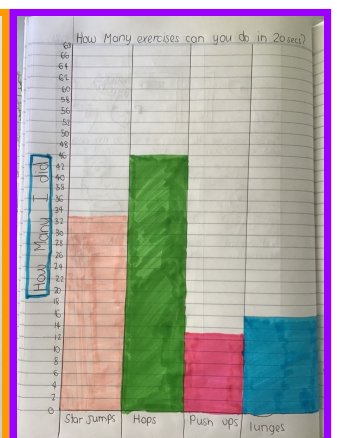
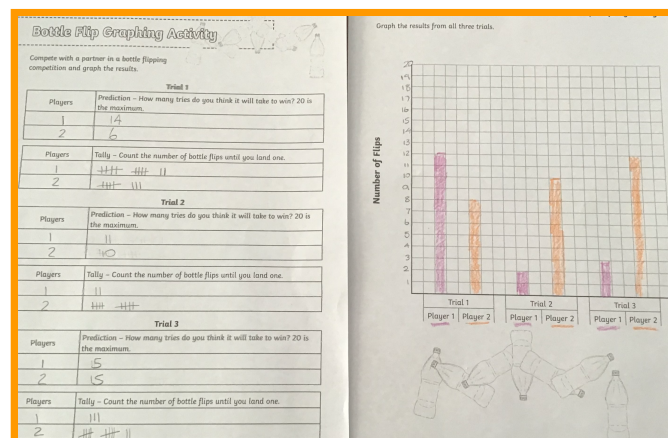
Our **Year 6** cohort excelled in their learning at home activities. They have continued to live the school values of commitment and faith by dedicating themselves to their studies, and creating quiet learning spaces within their homes. Thank you Year Six for your dedicated and thoughtful responses to learning.



From Year 5

Year Five has been learning all about data during home learning. They have been collecting their own data and creating graphs to represent this information. Year Five enjoyed completing an engaging challenge where they had to record how many times they could flip and land a bottle of water. Some students even competed against family members! Here you can see Emma completing a bottle flip, and Sarah has represented her data in a column graph below. Savannah has gathered and represented data of fitness exercises performed in 20 seconds. She has explored the two-to-one incline on the y axis.

Our next steps are to analyse and compare data that has been collected and represented.



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.

Administration Gate

Families who use COSHC are asked to ensure that the gate is completely closed upon entering and exiting in the morning and afternoon. This is to ensure that children who are attending COSHC remain safe. Thank you for your cooperation.

COVID-19 Attendance

Students and staff must not attend work or school if unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Any person with any COVID-19 symptoms **will be sent home and may not return to school unless:**

- They have isolated for 10 days, when no medical certificate is available
- They have a negative COVID-19 test result and are symptom free.



In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.

General School Information

Term 4 Parent School Fee Statements

School Fee Statements will be issued starting 13 October 2021. Fees are due to be finalised by 18 November. The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) continues to work hard to support families in our communities who are struggling financially as a result of COVID-19.

Reversal of the Activity Fee and the Year 6 overnight excursion has now been credited back to families. If you have already paid your account in full then the credit will be carried forward to your 2022 fees. If you have any queries regarding your account, payment arrangement or outstanding fees please contact our School Finance Officer, Mrs Berna Robson on 8841 3800 or email: brobson1@parra.catholic.edu.au

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. This will assist with placing students in classes for 2022. Please contact the school office for further information on 8841 3800.

Complaints Handling - Complaints and Grievances

St Paul the Apostle Primary School has written protocols in place to address complaints and grievances. These protocols are in line with the CEDP Complaint Handling Policy. A copy of this policy is available on the Catholic Education Office website. www.parra.catholic.edu.au/policy-central

From time to time incidents occur involving one or more children. The school deals with these matters internally following our policies and procedures. If necessary, parents are contacted. At St Paul the Apostle Primary School we are proactive in this area and aim to always address all matters and follow up appropriately. If any parent has a complaint or a concern about any issues impacting on their child, they need to make contact with the class teacher in the first instance. We also have Leaders of Learning who are available to assist in resolving the complaint. If the matter is not resolved the Assistant Principal/Principal should be contacted. **At no time should an adult approach or reprimand a student at this school (excluding their own child) for any reason or under any circumstances.** At all times, when dealing with student conflicts, the school will adhere to the policy of procedural fairness. When a situation of conflict arises, the situation will be dealt with promptly and with fairness and impartiality. This means that the school will provide a safe and respectful environment where all members of the community feel confident and comfortable to speak.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - School Uniform 2022 - Oz Fashions

Due to current restrictions, we are unable to offer uniform fittings for students starting school in 2022 or existing St Paul's students. Oz Fashions will continue to take orders for uniforms using the Qkr App by Mastercard.

Please place your uniform order as soon as possible to ensure you will be able to exchange uniform sizing if necessary and to guarantee students receive a uniform to start school in 2022. (If you need to exchange, please email requests to elle@ozfashions.com.au (Returned merchandise must be in its original condition with tags still attached and accompanied by proof of purchase - this will ensure a smooth exchange process)

Please note: all orders for 2022 new students need to be placed before Wednesday 24 November, 2021. Delivery to the school office will be on Thursday 25 November.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Elle on the above email or call her on 0421 216 414.

2021 School Dates

Term dates for 2021 for students

Term 4 - Tuesday 5 October to Wednesday 15 December

Staff Development Days

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. The opportunity for all staff to be involved in whole school planning and quality professional learning helps to enhance outcomes for our students.

Our remaining Staff Development Days for 2021 are listed below. There will be no supervision at school on these days.

Staff Development Days 2021 - No children at School	
Term 4	Thursday 16 & Friday 17 December

Happy Birthday

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

Amity W, Lara F, Scarlett T, Savannah G, Evelyn H, Timothy V, Harry McC, Zandar S, Ayden C, Nathan V, Ronan F, Phoebe D, Millie J, Oscar A, Scarlett V, Klara Z, Imogen G, Grace K, Ashleigh D, Jacob K, Lucia B, Emily C, Victoria M, George A, Isaac D, Marcus T, Joshua D, Jacob B, Blake P, Aaron C, Joseph S, Fletcher M, Amelia I, Emily W, Maddison S, Khyah P, Elouise D, Jessica M, Keira D'S, Oliver S, Olivia B, Zara D'S, Eve K, Frederick S, Dominic V, Jasmine D, Monique McC.



Awards

	St Paul Award	Student of the Week
KG	Sienna K	Nicholas S
KM	Aurora B	Mason S
1A	Victoria M	Harriet A & Meredith W
1M	Oliver S & Estelle J	Claudia A
2D	Micah N	Amelie S
2L	Scarlet D	Reuben S
3L	Vinnie J	Lara F
3P	Samantha U	Luke L
4H	Selena A	Felicity C
4PH	Emma R	Ainsley R
5H	Christian B	Jasmine P
5L	Savanah N	James M
6R	Banjo D	Chloe R
6SL	Tom C	Blake K & Alyssa E