



# St Paul's Post

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

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Term 2, Week 6

28 May, 2021

## ***From the Principal***

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday this week, I had the privilege of attending the National Mass for the Bicentenary of Catholic Education in Australia. The celebrations began with an acknowledgement & welcome to country and a smoking ceremony just outside the Cathedral. The Mass, led by Principal Celebrant Bishop Vincent Long provided an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for the gift of Catholic Education over the past 200 years. Mrs Brackenbury and I attended with our School Captain Marcus and Mrs Prideaux as representatives of our school community. Every school in the Diocese was also presented with a special plaque to mark this significant milestone.



To celebrate this milestone with the children, we also gathered in the COLA after lunch to "numberbust" 200, read in pairs with our buddies and write 200 prayers. Over the next few weeks we will also plant 200 native plants as well as vegetables and herbs in our new playground space.

## ***Honouring Student Voice***

Next week, I will meet with representatives from each grade for our Student Forum. The purpose of these meetings is for me to gain feedback on what the children like about school, what they'd like to see more of on the playground or in learning spaces and any other feedback they may have. The children will represent their class peers to give us some very practical suggestions.

## ***Tell Them From Me Survey - Parent Voice***

Every year, every school in the Parramatta Diocese invites students, staff, and parents to provide feedback to each school about their school community. The Tell Them From Me (TTFM) 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. The TTFM survey is open from Monday 31st May to Friday 25th June. Students in Years 4, 5, and 6 are also invited to participate in a student survey during school time during the survey period. Staff also participate in the survey and provide feedback on different aspects of our school. There will be further reminders and links for parents through Skoolbag throughout the survey period. I thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this once-a-year survey.



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

**Staff Development Day - Friday 11 June, 2021**  
**Pupil Free Day**

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

This week, the Parent Representative Council invited Mrs Anoushka Housman, Clinical Psychologist School Wellbeing counsellor - Santa Sophia Catholic College to talk with parents about effective ways to deal with their child's and their own anxiety, what can they do and how to encourage positive behaviour practices? Her talk was titled: **Emerging from COVID-19: Implications for Wellbeing - HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE ANXIETY**

In her talk, Anoushka gave many suggestions for ways parents can help their child deal with anxiety. Some of these included focusing on the positives in a situation, modelling confidence in our own ability to cope with situations, reducing exposure to social media and practising the ability to talk calmly in response to children's anxiety. It is often hard not to add our own emotions to a situation when our children are worried or upset. It was also suggested that as parents it is important that we can model to our children how we

handle stress and show them that it is important to have some healthy coping strategies such as exercise, sleep and engaging in hobbies and activities you enjoy. Anoushka also talked about the benefits of encouraging positive self talk for our children. Positive self talk is simply coaching yourself through your own anxiety. Often during the height of anxiety, a child is likely to have “flipped their lid” so too much talk can be hard to process. The brain is all about survival at this point not rational thinking and reasoning. Children need to be able to calm themselves sometimes before they are able to listen to anyone else.

Of course, at all times, if your child is experiencing anxiety at home or at school please let us know so that we can support them and work with you to ensure that they are equipped with strategies to support their anxiety.

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

## **RE Learning**

### **Dance for sick kids**

Thank you to the Mini Vinnie team for organising this different fundraising event. Together we raised \$770.70 for sick children and their families at Ronald McDonald House Charities.



### **Reconciliation Week**

This week is an opportunity for all Australians to acknowledge and reflect on the actions of the past that significantly impacted the lives of so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families, communities and their culture. National Reconciliation Week, celebrates and builds on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.



### **Together as a community let us pray:**

*Lord, As we gather today to say sorry for the pain and suffering caused to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, we ask for your love and support as we accept the realities of our nation's past and walk forward together as equals to build a better future for all Australians. AMEN*

### **200 Prayers to celebrate 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia.**

Here are some samples of prayers the students wrote. They are on display in the undercroft in the shape of a cross.



*Dear God,  
 I am grateful for my parents who care for me,  
 my teachers and my beautiful school where I  
 learn and read about God.  
 Amen*

*Dear God,  
 Thank you for our family and each other.  
 Thank you for the trees and the world.  
 Amen*

**Johra Brackenbury**  
**Religious Education Coordinator**

## **Inquiry Learning**

Kindergarten students have been engaged in a Science inquiry where they are investigating the question: What is it made of and how does it move? During this inquiry, they have been observing how various objects move and the materials they are made from. Students have explored pull and push forces and the effect they have on moving objects. This inquiry has been integrated with Creative Arts so students can develop an awareness of how their bodies use forces to create movement.

To support the learning taking place in Kindergarten, students will participate in a Billy Carts incursion this week. As part of this incursion children will design, build and race Billy Carts with their peers. They will use tools to build their carts and investigate how different materials are used for a range of purposes. Our Kindergarten students are looking forward to participating in this incursion!

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



## Literacy Learning - Every Child, Every Day

Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. Even after children learn to read by themselves, it's still important for you to read aloud together.

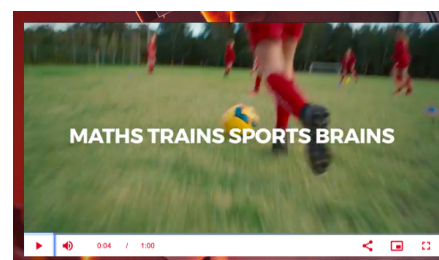
Whether you're reading a classic novel or fairy tales before bed, reading aloud to children can significantly benefit your child's life. Some benefits reading to children include:

- Supported cognitive development
- Improved language skills
- Preparation for academic success
- Developing a special bond with your child
- Increased concentration and discipline
- Improved imagination and creativity
- Cultivating lifelong love of reading



## Numeracy Learning

The NSW Department of Education and Training have recently released a campaign entitled 'Maths Trains Brains'. This campaign aims to highlight the use of Mathematics in our everyday life, from sport and cooking to design and technology. Maths is all around us! You may like to share this with your children as inspiration. Click [here](#) to access the website.



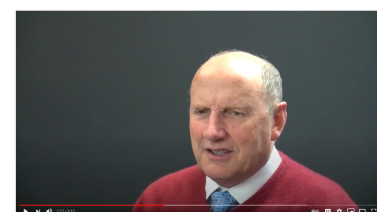
During the past week, Mrs Fiona Lambert and I have attended professional learning with other teachers and numeracy leaders from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. The aim was to further support the EMU (Extending Mathematical Understanding) Program and enhance the support already provided for children in the classroom. One of the main 'take-aways' from this professional learning included the importance of developing students' ability to 'work mathematically'. That is, "...developing students' understanding and fluency in mathematics through inquiry, exploring and connecting mathematical concepts, choosing and applying problem-solving skills and mathematical techniques, communication and reasoning." *NSW Mathematics K-6 Syllabus*. In fact, this is the first aim outlined in the NSW Mathematics Syllabus: "The aim of Mathematics in K-10 is for students to... be confident creative uses and communicators of mathematics, able to investigate, represent and interpret situations in their personal and work lives and as active citizens." *NSW Mathematics K-6 Syllabus*.

Working Mathematically is at the crux of all Mathematics teaching and learning opportunities. It encompasses five interrelated components including, communicating, problem solving, reasoning, understanding and fluency. One of the ways we try to explicitly teach children to 'work mathematically' here at St. Paul's is through the use of rich, open-ended tasks. Emeritus Professor Peter Sullivan, a co-contributor to the Australian Mathematics Curriculum speaks openly about the value of these tasks. You may like to listen to his description [here](#).



Rich tasks are intentionally challenging, for it is in the challenge that new learning occurs. At St Paul's, this challenge, or zone of confusion, is sometimes referred to as being in 'the Learning Pit'. Our role as teachers, though, is to avoid rushing to save children when they feel uncomfortable with new learning and seek to question, enable and clarify students' understanding throughout the lesson. Peter Sullivan gives the analogy of Easter egg hunts [here](#).

Daily, focused student-led reflections are critical in building children's capacity to work mathematically. It is often during these reflections that students build their capacity to communicate the mathematics involved in a task and challenge any misconceptions they hold. In this way, students have the opportunity to play the role of tutor to their peers.



In the meantime, I will leave you with a challenging open-ended Mathematics task to see what skills you rely on to solve and possibly communicate your solutions with your family.

*Please note, this task would generally be aimed at a Stage 3 level. This is taken from Peter Sullivan's book, Challenging Mathematical Tasks. I would love to hear/see some of the solutions you have reached as a family. Please feel free to send this through to [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au).*



### **RICH MATHEMATICS TASK FOR THE FAMILY**

You won a prize in a competition.

Your prize can be either:

A one metre long line of \$2 coins OR

5000cm<sup>2</sup> of 20c pieces.

Which would you prefer? (Explain your reasoning).

For those who wish to postpone this task to another time, here is another link the Department of Education and Training have prepared to support parents in their understanding of the Mathematical concepts their children will be covering in each stage of their schooling. This website also contains some fun games you may like to play with your child/ren.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/mathematics/everyday-maths>

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

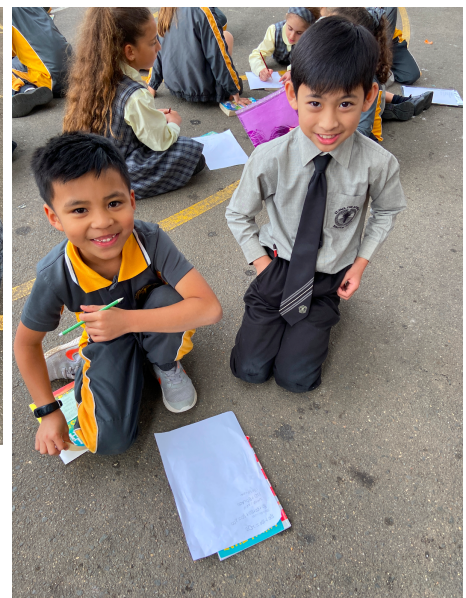
## **Stage Two - Celebrating 200 Years of Catholic Education**



Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) celebrated 200 years of Catholic Education along with the rest of the St Paul the Apostle school community on Monday afternoon. Year 4 buddied up with Year 2 and Year 3 buddied up with each other under the COLA and read stories together, wrote a joint prayer and even made up maths questions relating to the number 200. In addition, Lucy C, Nellie H and Amity W informed everyone that Gardening Club was commencing. To kickstart their garden, Mrs Baird announced that she had purchased 200 plants for the back playground ready to be planted. A wonderful initiative by the girls. In all, the students had a wonderful time engaging with their peers and celebrating 200 years of Catholic Education.



**Praying, reading, thinking and  
the answer equals 200!**





## **Library News**

There is still plenty of time to start the Premier's Reading challenge. Please visit the Reading Challenge website <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>. Usernames and passwords are available from class teachers or by emailing the school [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au). It is great to see so many students busily reading and recording books for their Reading Challenge, which finishes at the end of August. Congratulations to Nicholas C (Year 4) and Owen W (Year 6) who completed the challenge this week.



## **Scholastic Book Club**

Scholastic Book Club order forms for Term 2 have been sent home today. This issue will be due back to school on Monday 31 May. On-line ordering via LOOP will also close at midnight on Monday 31 May. A reminder that we will no longer be accepting cash as payment for these orders. When using the online ordering system there is no need for you to return the order form to school. Please note that there is definitely **NO OBLIGATION** to buy any books.

## **General School Information**

**Term 2 School Fees are now due for payment. For those families not on a payment plan, your 2nd instalment was due on Wednesday 26 May.** 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 15th June and our Three Way Conferences (Teacher, Parent and Student) are scheduled for the week June 21 to June 25. Further details about how to book your conference will be sent home with your child's report.

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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.



### ***No Dogs on School Grounds***

Just a reminder that dogs are not allowed on school grounds at any time without specific approval, in writing, from the principal. Guide dogs and assistance dogs are given favourable consideration. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in keeping our children safe at all times.



### ***Car Park***

It has come to our attention, once again, that people are double parking at pick up in the afternoons. This is extremely unsafe for both our parents and students, we ask that you wait patiently until a parking space becomes available. Thank you for your cooperation and for assisting us in keeping our children safe.

### ***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.**

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



## 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.....*

*James McC, Anna-Bella S, Noah S, Nicholas C, Loretta B, Christian D, Isabella L, Mackenzie N, Sienna C, Archie F, Sofia DR, Hugo F, Eric F, Ashton T, Emme A, Freddy B, Aniella T, Grace S, Leon M.*

	St Paul Award	Student of the Week
KG	Jacob B	Piper H
KM	Jack M	Romao S
1A	Alessia B	Bradley R
1I	Aadvik M	Mikaela K
2D	Taliya W	Joel S
2L	Grace F	Patrick M
3L	Jessica M	Chloe M
3P	Kayla F	Luke L
4H	Evanna T	Leon S
4PH	Annabelle G	Gabriella S
5H	Dylan B	Isaac D
5L	Grace K	Aiden M
6R	Annabelle C	Zara D'S
6LS	Johanna O	Amelia M

