



St Paul's Post

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

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Term 2, Week 8

10 June, 2021

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Friday, we were blessed with fine weather so that we could plant out our revegetation area on the back playground. Over 200 native plants were planted and every child and staff member took part. This work was possible thanks to the Communities Environment Program Grant and we acknowledge the generous contribution of the NSW Government for supporting us. Although applying for a grant can be rigorous and time-consuming, the benefits to our community are well worth the extra effort. Special thanks to Mrs Berna Robson for supporting me with this project and to our new Groundsperson, Mr Bonnar for digging the 200+ holes for the plants. Also in this area are coloured raised garden beds, one for each grade/stage to take care of and manage. Over the next few weeks, we are planning to plant out our "bush tucker" garden too. When you're at school next, I invite you to take a look at the changes to this area and ask your children to show which plant they planted.

Staff Development Day - Word Study

Our next Staff Development Day is **tomorrow**, Friday June 11. The staff will be engaged in rigorous professional learning regarding the study of words (phonics). Word study, and the importance of explicit word study instruction, is important for the development of reading, writing and spelling. The staff will be examining the skills needed to teach children about words and how to integrate word study into their literacy block and beyond. Thank you for making alternative arrangements for the supervision of your children tomorrow.



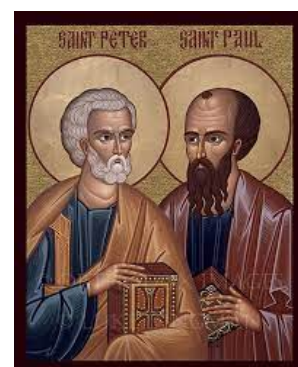
Term 3 plans - looking ahead

Assemblies

As COVID19 restrictions continue to ease we are looking at ways in which we can continue to welcome parents back to school in a COVID safe way. From Term 3, we are planning to re-introduce assemblies on a Friday afternoon. Unfortunately, we are still unable to accommodate all of our families at the one time, however, we will publish a roster of grades "hosting" assemblies and invite the parents of the children "hosting" assemblies to join us for these.

Our Feast Day celebrations

Plans are well underway for celebrating our Feast Day on Friday June 25. Our school staff Feast Day Committee have been planning some very exciting and interesting activities for the children to celebrate this important day. We have also been working with our Parents and Friends Association to develop ways for our community to celebrate together as a community in a COVID safe way. Further details will be sent home via Skoolbag.



As restrictions continue to change, please be assured that we will continue to respond to them in alignment with NSW Health and CEDP guidelines and recommendations.

Peace and Joy

Mrs Megan Baird
Principal

Staff Development Day - Friday 11 June, NO CHILDREN AT SCHOOL TOMORROW

From the Assistant Principal

This week all parents should have received a booking information letter for our student-led three way conferences to be held in week 10 (Monday 21 June - Thursday 24 June). If you have not yet made an appointment, we encourage you to visit the booking website and organise a time to meet with your child and their teacher. At St Paul's we value working together in partnership with all the members of our school community. Opportunities such as these conferences are just one way that we can work together to improve

outcomes for our students. For many of us these meetings are the first opportunity we have had in the last 12 months to meet face to face and we look forward to meeting with all of our parents and children.

Tell Them From Me Survey (TTFM) - Parent Voice

The parent TTFM survey is still open and I encourage you to complete the survey. The survey is voluntary, however, it would be greatly appreciated if as many parents as possible participate in this survey. Parents are asked some questions which are rated on a scale and there is an optional open-ended response available for parents to provide feedback. Whilst the responses are anonymous, please note that the open text question in the surveys is read by principals only. Any detailed information in the open text could potentially identify the respondent, so generic comments are recommended. I thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this once-a-year survey.

Regards
Jane Misek
Assistant Principal

RE Learning

First Holy Communion Parish Sacramental Program

Many of our Year 4 students are joining with the parish children to start their preparation for their First Holy Communion.

O Jesus, You have loved us with such exceedingly great love as to give us the ineffable gift of the Holy Eucharist, inflame us with a burning zeal to promote Your glory by praying for our children making their First Holy Communion, to enable them to prepare with their family to approach Your holy table for the first time. Protect, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, strengthen their faith and increase their love for you and all the Church. May they be inspired to continue to follow Your mission. Amen

Student Forum

I had the privilege to facilitate with Mrs Baird the student forum last week. The students were excited to tell us about the new playground and slide. They were able to share ideas of how to make the playground even better. They spoke of Mini Vinnie morning prayer in the garden and Gregory's Green and how it was nice to join together to pray before school.

Draft Religious Curriculum update

The new religious curriculum will be known as "Living Life to the Full", a scriptural reference to Jesus' words in John 10:10: "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full." As Bishop Vincent says here, this reflects "the richness of our Catholic Tradition that enables fullness of life through the Gospel". Faithful to Sacred Scripture and Tradition, Catholic Teaching and Values, Living Life to the Full is designed to be age appropriate for children and young people.

It is now available on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website together with a guide to help community members learn more.

Johra Brackenbury
Religious Education Coordinator

Inquiry Learning

Last week, Stage 3 students participated in an excursion to Old Government House as part of their historical inquiry. Years 5 and 6 have been investigating the question: What do we know about the lives of people in Australia's colonial past and how do we know? During this inquiry, students have been making comparisons between colonial life in Australia and our lives today.

The excursion to Old Government House allowed our students to explore colonial life and gain a deeper understanding of life at this time. While at the venue, students participated in a guided tour of the house with knowledgeable guides sharing the history of the house and identifying significant people involved in the development and expansion of the colony. Students investigated the role of various members of the household including the Governor, the butler, the cook and the housekeeper. The excursion was very insightful and provided lots of learning opportunities for students. Here are some pictures from our excursion.



Julie Hooper
Leader of Learning



Literacy Learning - Every Child, Every Day

You may have noticed in your child's previous academic reports, that the English comments consist of teacher reflections in three areas including Speaking and Listening, Reading and Viewing and Writing and Representing. In previous newsletters I have discussed the importance of oral language. In fact, you may recall a recent newsletter explaining the involvement of our youngest students, Kindergarten, in an upcoming 'Oracy Project' run by the University of Wollongong. Such is the importance of oral language, that most schools and early-childhood centres ensure play based learning is at the core of teaching and learning opportunities for young children.

But what happens as children mature? The skills of speaking and viewing require explicit teaching and learning. We are forever fine-tuning our skills as learners of Speaking and Listening. As children mature, they require opportunities to practice speaking skills in informal and formal situations. Active listening skills become even more important as children are required to listen for key information and interpret texts. Sometimes these texts are quite complex and require children to also make connections using their background knowledge. A child's ability to work collaboratively in group work situations requires them to follow social conventions of turn-taking, listening to others, clarifying and questioning and analysing key points they have heard.

This term, our Year Six students have continued to develop their Speaking and Listening skills through their participation in the Hills Cluster Debating Competition. Each fortnight, two teams are formed (affirmative and negative) to prepare a debate against a local catholic school. Previous debates have been focused on the topics:

- Australian should close all its zoos
- Technology has improved education.

While not every student can be a speaker in either team, they can be contributors. So each fortnight, students across Year Six discuss the topic in small groups and work collaboratively in class to provide their peers with suggested arguments for and against this topic. The debating team then utilises the suggestions of their peers to form the basis of their future arguments. The culmination of this process is obviously the debate itself which presents the debating team with the challenge of listening actively to the opposition to form opinions and rebuttals - all of which are complex Speaking and Listening skills.



But the development of these skills are not limited to the debating team itself - the audience of Year Five and Year Six students develop their active listening skills too and analyse comments and arguments immediately after the debate. This reflection time allows all participants of the audience to clarify statements with their peers and interpret the opinions and arguments made by both teams.

The development of Speaking and Listening skills are crucial to our functioning as members of our society. They are life-long skills requiring explicit teaching and learning opportunities.

Michelle Brett
Diversity Leader

Numeracy Learning

This week we were fortunate enough to have Mrs Geraldine Caleta join us at St. Paul's. Mrs Caleta is our CEDP Teacher Educator in Numeracy and worked alongside our staff in Year 5, Year 1 and Year 4. This time was invaluable as staff were then given the opportunity to debrief and work collaboratively to make refinements to teacher planning and practice.

In Year Five, students were learning how to enlarge and reduce two-dimensional shapes and use reasoning skills to explain the accuracy of statements.





Year One braved the chill and explored quantity and measurement in the form of capacity. Using informal measurements, such as mini-cups and spoons, Year One students were estimating, comparing and recording how many spoons or mini cups of water were needed to fill the larger cups.

In our Year Four learning space, students were working to explore fractions as part of a whole. Using concrete materials, students worked to represent, model and compare commonly used fractions.



Next week, Mrs Caleta will join us again to work with other grades in their learning spaces.

Next term, we look forward to working with Mrs Caleta when staff will continue their collaborative inquiries in Mathematics.

Liz Sargent
Leader of Learning

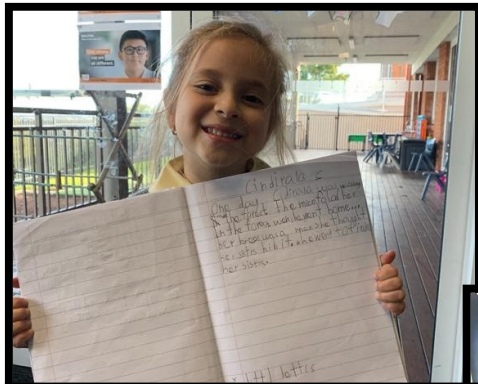
*Inquiry
fun in
Year 2!*



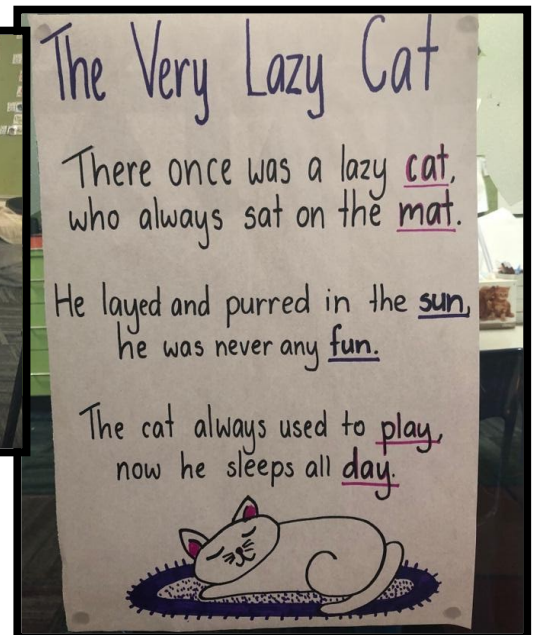
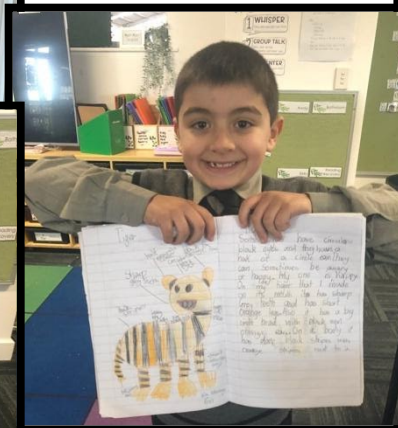
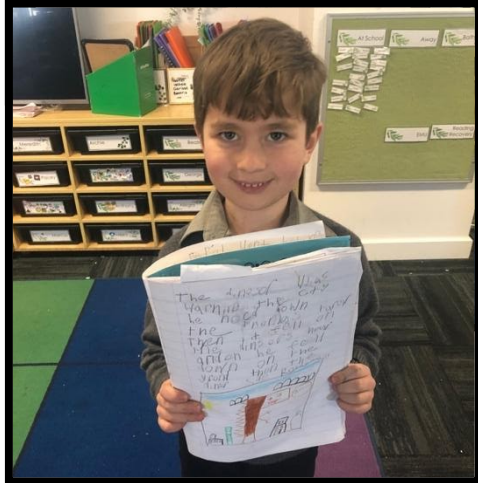
In Year 2 we have been inquiring into observable changes that occur in the sky and on the land. This has included daily weather changes. Students worked collaboratively to design and create an instrument to measure the weather. Their collaboration extended to presenting their weather collecting instrument, explaining its purpose and features as well as reflecting on the design and make process.



Writing in Year One



In Year One we have been learning how to improve our writing. We have enjoyed writing about a range of topics and are using feedback from our peers to enhance our work.



General School Information

From the School Counsellor

Karen Young is a psychologist turned author who has shared some really helpful insights into the experience of anxiety in children. She describes anxiety as a means to recruit support. When children tell us they are worried about school, friends or being away from home, we are the chosen recruit to address their concerns.

Sometimes when faced with this situation, we all fall into the trap of saying "there's nothing to worry about". It's an easy phrase to rely on, especially when there is somewhere else we need to be or something else we need to be doing. Unfortunately, when we tell children there is nothing to worry about, their worry does not go away. Instead, their worry can grow bigger because they have learned that the adult they trust does not understand their concern.

When children are anxious, they need to know we believe their concerns are real. Phrases that can show this acknowledgement include "I can see that you're really worried about leaving me" "I know that you're worried about the dark". Show your children that you understand what they are worried about and that you get it.

Our goal for children shouldn't be to get rid of anxiety. Anxiety can be a sign of a good working and clever brain that values safety. Instead, our goal should be to make the anxiety our children experience small enough for them to manage. We can do this by telling them we know that they are worried and that we're going to ride the wave of anxiety together.

Emilie Cangy - School Counsellor

eSafety

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) sees parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. In partnership with the eSafety Commissioner, CEDP would like to invite you to join the following free webinar for parents and carers:

eSafety's guide to parental controls - Thursday 24 June 2021, 12:30 -1:30 pm

This live webinar explores the latest research and is a great way to learn how you can help your child develop the skills to be safer online. The session is delivered by the eSafety Commission's expert educators. This webinar will look at how parents and carers can set up devices and apps to help kids and young people stay safe online. It is designed for parents and carers of children aged 4-13.

If you are interested please register for the 24 June 2021 course via the link. [Please register here.](#)

If you have any further enquiries please email safeguarding@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Uniform Delivery

The last delivery for St Paul's Winston Hills uniforms is on Thursday 24 June (24/06/21) Term 2. Please place your orders on the QKR app. All orders need to be in by 4.00pm Wednesday for Thursday's delivery. We will resume delivery to the school on Thursday 15 July (15/06/21) Term 3.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday.

Regards

Elle - Oz Fashions

elle@ozfashions.com.au

School Fees

Term 2 School Fees are now due for payment. Many thanks to our families who have already made their payment. For those who have not, it would be appreciated if you could settle your account now. If you are experiencing any financial difficulty, please don't hesitate to contact Berna Robson at the school office to discuss alternative arrangements or to make an appointment to speak with Mrs Baird.

Compass Reporting

Semester One reports will be sent home to parents on Tuesday 15 June and our Three Way Conferences (Teacher, Parent and Student) are scheduled for the week June 21 to June 25. Our dedicated teachers welcome conversations about your child's learning and wellbeing. If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please make an appointment via the school office.

In previous years our Student Progress Reports have been created on a platform known as FACES. In light of system changes at CEDP and the closure of the FACES platform, schools throughout the Diocese of Parramatta are moving to Compass Reporting. Compass is the current school system for our enrolments and attendance data. This semester's Student Progress Reports will be created via Compass. Therefore, the appearance of the report will look different to its previous format.

Early collection of children from school

If there is a need to collect your child early from school, please send a note to the classroom teacher in the morning or email winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au. Parents are not permitted to go directly to classrooms or other areas to collect their children. Recess is from 10:55am - 11:25am and Lunch is from 1:25pm - 2:15pm. If you are collecting your children around Recess and Lunch, we suggest you arrive at the school prior to or after the Recess and Lunch times. Please allow plenty of time as it will take a few minutes to contact your child, have them pack their bag and walk to the school office to meet you.

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 or click [here](#) for the leave form. This form is also available on our website.

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.

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.

Building Child Safe Communities - Volunteer Undertaking

All Volunteers will need to submit a new Undertaking in the new system.

Volunteering at school

Just a reminder, that if you would like to volunteer at school it is an **essential requirement** that you complete the Building Child Safe Communities module via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) website www.parra.catholic.edu.au. You will not be able to volunteer without your Building Child Safe Communities Number so please complete this as soon as possible. Please note that this must be completed at least 48 hours prior to you volunteering. The purpose of this training is to inform you of the standards of behaviour and other requirements that must be adhered to when volunteering for CEDP. The undertaking should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and the training module approximately 10 minutes. Once the form and training modules are submitted, an automated email will be sent to you within two business days to confirm the status of your submission. The undertaking form will expire within two years or when your Working With Children Check expires (if applicable), whichever is sooner. At that time you will need to complete the undertaking form and training module again. You will receive an automatic reminder email when this occurs. Further information on the new online form and training module can be found at www.parra.catholic.edu.au and clicking on **About Us/Building Child Safe Communities**. Within the form you will also find help sheets and a video tutorial to assist you. Thank you in advance for your support.



2021 School Dates

Term dates for 2021 for students

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.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE 2021
Congratulations to the following children who completed the Reading Challenge this week.
Georgie B, Annabelle H, Sophie H (Kindy), Lucas H (Year 1), Sienna H (Year 2), Mackenzie N, Sarah W (Year 3), Siarra B, Tyler L (Year 4), Andria G, Amelia M (Year 6).
Don't forget the Reading Challenge will finish at the end of August.

Staff Development Days 2021 - No children at School	
Term 3	Friday 17 September
Term 4	Thursday 16 & Friday 17 December

COVID19

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. You are asked to take your child for a COVID19 test and your child should remain at home until a negative COVID test is received and sent through to the school office. We understand that this may be difficult but it is in the best interests of the school community as a whole.



Happy Birthday

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

Hugo F, Eric F, Ashton T, Emme A-L, Freddy B, Aniella T, Grace S, Leon M, George H, Zara F, Olivia M, Michael R, Jack M, Mikaela K, Gabriel S, Scarlett S, Matthew C, Estelle J, Kyan F, Amelia W, Gabriel E-R, Aadvik M, Emily K



Awards

	St Paul Award	Student of the Week
KG	Edison M	Sophie H
KM	Grace S	Antonio D
1A	Marcus C	Clarissa S
1M	Michael S	Lulu O
2D	Cynthia K	Lucia B
2L	Bridgette B	Chase D
3L	Jade B	Callum H
3P	Mikaela K	Evelyn G
4H	Abigail D	Selena A
4PH	John Paul L	Amity W
5H	Jacob	Kyan
5L	Aiden L	Liam
6R	Tyson W	Samuel M
6LS	Lucas N	Jerome H

PBS4L

The Positive Learning Behaviour Support for Learning framework is a research based and proactive school wide system that establishes clear behaviour expectations. The process involves explicitly teaching and reteaching students how to enact positive behaviours. Our aim is to produce positive outcomes for both students and teachers by creating positive learning environments. This week students have received 'Paws' for using manners, a friendly voice and kind words on the playground. This links back to our school expectations of being safe, respectful learners.

Mrs Michelle Brett and Mrs Liz Sargent
Leaders of Learning



Athletics Carnival will now take place on Monday 21 June, weather permitting.



St. Paul The Apostle School

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 stpaulswinstonhills

7 June 2021

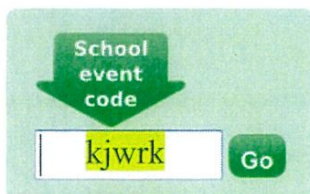
Dear Parents,

During Week 10, (21 June – 24 June), we will be holding 15 minute Parent / Student / Teacher interviews. These meetings will be held face-to-face unless COVID restrictions change. This is a valuable opportunity for you to speak with your child and his/her teacher about learning and work together to discuss their progress. We encourage all families to take up this opportunity.

The process for booking a 15 minute interview with your child's teacher is outlined below. Parents choose their child's teacher and the time that they want, removing any chance of timetable conflicts. Parents will receive an emailed confirmation of their interviews, and can confirm, cancel or re-schedule on the internet.

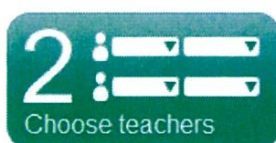
Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

BOOKINGS WILL OPEN 9:00AM TUESDAY, 8 JUNE AND CLOSE FRIDAY, 18 JUNE 4:00PM



Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au
<http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code>

Enter **kjwrk** school event code.
Then follow the 3 simple steps.



When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately. You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time and change your interviews - until bookings close.

Parents who do not have access to the internet are welcome to contact the school office and we will assist you with your booking or we will make alternative arrangements for the teacher to contact you.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school directly on: 8841 3800

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Misek
Assistant Principal