



St Paul's Post

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

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Term 1, Week 2

5 February, 2021

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2021 school year. I hope that you enjoyed a peaceful Christmas and that you are settling back into the routines that the school year offers.

The staff have worked hard during the break to ensure that your child's learning space and learning experiences are exciting and meaningful.

We warmly welcome the many new children in grades Kindergarten to Year 6. We thank you as parents for your trust as we work in partnership to provide a place of faith and learning that strives to nurture your child academically, spiritually and socially.

There was great excitement on Monday morning as the youngest members of our community, our Kindergarten students, commenced their first week at "Big School". It is a true privilege to witness the children arrive at school with their family so enthusiastic and ready for the learning adventure that lies ahead. Over their first few days of school they have had many new and wonderful experiences both inside their classrooms and in the playground, including Japanese, DanceFever and Creative Arts lessons.

Learning at St Paul's

As a christ-centred community, at St Paul's we will continue to strive to acknowledge the presence of God in our lives and foster the values of respect, justice, and self-worth. We will encourage and support each individual's faith journey through prayer, liturgical and sacramental support and support each individual to reach their potential – spiritually, physically, emotionally and academically.

Our overarching goal for 2021 is to continue to develop assessment capable learners who know what they are learning about, why they are learning, what their next steps of learning growth are and where they can go for assistance. Together, in partnership with parents, we will continue to strive to promote a team centred leadership style that respects and challenges the strengths of all, to provide a creative learning environment that develops confident, independent, life-long learners and continue to develop a climate of acceptance which acknowledges that each individual is special.

As parents and partners in your child's education I encourage you to work alongside the talented, dedicated and professional staff here at St Paul's as they provide and facilitate opportunities for your child to grow to their full potential. Your support is appreciated and is an integral part of the success of St Paul's. You should be extremely proud of your school, and its welcoming atmosphere. The way that our Year 6 Kindergarten buddies took care of our new students is very special and compassionate. I look forward to working with you, as the first educators of your children to make 2021 a most rewarding year for everyone.

Peace and Joy
Mrs Megan Baird
Principal

Welcome Back to another great year of learning at St Paul's

From the Assistant Principal

As our 2021 school year begins it is important to reflect on all the hard work and achievements of 2020. We certainly did not anticipate all the changes that came our way in 2020 and as such the staff have given 2021 the theme of "Steady and Stable". I hope all of our families had a restful break and were able to spend time with family and friends. We look forward to having a more settled school year this year and continuing to work in new and innovative ways that the past 12 months have taught us.

One of the greatest aspects of 2020 was everything that we were able to achieve for our students working in partnership with our parent community. It is our hope that we are able to continue these partnerships with our parents as school starts to return to "normal" in 2021.



" No school can work well for students if parents and teachers do not act in partnership on behalf of the children's best interests" Dorothy H Cohen

An important part of this partnership relies on communication between parents and teachers. Your child's teacher is always the best person to talk to if you have concerns about their learning or personal/social development. If you need to discuss any matters pertaining to your child/ren with the teacher please feel free to contact the office or to send an email to the school email address winstonthills@parra.catholic.edu.au to arrange a suitable time. Teachers are not able to have discussions on the playground before or after school, whilst they are on duty, but will return a phone call or email as soon as practically possible.

Each stage is also supported by a coordinator (please see below). The coordinators along with Mrs Baird and myself support learning across the school and will often be invited by the teachers to attend meetings with parents to support student learning. If you have concerns that are confidential in nature please contact your stage coordinator, Mrs Baird or myself.

Regards
Jane Misek
Assistant Principal

Supporting and Extending your Child's Learning

Over the next few weeks, the teachers will assess your child so as to get to know their strengths and areas of need. They will also read each child's file and reports so as to get a better perception of their past performance and successes. It is important to have a good understanding of each child's needs before launching into the programming of work, so that it meets these needs. If you have any further information about how your child's teacher can support them, please make contact with them via the school email address winstonthills@parra.catholic.edu.au

Staffing Update

It is with sadness that we farewell Mr Jamie Sorensen and Mrs Lyndelle Batten. Jamie our Groundsman has made the difficult decision to leave St Paul's, he has been dedicated to supporting the children of St Paul's since 2016 and will be greatly missed.

Mrs Lyndelle Batten, our PE teacher, has also made the difficult decision to leave St Paul's for a teaching position closer to home. We thank these dedicated, enthusiastic and hard working staff members for their work and for supporting the St Paul's community.

Parish Priests and School Staff List for 2021

Leadership Team 2021	
Parish Priest	Fr Raning Cretilo
Assistant Priest	Fr Marcus Hazelman
Seminarian	Mr Adam Carlow
Principal	Mrs Megan Baird
Assistant Principal	Jane Misek
Religious Education Coordinator	Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Leader of Learning	Mrs Elizabeth Sargent
Leader of Learning - Terms 1 and 2 Leader of Learning - Terms 3 and 4	Mrs Michelle Brett Mrs Margaret Ferguson
Leader of Learning	Mrs Julie Hooper
Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 Coordinator	Terms 1 and 2 - Mrs Michelle Brett Terms 3 and 4 - Mrs Margaret Ferguson
Year 3 and 4 (Stage 2) Coordinator	Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Year 5 and 6 (Stage 3) Coordinator	Mrs Elizabeth Sargent

Class Teachers 2021				
Kindergarten	KM	Miss Marissa Mentis	KG	Miss Danielle Grace
Year 1	1I	Mrs Kathryn Ireland (Term 1 - Weeks 1 - 7 inc. Mrs Amy Shelton)	1A	Miss Nicole Abood
Year 2	2D	Mrs Teresa Draybi	2L	Mrs Karen Love
Year 3	3L	Mrs Fiona Lambert	3P	Miss Amber Paul
Year 4	4H	Vanessa Holland	4P H	Mrs Melissa Poole (Monday, Tuesday & Friday) & Mrs Renee Henebery (Wednesday & Thursday)
Year 5	5H	Mrs Julie Hooper	5L	Miss Amelia Lezon
Year 6	6SL	Mrs Lisa Spencer (Monday, Tuesday & Friday), & Mrs Mirijana Loncar (Wednesday & Thursday)	6R	Mrs Mary Richards

Teachers Supporting Learning/Diversity	Mrs Michelle Brett, Mrs Elizabeth Sargent, Mrs Margaret Govender, Mrs Johra Brackenbury, Mrs Petrina Taylor, Mrs Mary-Lourdes Tedesco,
Reading Recovery	Mrs Johra Brackenbury
EMU Early Years	Mrs Elizabeth Sargent
EMU Middle Years	Mrs Fiona Lambert
Reframing Readers Resourcefully - Stage 3	Mrs Margaret Govender
Teacher Librarian	Mrs Petrina Taylor
Physical Education	TBC
Creative Arts	Mrs Victoria Matterson (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
Language (Japanese)	Mrs Jessica Honda
Teacher's Aides	Mrs Therese Ricketts, Mrs Jenny Usher, Mrs Cheryl Long, Mrs Samantha Smith, Mrs Marie Whiting, Miss Niamh Gray, Miss Jasmine Lai
Administration	Mrs Berna Robson, Mrs Juanita Gray, Mrs Rita Nobili
General Assistant	TBC
CAPTIVATE Band - Years 4 and 5 (CEDP)	Kerrie Jear and Bronwyn McColl
Wellbeing Counsellor (CEDP)	Ms Emilie Cangy
IT Trainee (CEDP)	Miss Siluni Fernando

School Census Day - Friday 19 February

Friday 19 February is the school census day. All children should attend school on this day and absence should only be if it is absolutely necessary. If you know that your child will be away on 19 February, please email winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au advising the reason for the absence and when they will return. This is, of course, a requirement that applies to everyday of the school year, however Census data is directly related to Government funding for our schools and the requirements outlined above are set by the Department of Education. Thank you for your cooperation.

Religious Education Learning

At St Paul the Apostle we strongly believe in promoting the liturgical life of our school community. Mrs Baird and Mrs Brackenbury have added into the parent calendar our planned liturgical events for 2021. The staff and students are working on ways to celebrate these events with COVID19 restriction guidelines. Please check the parent calendar for these events. If you have not subscribed to our School Parent Calendar the link is on our website. We are in the process of updating the calendar on Skoolbag.

Parish Sacramental Program

In 2020 the Parish Sacramental Program was slightly interrupted due to COVID19. The program is due to commence for Year 4 students who are ready to make their first Reconciliation. Parents wishing their child to participate in the program need to visit the Parish website and register between 8 February and 15 February. **The Parent Information Session and enrolment will take place in the Church on Wednesday 3 March at 7:30pm or Thursday 4 March at 10:30am.** As part of the parent information session, parents collect the resources they require to prepare their child.

Reconciliation program for Year 3 students is later in the year.

Ash Wednesday

This year Ash Wednesday is on 17 February 2021. Within the guidelines of COVID19, as directed by our Parish, children and staff will receive ashes. These ashes will be dry and sprinkled on the top of the head. We are currently working with the Parish ways to celebrate a grade liturgy and the distribution of ashes on the day. We will keep you informed through our Skoolbag app.



Message from the Parish

Masses for Ash Wednesday are as follows: 6:30am, 9:10am and 7:00pm. Bookings are essential and the wearing of masks is mandatory, it is advisable to book early as there is a strong interest for these masses.

Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Religious Education Coordinator

Woodberry Village Christmas

At the end of last year as a school community, we looked at what we could do to spread God's love to others. We decided it would be lovely to do something nice for the residents at Woodberry Village.

Year 6 missed their opportunity to share their memory scrapbooks with the residents so they wrote letters to the residents. Year 5 and Kindergarten wrote Christmas cards.

The staff donated small gifts of chocolates, perfumes, biscuits and other special goods. Mrs Brackenbury delivered these and the staff at Woodberry Village delivered these special messages and gifts to the residents.



A Message from Woodberry Village

Thank you again for all you do for our village, and thank you for the lovely gifts that were bought for our residents at Woodberry for Christmas.

LEARNING FUN IN KINDY!

Our Kindergarten students have had an exciting start to the school year!

They have been involved in lots of learning fun with their teachers and peers. Kindergarten have enjoyed listening to many stories, had a go at writing, explored numbers, participated in prayer, created artworks, attended a Dance Fever lesson and met their Year 6 buddies. They are doing an amazing job learning new routines and settling into their new environment!

♥ Welcome to Kindergarten



Literacy Learning

Staff and Students Celebrate World Read Aloud Day

On Wednesday 3 February, teachers and children celebrated, in their classrooms, World Read Aloud Day. Teachers and other members of staff chose a favourite story to read aloud to promote a love of reading.

Reading books aloud to children builds upon their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them to develop language and listening skills and an understanding of the written word.

Taking time to read to your children sends an important message: Reading is worthwhile. Through books we can enrich our minds, reading also provides an opportunity to relax and enjoy some precious family moments. We encourage every day to be a read aloud day in your home.



Michelle Brett Leader of Learning



Inquiry Learning

This term, our Stage 2 and Stage 3 students will be engaging in a scientific inquiry. Stage 1 students will explore a geographical inquiry and Kindergarten will begin a historical inquiry. Below are the driving questions that each stage will be investigating.

Stage 3 - How do our current understandings of Earth and the solar system inform decisions about resources, design and construction?

Stage 2 - How has our community changed over time and why do people choose to remember significant events of the past?

Stage 1 - How do we enjoy places and spaces?

Kindergarten - How are we different and the same?

I am excited to see where the learning will take us this term.

Mrs Julie Hooper Leader of Learning

Numeracy Learning

As you are aware, students within CEDP schools begin each year with a one-on-one Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI). There are four domains that we have focused on here at St. Paul's, including:

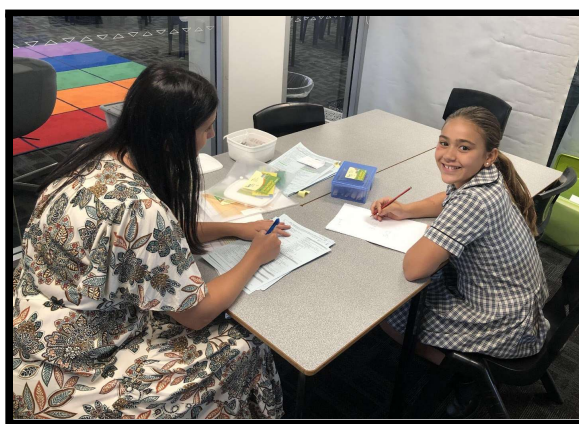
- counting
- place value
- addition and subtraction
- multiplication and division.

By now, most children have completed the MAI, with the remaining children to complete theirs during the coming days at school. We thank you for your support as we work to identify your child's current growth points in Mathematics.

As a staff, we look forward to sharing this MAI data within our professional learning community of teachers. We aim to use this data to work collaboratively, resulting in a personalised, targeted approach to Mathematics learning for each child.

As you can see from the photos attached, the children were eager to begin their learning journey in 2021, and were warmly welcomed into their learning spaces when beginning their MAI.

Mrs Liz Sargent
Leader of Learning



PBS4L

Paw Tokens at St Paul's

When students demonstrate a safe, respectful or learner behaviour on the playground they may receive a paw token to acknowledge this positive behaviour. These tokens are placed in a coloured letterbox.

Red	Blue
Yellow	Green



General School Information

Medical Action Plans - 2021

Thank you to those parents who have provided us with updated Medical Action Plans. Medical Action Plans are valid for 12 months, so if your child has an action plan it is essential that we have a current copy so that we can assist them if necessary.

We would appreciate it if updated Actions Plans could be brought to the office as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and helping us to keep your children safe and well.

Positive Partnerships

Positive Partnerships will be holding online parent/carer autism workshops from 2-24 February. The first is a 4 week series of 2 hour sessions and the second is a full day workshop. Please see the Skoolbag post sent earlier this year for full details. These workshops are not region specific and will cater for any NSW parents, grandparents or full time carers. Please register via the Positive Partnerships homepage:

<https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au>

Our School is a Nut Aware School

At St Paul the Apostle Primary School, we have children and staff who have severe allergies to nuts. While allergic reactions are common and most are not serious, for these children the reaction can be life-threatening. This is called anaphylaxis and can occur in minutes of an exposure to a trigger, in these cases, nuts. We see prevention as a major part of providing a safe environment for these people. So as to support our community's effort in this regard, parents are requested not to send nuts or foods containing nuts to school with their children. The following list gives examples of such foods:- Peanuts, hazelnuts, almonds, cashews, macadamia nuts, peanut butter, nutella, biscuits and cakes containing nuts, snack packs containing nuts, chocolate bars containing nuts, eg Picnics, Mars Bars (almond), Nut Breaks and Fruit & Nut Chocolates, marzipan and nougat, muesli bars and snack bars containing nuts, yoghurt and nut mixer packs, some confectionery items, yoghurt muesli bars. We realise that there may be trace elements of nuts in a variety of other foods. However, if you use the above list as a guide you will be doing your part. Parents can also reinforce with their children that sharing food is not allowed at St Paul's. Thank you for working with us in partnership to support the safety of everyone in our community.

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.

Kindergarten	Monday and Wednesday
Year 1A	Monday and Tuesday
Year 1I	Monday and Wednesday
Year 2	Monday and Wednesday
Year 3	Monday and Thursday
Year 4	Monday and Tuesday
Year 5	Monday and Thursday
Year 6	Monday and Tuesday



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.

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

School Uniform 2021

A friendly reminder that all orders are to be placed on the QKR app by MasterCard. Please download the app, search your school and follow the prompts.

The uniform shop will fill orders on a Thursday afternoon and they can be collected from the office or sent home with your child.

Kind regards

Elle

E: elle@ozfashions.com.au

Work Health and Safety Reminders

SOME THINGS TO NOTE PLEASE

- Children are not permitted on the school grounds outside of school hours - our gates officially open at 8:25am and no children should be waiting outside.
- Parents collecting students at the end of the day are asked to wait outside the gates as per last year with the exception of Kindergarten students who, for the first two weeks in Term 1, will be brought to the Stage area for collection at approx 3.00pm.
- Parking is limited in and around the school (Rangers have already been spotted during dropoff and pick-up). Please utilise the parking in the parish car park and park only in the designated lined areas and walk into the school grounds to collect your children.

These requests are in the interest of all students' safety and smooth running of the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.



2021 Bell times

There are some changes to our internal bell times in 2021 to ensure that we are meeting our legal requirements for the teacher enterprise agreement. The 2021 bell times are outlined below for your information. Please note that there are **NO CHANGES** to the start and end of the day. The only changes are to the internal bell times.

8:52am		Music to move to assembly/line up area
8:55am		Official start of the day and first learning session. All children are expected to be ready for announcements at assembly or to be ready to move into classrooms for the first learning session.
8:55am - 10:55am	2 hours	Learning Session 1 (Infants grades incorporate "crunch & sip" into this session)
10:55am - 11:25am	30 mins	Recess
11:25am - 1:25pm	2 hours	Learning Session 2
1:25pm - 1:40pm	15 mins	Lunch - sitting and eating
1:40pm - 2:10pm	30 mins	Lunch - playtime
2:10pm - 3:10pm	1 hour	Learning Session 3
3:10pm - 3:15pm	5 mins	Student pack up and dismissal preparations
3:15pm		Official end of school day

Happy Birthday

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

Taylor E, Sarah W, Ruby W, Jade G, Avabel E, Brandon S, Braxtyn W, Ellie G, Annabelle G, Chloe R, Bridgette B, Anthony E, Jonah W, Jacob W, George N, Ryan P, Seraphina D, Elias K, Oliver C, Valentino B, Vincent J, Evanna T, Mikka P, Andrew D, Christian B, George C, Ethan S, Isabella M, Harrison C, Ella B, Evie G

Student Awards - Congratulations!

	St Paul Award	Student of the Week
Kindy	Eve K	Theodore K
Kindy	Harrison B	Charbel C
1A	Lucas	Madeleine
1I	Scarlett V	Eric U
2D	Micah	Sienna
2L	Rose B	Scarlet D
3L	Mackenzie N	Lachlan M
3P	Sienna D	Daniel I
4H	Olivia B	Olivia B
4PH	Grace	Heath
5H	Kobe P	Zara F
5L	Thomas	Eiran
6R	Blake B	Heidi S
6SL	Ben S	Alice S