



# St Paul's Post

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

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Term 1, Week 4

18 February, 2022

## **From the Principal**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Every week is a big week at St. Paul's and this past week has been no different. Despite a number of COVID positive cases being reported in our community, we have gone about our daily routines of teaching and learning with as little disruption as possible. Thank you for continuing to work with us to support a safe school environment and keeping your children at home if they are unwell.

### **Kindergarten Parent Information night**

This week we welcomed our current 2022 Kindergarten parents with our Parent Information Night. Due to current restrictions, this was held via Zoom and was well attended. The newest members of our community are settling in well to the routines and expectations of school life.

### **Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting**

We also held our Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting via Zoom this week and we are very grateful for the support and hard work of our P&F committee and their volunteers.

We would like to welcome to the 2022 P&F committee: Mrs Rennee McClintock, President, Mrs Mariana Green, Vice President, Mrs Natalie Saliba, Treasurer, Mrs Madeline Sedrak, Secretary. Our general committee members are Mrs Mirna Jasser, Mrs Loretta Farrelly, Mrs Michelle Saad, Mrs Alexandra Denmeade, Mrs Linda Spina and Mrs Amy Joseph. The staff and students of St Paul's thank you for your continued support and look forward to working with you in 2022.

### **2022 School Leaders - presentation of badges**

Today, Fr Raning, Mrs Newman and I had the pleasure of presenting our Year 6 leaders with their badges. Although the presentation of this important milestone looked very different this year, we were so pleased to be able to commemorate this special occasion with a beautiful liturgy. Congratulations to Noah S, Lilly G, James M, Emma D, Gabriel E, Jade G, Kyan F, Savanah N, Elias K and Elizabeth T. A special thank you to Mrs Brackenbury for planning and organising our reflective and prayerful liturgy.



### **2023 Kindergarten Applications for Enrolment**

Believe it or not, we are now accepting applications for Kindergarten 2023. Applications with all accompanying paperwork are due to the office by March 31st.

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**I give you a new commandment;**  
**love one another as I have loved you.**  
**Alleluia!**  
**Jn 13:34**

**Peace and Joy!**  
**Megan Baird**  
**Principal**

## **From the Assistant Principal**

I have had the pleasure over the last two Saturdays to attend the First Holy Communion masses for our Year 5 students. It was a pleasure to see the children receive Christ for the first time and I wish them every blessing as they continue on their faith journey.

### **Early Years Assessment**

Our Year 1 teachers have started to complete the Early Years Assessment on their students with Kindergarten starting over the next few weeks. This literacy assessment, along with the Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAIs), is very valuable for the teachers as it helps inform the planning of learning/teaching opportunities for the Kinder and Year 1 children as well as helping to identify any needs that the children have which can then be targeted either in the classroom or in early intervention programmes. These literacy and numeracy assessment tools offer an opportunity for teachers to understand

a child's beliefs, attitudes, strengths, thinking process and skills and help their teachers to learn about how their students think, and what they know.

### **Meet and Greet**

Our Meet and Greet interviews between the teachers and parents begin next week. The teachers are looking forward to talking with all parents, either over Zoom or on the phone, to learn more about the children who they will be teaching in 2022. This is your chance to share important information about your child as a learner, their areas of strength and areas for growth. If you haven't returned the information sheet about your child, please do so before your interview day.

**Kathy Newman**  
**Assistant Principal**

### ***From the Religious Education Coordinator***

#### **Parish Sacramental First Holy Communion Year 5 2022**

Many of our Year 5 students have celebrated their First Holy Communion. We congratulate them on this wonderful occasion. In our COVID safe school we are unable to acknowledge these students in front of the whole school. We thank Mrs Baird and Mrs Newman for the small gift given to the students to celebrate this very special occasion.

We continue to pray for the students who are still preparing to receive Jesus for the first time.



### **Ash Wednesday**

To mark the start of the Church season of Lent together we celebrate Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is celebrated on 2 March 2022. In consultation with Fr Raining, Stage 3 will be attending Mass on the day. To ensure the safety of our community the Stage 3 Mass will be a closed mass with only our students and their teachers attending. Kindergarten to Year 4 will participate in a class Liturgy and receive the ashes in their classrooms. Ashes will be sprinkled on the top of the head in line with COVID smart guidelines.

### **Invitation to prayer from the Parish**

On Friday 4 March, the parish of St Paul the Apostle is celebrating 24 hour Adoration. The parish is inviting the community to join in the adoration at the beginning of Lent. At 7:00pm on Friday 4 March the parish will be leading the Stations of the Cross. As we start the season of Lent, the Stations of the Cross prayer is a reverent and respectful way to remember what Jesus did for us.

### **Mini Vinnie Team 2022**

It is with great pleasure that I can announce the Mini Vinnie team for 2022. These students have expressed an interest in becoming advocates, within their school and local community, by putting their values into action.

*Congratulations to:*

Ainsley, Archie F, Austin, Bonnie, Chloe, Christina, Evanna, Grace, Heath, Imogen, John Paul, Kiera, Kelly, Lucy, Millie, Olivia, Rachael, Selena, Serenity, Siarra, Tania, and Tyler.

**God Bless**  
**Johra Brackenbury**  
**Religious Education Coordinator**

### ***From the Leaders of Learning***

As you are aware, your child/ren have now completed their Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAIs) for 2022. This week, staff have worked collaboratively to analyse children's data, in an effort to prepare quality, differentiated Mathematics learning tasks. MAIs will also be used to create Mathematics goals for Semester One, and I encourage you to speak to your child's teacher about this during your Meet and Greet.

Additionally, this week Years 3-6 have begun the process of completing the PAT-Reading Assessment which is run by ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research). This year, students will complete an adaptive test, which will give teachers a more accurate profile on children's reading progress. We look forward to using this data to inform our teaching and learning.

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

## Year Six and Kindergarten Buddy Program

Our 2022 Year Six and Kindergarten Buddy Program began late in 2021. The newest members of our school community received a personalised letter from their St. Paul's buddy, delivered to their home. Attached to the letter was a photo of the Year Six buddy, along with a beautiful poem celebrating their future relationship together. This morning before classes began, our Kindergarten children were called individually to the stage to wave and say 'Good morning!' to their Year Six buddies, who were waiting on the playground below. This certainly set the tone for a very positive start to the day and the smiles were contagious. The excitement and pride shared between Kindy and Year Six was very obvious. Thank you to Emma, our School Vice-Captain, for making such a great suggestion! This afternoon, we look forward to another Buddy meeting, this time via Zoom. This will give Kindy and Year Six an opportunity to meet in an informal way and share the latest news and events with each other. Next week, we plan for our Year Six Buddies to meet Kindy in the back paddock where, socially distanced, they will read a picture book together. Additionally, Lilly, our School Captain, had a great idea involving an artwork for the Year Six Buddies to begin, and then our Kindy children could complete in class. We hope to share these around the school for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you to our wonderful teachers and Year Six Buddies for being so understanding and creative when thinking of alternative ways we can meet and support our Kindy friends in their transition to 'big school'.

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



## 2022 After School Travel Home Arrangements

The safety of our children is paramount to the staff of St Pauls. It is at the forefront of all our plans, especially during the pandemic, which has created many challenges. We thank you for your flexibility and patience while we continue to have new systems in place to reduce the mingling of cohorts at drop off and pick up times. With the safety of our children in mind, we will be sending home a Google Form, via Skoolbag, with regard to '**After School Travel Arrangements**' for your children in 2022. We ask that you complete a separate Google Form for each child in your family. Should your child's after school travel arrangements change throughout the year, kindly notify the office, via the school email [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## Our new playground is finished!

Significant progress has been made and the playground behind the Kindergarten, Year One and Two classrooms and the groundwork is now complete. The playground will be used by children in Kindergarten to Year Two and will encourage outdoor fun and recreation with a new safe, level playing surface. The children eagerly await for some new play equipment to arrive so they can play here at recess and lunch. New soft play shapes will ensure that there will be no shortage of games to play during recess and lunch breaks. Keep your eyes and ears open for you might be lucky to see wild animals sharing a drink at the newly painted watering hole or our children laughing while pretending to dip their toes in the water at the beach.



### BEFORE

The new playground will provide the children with opportunities to connect their learning with adjoining classrooms and the outdoors. This has been a substantial undertaking and it has been exciting to watch it take shape. We would like to thank Mrs Baird for initiating the project and Mrs Misek for managing the project. Mrs Misek was assisted by Mr Dave Bonnar, our St Paul's groundsman and I, who over the Christmas holidays supervised and managed the project to completion. We look forward to sharing more playground updates with you soon.

### AFTER



### Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day was held on Tuesday 8th February. At St Paul's, staff and children joined the global initiative to raise awareness about online safety. To support this initiative, classes participated in the **PBS4L** lesson based on our school Information Communication Technology (ICT) Agreements. Children discussed making life online enjoyable by being kind and respectful to each other. All children were required to sign the ICT agreement, which was sent home for parents and carers to sign. Children will need to return both signed pages before they can access school-based digital technologies at school. Thank you to the families who have already returned these agreements.

**Mrs Michelle Brett**  
**Leader of Learning**

## 22/2/22 A celebration of 'Twosday' Mufti



On Tuesday the 22 February, 2022 we are celebrating all the 2's

The children are asked to wear mufti to school and to wear 2 of something. Eg; 2 pairs of socks, 2 Hats, 2 Shirts, etc. This is not a fundraiser event, just a day of fun with the number 2. Please ensure your child is still wearing appropriate footwear. (No thongs) We look forward to having double the fun!!

### General School Information

#### COVID 19 - Learning Support

If your child is in isolation for seven days because a member of the family has tested positive, the school will support your child's learning through Google Classroom and you will have access to the learning resources provided by Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta which is specific to each grade.

<https://remotelearning.parra.catholic.edu.au/home> If your child is in isolation, and you would like this support, please email [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au) During this period of isolation, we also encourage our children to read on a daily basis. Children who have tested positive for COVID 19 are encouraged to rest and focus on their recovery.

#### Parent Support

Parents at St. Paul's play a vital role in their child's education and we welcome opportunities to work in partnership with you to support your child's spiritual, academic, social and emotional development. Over the next few weeks, the teachers will assess your child to identify strengths and areas of need. They will also read each child's file and reports to gain a better understanding 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 [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)

#### Attendance

**Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during official school holidays.** A **planned leave** period of between **one and four (4)** school days will require a letter to the class teacher **prior** to the leave being taken. If the leave is for **5 or more school days**, parents are asked to complete an Application of Extended Leave Form A.1 which can be obtained from the school office. Once leave has been approved a Certificate for Extended Leave will be sent home. This document should be taken with you on your trip as proof that the school is aware of your child/children's absence from school.

#### Student Absence from School

If your child has been unwell or absent from school for any reason it is **essential** that a communication explaining the absence be sent to the school. We encourage the use of the **Skoolbag App**, this is a very important tool for communication between the school and parents, and an excellent way of explaining your child's absence. Alternatively, please send a letter or note to your child's class teacher. **Please be reminded that the class roll is a legal document and as such it is the school's responsibility to monitor student attendance. It is very important that the information in the class roll is accurate. This information is required by the CEDP and Department of Education on a half yearly basis.**

#### School Student Travel Information for Parents and Students - Term 1, 2022

Students who need a School Opal card or travel pass but have not yet applied need to apply or update their details as soon as possible. In the Opal network, students should travel with a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. New Student Opal cards (including new Term Bus Passes) will be sent to the student's nominated postal address within two weeks of their application being approved. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass. Terms of Use

Students using Opal cards must tap on and tap off in line with the Opal terms of use. All students are required to comply with the Student code of conduct. It is important that parents ensure their child is aware of this, as failure to comply with the code of conduct can result in a suspension from travel. Further information can be found at [transportnsw.info/school-travel](https://transportnsw.info/school-travel). Enquiries can be submitted at [transportnsw.info/passes-concessions-feedback](https://transportnsw.info/passes-concessions-feedback)



## Work Health and Safety Reminders

### COVID 19 Back to School Safety

A reminder that if your child tests positive to COVID-19, it's important to let the school know as soon as possible and to notify NSW Health through the Service NSW App.

### Looking out for COVID-19 Symptoms

For safety, schools will also be monitoring students' health and asking families to collect students who display COVID-19 symptoms. If they display any symptoms they should take a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) or a PCR test. If the test is negative but symptoms continue, your child **MUST** stay home and take another RAT or PCR test in 24 hours. If that test is also negative, your child may return to school if another diagnosis is confirmed eg Hayfever etc. A medical certificate is required for this.

Please note that if there is a case of COVID-19 in your child's class, year or other grouping, your child can continue to attend school if they have no symptoms, in line with NSW Health advice.

### What if someone at home has COVID-19?

If there is a case of COVID-19 in your household, it's important that all family members follow the close contact rules and self-isolate for seven days. Please let the school know of the absence and when it is expected they will be able to return. If your child needs additional learning support during this time, please contact the school office via email [winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.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.



## Parish Car Park

As you are aware, the use of the Parish Car Park is a luxury that many schools do not have. We have been asked by the Parish to remind you that the car park is to be used appropriately - this includes: no double parking, respecting the speed limit of 10kph, being aware of your surroundings and unless you are in possession of a Disabled Permit, strictly no parking in the disabled zone. The Parish is grateful for your cooperation and consideration of other parishioners.



## WHS - 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.

## Medical Action Plans - 2022

Thank you to those parents who have had their child's Medical Action Plan updated and have brought them to the office.

We would appreciate it if updated Actions Plans could be brought to the office as soon as possible - no later than the end of Week 5, Term 1. Thank you for your cooperation and helping us to keep your children safe and well.



## 2022 School Terms & Important Dates

<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Friday 28 January - Friday 8 April</b>
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Monday 26 April to Friday 1 July</b>
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Monday 18 July to Thursday 22 September</b>
<b>Term 4</b>	<b>Monday 10 October to Friday 16 December</b>

### Staff Development Days 2022

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. Our days for 2022 are as follows:

Friday 28 January, 2022  
 Monday 31 January, 2022  
 Friday 10 June, 2022  
 Friday 23 September, 2022  
 Monday 19 December, 2022  
 Tuesday 20 December, 2022

### SPORT DAYS - TERM 1

**Monday - Whole School Sport Uniform (DanceFever)**  
**Tuesday - Year 2, Year 4 and Year 5**  
**Wednesday - Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6**  
**Thursday - Kindergarten and Year 1**



## Birthdays

*Happy Birthday to all those celebrating their special day in the next few weeks.*

*Ella B, Harrison C, Evie G, Clarissa S, Indy F, Archer H, Samuel S, Harper L, Samuel H, Kelly D, Siarra B, Lucia M Emily O'C.*

## Awards

	<b>St Paul Award</b>	<b>Student of the Week</b>
<b>KA</b>	William A	Evie G
<b>KM</b>	Brodie P	Maxwell S
<b>1A</b>	William	Olivia M
<b>1M</b>	Ashton	Georgie
<b>2A</b>	Charlie M	Maeve J
<b>2M</b>	Lacey M	Aadvik M
<b>3A</b>	Joseph S	Aniella T
<b>3M</b>	Scarlet D	Josephine R
<b>4A</b>	Mikaela K	Eliza F
<b>4M</b>	Jacinta V	William M
<b>5A</b>	John S	Nellie H
<b>5M</b>	Grace B	Lucy C
<b>6A</b>	Jasmine P	James Mc
<b>6M</b>	Emma D	Zander S

