



# St Paul's Post

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

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Term 1, Week 4

19 February, 2021

## ***From the Principal***

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent and we would usually have Ashes placed on our forehead in the sign of the Cross during Mass. Due to COVID19 restrictions, this was not possible this year and we were only able to sprinkle the Ashes on the head of the staff and students during grade liturgies. Our liturgies were beautifully prepared by Mrs Johra Brackenbury, our Religious Education Coordinator and a team of staff to assist her. Mrs Misek and I attended the Year 3 liturgy with Mrs Brackenbury and the Year 3 teachers and children.

Lent is God's invitation to create more space in our hearts and minds for Him. He calls us to become better people, to think about the sorrow we have caused others, to ask for his forgiveness and to make positive changes in our lives. During Lent we try to become more prayerful, to make our lives simpler and to share what we have with those who are in need so I encourage you to take the time during Lent to discuss with your children how they are going to participate in this Lenten season by Praying, Fasting and Almsgiving.

***Merciful God, as your loving children, we are eager to do what is right. Send your Holy Spirit to live with us and to full us with your light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen***

As we all begin to settle into the new school year, I'd like to say a very special thank you to all of our parents for supporting the guidelines and protocols we have implemented due to COVID19. I understand that some of these restrictions are difficult at times. Please know that we are working on developing ways to work within the restrictions whilst still providing opportunities for our families to be connected to their child's learning and school life. If you have any suggestions for ways the teachers or school can improve our processes, please do not hesitate to share them with us.

Please remember that at the beginning of the year we have many new families to the school who will take time to adapt to our school routine. We thank you for your assistance and patience in helping our new parents as they find their way with our normal school routine and for welcoming them to the St Paul's community.

**Peace and Joy**  
**Mrs Megan Baird**  
**Principal**

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

### ***Early Years Assessment (EYA)***

At this time of the year our children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 will begin their Early Years Assessment. The National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy stated that "the assessment of all children by their teachers at school entry and regularly during the early years of schooling is of critical importance in the teaching of reading and in particular to identify children who are at risk of not making adequate progress." This assessment at the beginning, middle and end of year provides the teachers with information on the child's instructional reading level, together with information regarding the strategies the children are using to read. This data assists your child's teacher with planning the next steps for his/her learning. To administer this test, the teachers are given time out of the classroom. Teachers will administer the EYA this term during week 6 and 7. This follows on from the Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI) which is also administered at the beginning of the year from Kindergarten to Year 6. The collection of this data ensures that every student receives quality instruction at their level.

### ***Online Meet and Greet***

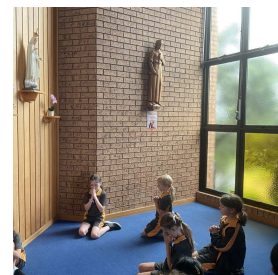
In the coming weeks all parents will be invited to make an appointment to attend a Zoom meeting with their child's teacher. Based on current COVID restrictions and guidelines our school has made the decision to facilitate Parent Meet and Greet meetings this term via Zoom. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to meet your child's teacher and share important information about your child. This will not be a parent/teacher interview but rather an opportunity for you to let us know about your child as a learner and about your hopes for them in 2021. Prior to this meeting, a note will come home for you to fill in and return to your child's teacher. This will ask you to highlight your thoughts about your child's areas of strength and areas for growth, as well as provide an opportunity for you to inform your child's teacher about any other important information relevant to their learning. All appointments will be 10 minutes in length and will be made via an online booking system. Details will be sent home next week and Zoom links will be shared prior to the meeting. We encourage all of our families to take advantage of this important opportunity to work collaboratively in the best interests of our children.



**Regards**  
**Jane Misek**  
**Assistant Principal**

## **RE Learning**

Stage 2 and Stage 3 are implementing the new Draft Religious Education Curriculum. Throughout the learning cycle the students are involved in experiential opportunities. These experiential opportunities are formed when the grade participates in a concrete experience. These experiences can be big or small but it is the sharing of the experience that allows all students to then input into the reflection. These reflections link into the learning cycle to continue and deepen the student's understanding.



Stage 2's learning cycle is "How do we live on prayer?"

Some examples of these experiential opportunities so far include:

- Learning about verbal and non verbal communication through learning some sign language, emoji code breaker, Mr Bean video, and back to back picture drawing.
- Learning about prayer by visiting the Church to pray and then praying on the playground.

## **Ash Wednesday**

As a school community we gathered in our grade spaces to participate in an Ash Wednesday Prayer Liturgy and receive the ashes. The students were reverent and respectful of the beginning of the Season of Lent.



**Mrs Johra Brackenbury**  
Religious Education Coordinator

## **Literacy Learning**

### **A New Program Introduced at St Paul's - R3 Reframing Readers Resourcefully**

St Paul's staff work towards enhancing the learning for all our children. We want children to become successful learners, confident creative individuals and active informed citizens. Many of our children have diverse learning needs ranging from those that are visible to those that are not so visible yet have an impact on an individual's learning.

In 2021, Mrs Margaret Govender, will be implementing the Reframing Readers Resourcefully intervention program known as R3. R3 is a 20-week intervention program designed to help Stage 3 (Year 5 and Year 6) students access the meaning within texts required for learning across the curriculum and for pleasure.

The purpose of R3 is to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to read strategically, and successfully comprehend age-appropriate quality texts.



Everyday for 45 minutes the children in the R3 group will:

- work in a small group of 4 students
- use both fiction and non-fiction texts
- participate in shared reading
- participate in guided reading and reciprocal teaching
- complete after reading tasks
- read independently
- complete a home task which consists of 15 minutes of independent reading.

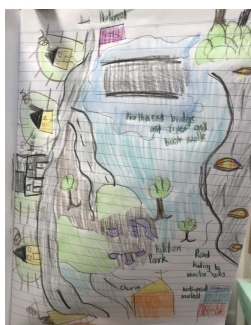
We thank Mrs Baird for supporting this new program and Mrs Govender for working towards tailoring instruction to meet the learning needs of our children in Stage 3.

**Mrs Michelle Brett**  
Leader of Learning

## **Inquiry Learning**

Inquiry learning is underway across the school. Here are some examples of the learning happening this week.

**Year Four** are inquiring into History this term. They have been investigating the local community and have created graphic representations of significant places in the local area. Here are some examples of their work.





**Year Two** are inquiring into Geography this term. They have explored places in our school and identified areas that are natural, managed and constructed. Here are some photos of their fieldwork.



**Mrs Julie Hooper**  
**Leader of Learning**

## **Numeracy Learning**

### **Numeracy Update**

Over the last fortnight, Mrs Fiona Lambert and I have had the pleasure of attending professional learning in the area of numeracy. We have both attended several Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) courses in either the Early Years or the Middle Years. This professional learning highlighted some key aspects associated with the teaching and learning of mathematics in some of our youngest children. Some of the key take-aways include the following:

- all children can learn successfully given time and opportunities to engage in high quality mathematics programs that are designed to meet their particular learning needs (Gervasoni & Lindenskov, 2011)
- there remains a critical importance of mathematics and numeracy in today's world
- as educators, it is our role to nurture a love of learning, especially in mathematics, and develop a culture of learning that celebrates challenge, inquiry, and reasoning.

You may find some of my wonderings useful when reflecting on how you, as your child's first educator, currently support your children navigate their learning in mathematics:

- how did your own early numeracy attitudes influence your confidence and willingness to engage in very early numerical tasks and problems?
- have your personal attitudes towards mathematics influenced your children? If so, how?
- are you confident in your approach towards numeracy, and embrace complex challenges?
- are you fixed in your mindset and believe one is simply born 'bad at maths'?
- do your children witness your day-to-day mathematical literacy? eg counting of money, reading of time, counting objects etc
- do you allow your children the ability to challenge themselves numerically, or intervene and rescue them, or do it quickly for them due to a lack of time?
- are mistakes celebrated as opportunities of learning and growth?
- how can we foster a growth mindset, a love of learning, and a willingness to accept challenges and celebrate new learning in mathematics?



These are not easy questions to unpack! But, over the course of the coming weeks, I hope to offer suggestions on how you can best support your child in their learning of mathematics. In the next school newsletter, I will begin by highlighting the first domain your child was assessed on during their Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAIs) - counting.

Until then, I encourage you to have healthy conversations with your children around mathematics. Save the negative talk ('I'm bad at maths, so you probably will be too', or 'Ask your mother/father- they were the good one at maths') and ask your child what are they currently learning about in mathematics, what feedback did they get today, and where can they go for support if they need help?

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

## **Year 6**

On Wednesday 17 February, Year 6 celebrated Ash Wednesday. We had a liturgy in our classroom, where Year 6 displayed reverence and an understanding of the importance of celebrating Ash Wednesday as the first day of fasting, repentance, prayer and self-control that will be required during Lent.



## PBS4L

As a school we recognise that positive reinforcement is the most powerful behaviour change. By encouraging and reinforcing students for following the expected behaviours we foster a positive school climate. This year we have introduced Roar Cards to each learning space.



### **Roar Cards**

When students demonstrate a safe, respectful or learner behaviour, they may receive a lion stamp on their **Roar Card** to acknowledge this positive behaviour.

Infants: Once a child receives 10 lion stamps they receive a recognition through an agreed activity.

Primary: Once a child receives 20 lion stamps they receive a recognition through an agreed activity.

<b>Red</b> <b>86</b>	<b>Blue</b> <b>99</b>
<b>Yellow</b> <b>90</b>	<b>Green</b> <b>119</b>

### **At St Paul's we are Safe, Respectful Learners!**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

## **General Information**

### **Teachers as Professionals**

As with all professions, teachers have to maintain their accreditation through their attendance at professional learning. Sometimes these take place during the day, in which case a relief teacher will be employed. We have a bank of relief (casual) teachers and always endeavour to employ the same person for a class in order to maintain consistency for the children. Sometimes this is not possible and we thank you in advance for your understanding. Staff also have their entitlements such as long service leave, sick leave, family leave, maternity leave and bereavement leave. On any occasion when a teacher is absent the casual teacher employed follows the class teacher's program and has the support and guidance of the other teachers on the grade as well as the Stage Leader.

### **Teachers out of class**

Currently we have two EMU (Extending Mathematical Understanding) specialist teachers working in the school. Mrs Fiona Lambert (Middle Years) and Mrs Elizabeth Sargent (Early Years). These specialist teachers work with a group of students who require some extra support to help them reach the benchmark for their grade. These lessons occur every day for 45 minutes a day. During this time a designated teacher replaces Mrs Lambert in Year 3. As Mrs Sargent is released from class this year as an Instructional Coach and Stage Coordinator, a replacement teacher is not required.

### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Kathryn Ireland has made the decision to resign her position at St Paul's and will not be returning to teach Year 1 as planned. Kathryn has worked in various roles in her years at St Paul's and has brought professionalism and dedication to each of them. We wish Kathryn all the best in her future endeavours. We are in the process of advertising and interviewing for a replacement teacher for Year 1I and will let parents know the outcome as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Wellbeing and Anti Bullying policy**

St Paul's aim is to provide a safe, pleasant environment for all children, staff and parents which fosters a sense of belonging, positive self-esteem and a love of learning. Our updated Wellbeing and Anti Bullying policy is available in the office and will be available on our website in the next few weeks.

### **School Attendance**

It is important for your child's wellbeing and academic progress that they attend school regularly and complete each school day. Children need to attend school every day from 8.55am until 3.15pm, unless illness prevents their attendance.

Please ensure that appointments are made outside of school hours in order to ensure that your child can maximise their learning potential. Learning takes place from 8.55am until the final bell at 3.15pm and being late or taking your child early from school, particularly on a regular basis, may hinder their personal and academic progress. This is often reflected in school reports.

Parents taking their children out of school on a regular basis will be contacted by the class teacher, Assistant Principal or Principal. Should you need to take your child out of school early on an unavoidable occasion, a note should be sent in to the class teacher in advance. This will minimise the interruption to learning time for all students. Please avoid disruption to learning by arriving unexpectedly to pick up children without prior notice.

## Attendance

Did you know			
Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day just a little bit late doesn't seem much but			
He/she just missing,	That equals ..	Which is ...	and over 13 years of schooling that's ...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years

every learner  
every day



### School Absence

If your child is sick you can send a Skoolbag app notification, email or call the school office.

If you inform us with a Skoolbag notification or via email, you do not need to send in another note. Please note that if you call the office you will still need to send a signed note listing the days absent and reason.



### Taking leave for family holidays during the school term

Government regulations require you to seek leave approval from the school for holidays of **5 days or more prior to your journey**. Contact the school office for an Application for Extended Leave (L) - Travel Leave—From A.1. This form is also available on our website under School Notes. Travel leave 1-4 days—please send in a written note to the school prior to your leave.

### Taking leave for the entertainment industry or an elite sporting event

Government regulations require you to seek an exemption from the school for all leave in the entertainment industry or elite sporting events. Contact the school office for an Application for Exemption from Attendance at School (M) - Form 1.2 prior to attending these events.

## Work Health and Safety Reminders

### Arrival of children in the morning

At the start of the year, it's always important to remind our community that staff are on duty for supervision of children **from 8.25am** and that parents are responsible for their children until teachers go on duty at 8:25am. Students enrolled in, and attending, before and after school care in the separate facility, which shares part of the school premises, have separate arrival and supervision arrangements with that facility. Students not enrolled in before and after school care are considered to be in the care of parents or carers before 8:25am. Students arriving prior to 8:25am do so at your risk and will not be supervised. The school commences supervision and care for students and permits student arrival on school premises from 8:25am each school day. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

### No Smart Watches at school

Students accessing the internet for their learning sign a ICT agreement at the start of every year. It has also been our custom and practice at school to have any students with mobile phones drop them at the office in the morning and collect them in the afternoon. IF you need to contact your child urgently, please call the office. Please be advised that students are not to wear smartwatches to school. The reason for this is that these watches can be distracting from our core focus on learning, especially if students are receiving and sending messages during school time. These watches also have the capacity to photograph and record, which is not appropriate in a school setting. Other watches such as analog, digital and step measuring watches are acceptable. We thank you for your understanding and support in helping us keep our community safe.



### **Parish Carpark**

It is a privilege for St Paul's Primary School to use the Parish car park. For this practice to continue we need to treat our parish community with respect and only park in the allocated spaces. At St Paul's we have a number of children who require assistance and support and their families have a "disabled" sticker/sign for their car. **Please do not park in these designated spaces unless you have such a sign.**

The safety of children and adults is critical when collecting children from school. Please observe all parking signs and road rules when collecting children to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school and community. As families begin to use the new ramp to Buckley's Road, please hold your children's hand and use the pedestrian crossing to cross the road.

### **Kiss 'n' Drop**

This week your child will have received a Safety Door Sticker provided by NSW Government as part of their road safety campaign. You are encouraged to attach the sticker inside the window of the rear passenger door closest to the kerb to remind children to use the Safety Door when getting in and out of the car. Parents are reminded that you are not to exit your car if using Kiss 'n' Drop. If your child requires assistance, please park your car and walk them to the gate.

### **Pedestrians in Church Carpark**

If you and your children are pedestrians entering the car park in the morning or exiting the car park in the afternoon, please keep your children by your side and hold their hand. Please be conscious of cars that may be reversing out of car parking spaces. Remember that it can be harder to see a smaller person than an adult. We thank you for your assistance and courtesy in ensuring the safety of everyone during access to the school.

### **Sport Uniform Days**

Sport days for each grade are listed below. Children may wear their sport uniform on their allocated day. All students are required to wear their sport uniform on Mondays for Dance Fever.

<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>Monday and Wednesday</b>
<b>Year 1A</b>	<b>Monday and Tuesday</b>
<b>Year 1I</b>	<b>Monday and Wednesday</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Monday and Wednesday</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Monday and Thursday</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Monday and Tuesday</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Monday and Thursday</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Monday and Tuesday</b>



### **2021 School Dates**

#### **Term dates for 2021 for students**

The school year consists of four terms that run over two semesters.

Term 1 - Students 1-6 commence Friday 29 January and Kindergarten commence Monday 1 February.

Term 1 - Ends on Thursday 1 April

Term 2 - Monday 19 April to Friday 25 June

Term 3 - Monday 12 July to Thursday 16 September

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

<b>Staff Development Days 2021 - No children at School</b>	
<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Wednesday 27 January Thursday 28 January</b>
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Friday 11 June</b>
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Friday 17 September</b>
<b>Term 4</b>	<b>Thursday 16 December Friday 17 December</b>

## Social Distancing COVID-19

**Our staff continue to be vigilant with monitoring and acting regarding children who appear to be unwell. Please keep your child at home if you think they are sick, runny nose, cough, headache etc If a child presents as unwell at school, they will be isolated from other children and staff in the sick bay or an area of the office. Parents will be contacted to collect their child immediately. We understand that this may be difficult but it is in the best interests of the school community as a whole.**

- Additional cleaning is taking place on a daily basis.
- Our staff are reminding students how and when to wash their hands.
- There are soap dispensers in the toilets, and these are topped up regularly.
- Signs have been placed in classrooms and toilets to remind the children and to demonstrate to them appropriate hand washing procedures.
- Each class has been provided with hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and additional paper towels.
- All learning spaces have designated "used tissues only" bins with lids which are emptied daily.
- The school has discouraged handshakes, hugs and kisses.
- Please limit the number of people in the foyer to five - if there are 5 or more, please wait outside.
- Our amended line up afternoon dismissal procedures are in place and we ask that parents do not enter the space under the COLA, please wait on the outer area for your child.



## Happy Birthday

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

*Clarissa S, Archie H, Indy F, Olive M, Sam H, Kelly D, Siarra B, Lucia M, Amelia M, Blake B, Sophie H*



## Student Awards - Congratulations!

	St Paul Award	Student of the Week
KG	Django J	Sienna K
KM	Olivia M	Lucas B
1A	Ariana F	Pacey D
1I	Eric F	Olivia S
2D	Klara Z	Ella W
2L	Monique M	Isaac H
3L	Felix K	Adele V
3P	Jacinta V	Zaya H
4H	Imogen G	Ayden C
4PH	Christina A	Tyler L
5H	Audrey	Christian
5L	Andrew	Jade
6R	Joshua C	Jack O
6SL	Myles C	Marcus P