



# St Paul's Post

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

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Term 1, Week 8

19 March, 2021

## From the Assistant Principal

It seems hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of Term 1 and are approaching Holy Week and school holidays. This time also comes with a sense of relief that finally we are able to start to return to normal and that some of the activities that are an important part of our identity as a Catholic School will be able to go ahead this year. We look forward to welcoming parents to our Holy Week Liturgies in Week 10 and celebrating the season of Easter together. It will also be special to be able to be together with our own families and extended families this year over the Easter break - something that we were unable to do last Easter and at Christmas.

A special thank you goes out to all of our teachers and parents who took part in our Zoom Meet and Greet Meetings over the last week. Although we had some technology hiccups, these were mostly quickly sorted and parents were able to join meetings at a convenient time and location. Although restrictions have eased for schools and for students, all adults in schools must still socially distance. Having our meetings via zoom helped to ensure we were able to maintain these protocols. Thank you to the many families who have shared their positive feedback about these meetings.

Next week on Tuesday 23 March all are invited to join our P&F General Meeting. This will be held at 6.15pm. Parents are welcome to join us on site in the library or via zoom. A zoom link will be available and shared via skoolbag prior to the day.

## NAPLAN - Practice Test

NSW schools participating in NAPLAN Online will participate in practice tests between 22 March and 1 April, 2021. The practice test is a trial-run and key preparation activity for NAPLAN Online in May. It is not an assessment of student ability. Participation in the practice tests is highly beneficial as it allows schools and students to become familiar with the online assessment platform and tools and processes. At St Paul's students will complete their practice tests on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 March.

## Sunday 21 March is Harmony Day - The theme for Harmony Day this year is -

### **Everyone Belongs**

Harmony Day across Australia is traditionally a day to celebrate Australian Multiculturalism and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it. The message **Everyone Belongs** is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all.

This is a particularly important message for us to share with our children. Living and working in harmony together is important for families, classrooms, playgrounds and our wider school community. It is important that we work together to teach our children to respect and understand each other and our differences. This message of respect and belonging can be lived by each of us, every day, not just on Harmony Day. It is important that as teachers and parents we work together to build a sense of belonging for all of our students by helping them to develop the skills to work with others, to play cooperatively, to help others, to have a sense of empathy and to work as part of a team.



*O' God You create all people in your image. We thank you for the astonishing variety of people and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; Through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Please continue to keep Mrs Baird and her family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Mrs Baird's father Colin. Megan is very grateful for the messages of comfort and support that she has received from those within our St Paul's community. A very special thank you for the floral tribute sent to Megan by our P&F on behalf of the St Paul's Community, a beautiful thought, which was very much appreciated.

Regards  
Jane Misek  
Assistant Principal

## Today is National Day of Action Against Bullying

Teaching and learning about bullying has an important role in creating a positive school climate. Today all children took part in activities to raise awareness about actions we can take together to prevent bullying in our school. Please support this initiative by also talking with your children at home about this important issue. St Paul's Community says loud and clear "Bullying - No Way!"

## School Photos - Tuesday 30 March

School photographs have been scheduled to be taken by Advancedlife on Tuesday 30 March. A photo envelope was distributed to students and it is the preference of the company and the school that ordering be completed online. This is aimed at reducing administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day. Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at <http://www.advancedlife.com.au> using our school's unique **9 digit advanced order code - R1E 42W Q8C**. Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day. Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photo day. Sibling photos will only be taken if an order has been placed. Should you have any queries concerning school photos or online ordering, please direct them via email to [enquiries@advancedlife.com.au](mailto:enquiries@advancedlife.com.au). Please remember that your child is to wear **FULL SUMMER UNIFORM on Tuesday 30 March**. If it is your child's timetabled sport day, we ask that you pack their sport shoes so that they can change after they have had their photo taken. **For those children who are sick or absent on photo day, there will be a catch up day on Thursday 1 April.**

## School Fees

School Fees are now due for payment. Thank you to those families who have already paid. If you need assistance with setting up a payment plan, please contact Berna Robson in the office by phoning 8841 3800 or emailing her at [brobson1@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:brobson1@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## Kindergarten Enrolment Applications 2022

Just a reminder that Applications for Kindergarten enrolment 2022 close on Wednesday 31 March. We encourage you to get your forms in as soon as possible. If you have friends or family interested in applying please remind them to collect forms from the office.

## RE Learning

### Harmony Day celebrations Monday 22 March 2021

Year 6 will be leading Monday Morning Prayer to celebrate Harmony Day. The Morning prayer will be on the playground under the COLA at 8:55am. We would like to invite parents and members of the community to join us. We request that all visitors to our school follow the COVID social distancing guidelines for adults to ensure the safety of all. All adults attending must check in using the school COVID QRCode and maintain the 1.5m rule for social distancing.

### Harmony Games Day by the Mini Vinnies

Part of the Mini Vinnie's team is to raise awareness. On Monday they have worked to organise 'Harmony Games Day' to raise awareness of inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

### *Everyone Belongs*

The Mini Vinnies have researched four different games finding the origins of each and learning the rules. Each class will have some time on Monday to play one or more of these games. The Mini Vinnie team are excited to build on this shared experience to raise awareness of other cultures and their positive contributions to our Australia.

## Holy Week Prayer Celebrations

During this season of Lent we are called to almsgiving, fasting and praying. We would like to invite the community of St Paul the Apostle to join us in prayer to remember Holy Week. Each grade will be presenting the reading and a song to represent the different events of Holy Week.

Friday	26 March	8:55am	Palm Sunday	Kindergarten and Year 1
Tuesday	30 March	8:55am	The Last Supper	Year 4
Wednesday	31 March	8:55am	Praying in the garden	Year 3
Thursday	1 April	2:40pm	The crucifixion The Tomb	Year 5 Year 2
Monday	19 April	8:55am	The resurrection	Year 6

We would love for you to join us. We request that all visitors to our school follow the COVID social distancing guidelines for adults to ensure the safety of all. All adults attending must check in using the school COVID QRCode and maintain the 1.5m rule for social distancing.

## Being an Altar Server...

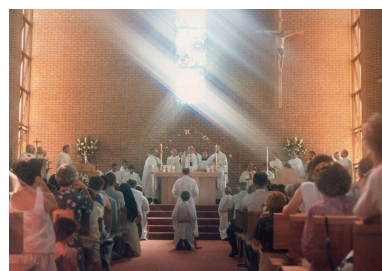
Being an Altar server is all about serving God. We take this service to the next level as we serve Him on the "altar." It is a privilege to serve God. As an altar server we get special clothes (albs) and special jobs to do at the Celebration of Mass: Some of these include:

- Getting to handle wine and water
- Clean the priest's hands, which is a big honour
- Carrying the candles and lighting them before the mass starts.

Training and serving as an Altar server gives you an opportunity to serve at a school Mass or normal weekend Masses

If you have made your First Holy Communion you can be trained to be an Altar server. If you would like to become an altar server you can go to the church or the church office and register for the training. Hopefully with COVID restrictions easing this training may happen in 2021.

By Jack 6R, Joseph 6R and Johanna 6SL.



**Mrs Johra Brackenbury**  
Religious Education Coordinator

## Numeracy Learning

The Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) groups are well underway at St. Paul's. This year, Mrs Baird has allocated resources to ensure that EMU groups are available at both the Early Years (Year One) and Middle Years (Year 4). Mrs Sargent and Mrs Lambert have the privilege of leading these groups in 2021. EMU groups are held daily and provide targeted intervention for students based on the February MAI data and additional EMU assessments. The programs run for 10-20 weeks, and provide opportunities for exploring and describing quantity, and rich investigations that highlight mathematical thinking and problem solving. Finally, students engage in a focused reflection activity and complete home activities every day.

During these lessons, there is a focus on developing Mathematical language and using a 'Growth Mindset' to think positively about challenge. As you can see in the pictures attached, children in the Year 1 EMU group have identified ways their learning can 'Hatch!' when they apply a growth mindset.

Children are thoroughly settled into their groups, and eagerly reenter the classroom, ready to share their new understandings with the class. Watch this space!



**Liz Sargent**  
Leader of Learning

## Literacy/Library News - Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge officially opened on Monday, 1 March 2020 and will run until Friday, 20 August.

Participation in the challenge is optional but we would love as many

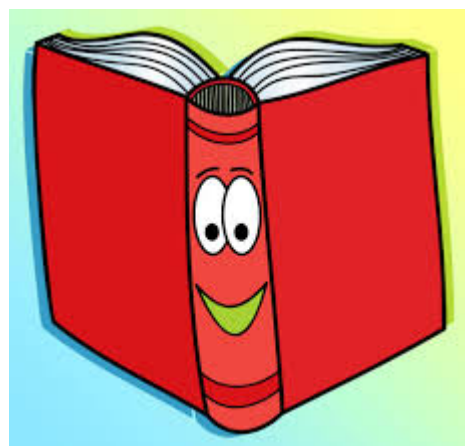
students as possible to enter the challenge this year, it is such a great way of encouraging your children to read for enjoyment. To experience a book a child can listen to the book, participate in a shared reading of the book or read part or the entire book independently. All student Reading Records are submitted online by parents using their child/rens individual User ID and Password. If your child participated last year they use the same login and password as last year. Every class teacher has a copy of all User ID's and Passwords in their classrooms in case you cannot remember them. New students to the school this year should have received a separate note with your User ID and Password. All students entering and successfully completing the Premiers Reading Challenge will receive an official PRC Certificate.



NSW Department of Education  
**2021 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge**  
Start reading now!

Key dates for students in K-10:  
Challenge opens Monday March 1  
Challenge closes for student entries Friday August 20  
Artwork by Dr Bronwyn Bancroft

[www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au](http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au)



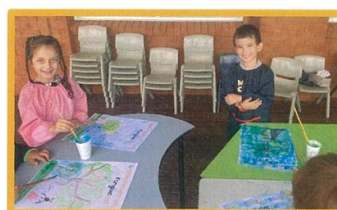


To successfully complete the Challenge the student must have an online reading record entered and validated by Friday 20 August. Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the Challenge, see table below.

Challenge	Number of books you must read	Minimum number of PRC books	Maximum number of Personal Choice books	PRC booklists you can read from
K-2	30	25	5	K-2, 3-4, 5-6
3-4	20	15	5	3-4, 5-6, 7-9
5-6	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9
7-9	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9, 9plus
3-9 (refer to rule 7b)	20	15	5	All booklists

For further information about the Premier's Reading Challenge and to access the booklist please go to <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> If you have any questions regarding the Premier's Reading challenge please see or email Mrs Taylor or Mrs Nobili [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)

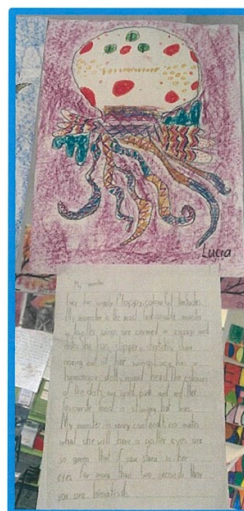
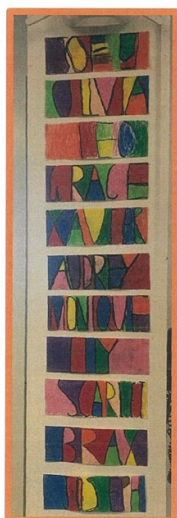
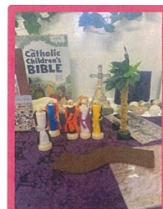
Year 1 and Year 2 get creative with their learning!



In Year 1 we have been learning about the Zacchaeus story. We have learnt how Jesus encouraged others to grow and change through his words and actions. Year 1 enjoyed creating an artwork based on the Zacchaeus story.



In Year 2 we have been busy exploring a variety of media to create artworks.



We have been proud to share our masterpieces with each other.

We hope that you, our audience, enjoy viewing our mini gallery too!

## General School Information

### Photographs taken at school

From time to time photographs may be taken of your child whilst they are at school. These photos may be used in school Newsletters, publications and the school website. They may also be used by Catholic Education, Parramatta Diocese in their publications and website. If you do not wish your child's photo to be taken, please put this in writing and address it to the Principal, Mrs Baird.

### Seat Belt Reminders

We have noticed that many children are undoing their seat belts prior to the car coming to a complete stop at Kiss and Drop in the morning. Safety is always our highest priority and we ask that you please remind children to remain buckled in until you have stopped the car in the drop off zone. We also ask that you continue to be considerate of the safety of others by only parking in the marked bays in the parish car park.

### 2021 School Dates

#### Term dates for 2021 for students

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.**

Staff Development Days 2021 - No children at School	
Term 2	Friday 11 June
Term 3	Friday 17 September
Term 4	Thursday 16 & Friday 17 December

## 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.....

Callum H, Savannah N, Johanna D, Sienna K, Jerome H, Julian F, Oliver N, Michael S



### REMINDER

#### **No Smart Watches at school**

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.



	St Paul Award	Student of the Week
KG	William C	Olivia W
KM	Georgie B	Evie G
1A	Charlie M	Beatrix C
1I	Maeve J	Oscar A
2D	Jacinta G	Ashton A
2L	Audrey G	Sarah M
3L	Timothy V	Sophia S
3P	Ethan M	Samantha U
4H	Imogen G	Scott B
4PH	Austin C	Rachael B
5H	George	Lilly
5L	Elizabeth	Emma
6R	Lara L	Liam H
6SL	Michael R	Luke B