



St Paul's Post

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

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Term 1, Week 2

4 February, 2022

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the start of the 2022 school year. I am so pleased that we were able to welcome back the children this week and the beaming smiles on their faces and in their eyes was a joy to see.

Thank you so much for working with us as we navigate new COVID smart measures. Unfortunately, at this time, parents are not permitted onsite, so we will continue to have our staff available in the morning to meet and greet the children at the gates and to assist on the playground in the mornings. Our first Zoom Assembly will take place on Friday 18th February - a Zoom link will be shared with you via Skoolbag.

This week we welcomed the newest members to our school community - our Kindergarten children. They have already begun to settle into the routines and expectations of 'big school' and are making new friends each day.

We hope that throughout the year, our school will be a place where staff, students and families have opportunities to experience God's presence in our lives. We can all try to model God's love for each one of us, by being a renewing community where all members are valued, affirmed and empowered; where our commitment to Gospel values is expressed in every facet of our school life. We look forward to working in partnership with you and your child/children for a happy and successful year.

As a faith filled community, this weekend we acknowledge the children who are making their First Holy Communion. I remember with fondness my First Holy Communion Day and the special way we came together as a family to celebrate this sacrament and the commitment we have as a family to our faith. We pray that the children making their first communion over the next few weeks will continue to be guided by their faith and their family values.

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. I look forward to working with you as the first educators of your children to make 2022 a most rewarding year for everyone.

Peace and Joy!
Megan Baird
Principal



From the Assistant Principal

Welcome back to another school year. As I finish my first week working at St Paul the Apostle I would like to thank everyone, students, staff and parents, for making me feel so welcome. I am looking forward to getting to know you all and working together in partnership as part of this amazing faith filled community.

Online Meet and Greet

This term all parents will be invited to make an appointment to attend a Zoom meeting with their child's teacher. The dates for these meetings are still being finalised. Based on current COVID restrictions and guidelines we are unable to facilitate face-to-face and onsite Parent Meet and Greet meetings. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to meet your child's teacher and share important information about your child. This will not be a parent/teacher interview, rather an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher to let us know about your child as a learner and about your hopes for them in 2022. Prior to this meeting, a note will come home for you to fill in and return to your child's teacher. This will ask you to highlight your thoughts about your child's areas of strength and areas for growth, as well as provide an opportunity for you to inform your child's teacher about any other important information relevant to his/her learning.

All appointments will be 10 minutes in length and will be made via an online booking system. Details will be sent home soon and Zoom links will be shared prior to the meeting. We encourage all of our families to take advantage of this important opportunity to work collaboratively in the best interests of our children.

Teachers as Professionals

As with all professions, teachers have to maintain their accreditation through their attendance at professional learning. Sometimes these sessions take place during the day, in which case a relief teacher will be employed. We have a limited bank of relief (casual) teachers and always endeavour to employ the same person for a class in order to maintain consistency for the children. Sometimes this is not possible and we thank you in advance for your understanding. Staff also have their entitlements such as long service leave, sick leave, family leave, maternity leave and bereavement leave. On any occasion when a teacher is absent, the casual teacher employed follows the class teacher's program and has the support and guidance of the other teachers on the grade as well as the Stage Leader.

Teachers out of class

Currently, we have two EMU (Extending Mathematical Understanding) specialist teachers working in the school. Mrs Fiona Lambert (Middle Years) and Mrs Elizabeth Sargent (Early Years). These specialist teachers work with a group of students who require some extra support to help them reach the benchmark for their grade. Due to current cohorting protocols in place for the beginning of the school year, our EMU programs have been delayed. Usually, these lessons occur every day for 45 minutes a day. During this time a designated teacher replaces Mrs Lambert in Year 2. As Mrs Sargent is released from class this year as an Instructional Coach and Stage Coordinator, a replacement teacher is not required.

Mrs Kathryn Newman
Assistant Principal

From the Religious Education Coordinator

As we start another school year we remember the liturgical season of Christmas in which we received the gift of Jesus our Saviour. As we move forward in ordinary time we are following Jesus starting his ministry in the Gospels of Luke.

Parish Sacramental First Holy Communion Program Year 5 2022

Many of our Year 5 students are attending the preparation meetings and making their First Holy Communion over the next couple of weeks. Please join with our community as we pray for these students as they prepare and receive Jesus for the first time.

*May the strength of Jesus' love
and the joy of this holy day remain
forever in their hearts. Amen*



Parish Sacramental First Reconciliation Program Year 4 2022

Registrations are open for Year 4 students who wish to take part in the Parish First Reconciliation Sacramental Program. Please complete the registration via the Parish website. We look forward to supporting these children as they come to see God's love through his forgiveness.

God Bless
Johra Brackenbury
Religious Education Coordinator

From the Leaders of Learning

Welcome back to another year of learning in 2022! It is always exciting to begin a new school year and see smiling, eager faces bounce back into the classroom. I would also like to take this opportunity to especially welcome our newest families to St. Paul's. We hope your years at St. Paul's are filled with fond memories and exciting and engaging learning opportunities.

In the initial weeks of any school year, our aim is to ensure your child settles back into school life smoothly, creates a rapport with their teacher/s and is eager to learn and socialise with their peers. We acknowledge your role as your child's first educator and the infinite wisdom you hold. Our goal is to work in partnership with you, and offer learning opportunities which are differentiated and cater for all students' needs. Soon you will be meeting with your child's class teacher/s to discuss your child in greater detail. This may include, although is not limited to, your child's preferred learning style, medical needs, family history and social needs. This is such a valuable opportunity and we highly encourage you to prioritise this time in your calendar.

If, throughout the year, you need to contact your child's teacher, our first preference is to please make contact with them via email: winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au and our Administration Staff will forward your communication accordingly. Your child will also be supported by other members of staff including our Leaders of Learning:

Kindergarten- Mrs Michelle Brett
Stage 1 - Mrs Kathy Newman
Stage 2 - Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Stage 3 - Mrs Liz Sargent

As Learning Leaders we are all also available to support your child in their learning journey here at St. Paul's. If circumstances change throughout the school year, or you are concerned about aspects of your child's learning, we encourage you to make contact with our team. We look forward to working with you to provide a positive learning environment where children are supported, valued and challenged in their learning.

Liz Sargent
Leader of Learning

Early Years Assessment (EYA) & The Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI)

At this time of the year our children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 begin their Early Years Assessment. The National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy stated that "the assessment of all children by their teachers at school entry and regularly during the early years of schooling is of critical importance in the teaching of reading and in particular to identify children who are at risk of not making adequate progress." This assessment at the beginning, middle and end of year provides the teachers with information on the child's instructional reading level, together with information regarding the strategies the children are using to read and also data that assists your child's teacher with the next step for his/her learning. To administer this test, the teachers are given time out of the classroom. Teachers will administer the EYA this term.

The Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI) is also administered at the beginning of the year from Kindergarten to Year 6. This data ensures that every student receives quality instruction at their level. The Mathematics Assessment interview provides data to record the development of children's mathematical knowledge and understanding in Number, Space and Measurement. The MAI also identifies children who are mathematically vulnerable. Some of these assessments were completed as part of our continued commitment to professional learning for our staff in 2021. Any remaining assessments will be completed during school learning time in the first 4-6 weeks of Term 1 this year, with COVID19 smart measures in place.

The data gathered from these assessments provide teachers with powerful insights into each student's thinking and learning. It is a time for teachers and students to get to know one another and spend some uninterrupted time with them one on one.

Michelle Brett
Leader of Learning

The Positive Behaviour Support for Learning (PBS4L)

The Positive Behaviour Support for Learning (PBS4L) framework guides behaviour management within our school community. The PBS4L framework helps create positive learning environments to maximise children's learning and enhance children's wellbeing. The philosophy of PBS4L is to teach behaviour in the same way we teach educational content. The framework establishes clear behaviour expectations that encourages consistency in our approach to behaviour management both in acknowledging and reinforcing positive behaviours.

This week the children have worked alongside their teachers to clearly understand our school expectations. At St. Paul's:

We are Safe

We are Respectful

We are learners



The expectations are displayed in all learning spaces and throughout the school. In the coming weeks the children will strive to follow these expectations and are given many opportunities to practise the skills necessary to assist them in doing so. In week three the children will strive towards using equipment appropriately and in week four keeping their hands and feet to themselves. These appropriate student behaviours contribute to our school as a safe, respectful, nurturing and inclusive learning environment.

Michelle Brett
Leader of Learning

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://remoteteaching.parra.catholic.edu.au/home> If your child is in isolation, and you would like this support, please email 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

New class names in 2022

As previously advised our new timetabling system requires consistency when naming roll classes. Often teachers go on leave during the year and this causes issues within the system for roll marking. In 2022 our class names will be Aylward and MacKillop, therefore each grade will be known as A or M and thus the name will no longer reflect the name of the teacher allocated to the class, eg 1A or 1M, 2A or 2M etc.

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 both 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

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.

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 3, Term 1. Thank you for your cooperation and helping us to keep your children safe and well.

2022 School Terms & Important Dates

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

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



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 **(TBC)**
Friday 23 September, 2022 **(TBC)**
Monday 19 December, 2022
Tuesday 20 December, 2022

Awards

	St Paul Award	Student of the Week
Kindy	Lewis U Matilda B	Amelie V Noah C
1A	Romao S	Sienna M
1M	Antonia	Jason B
2A	Gemma L	Oliver S
2M	Eric F	Olivia S
3A	Olivia H	Lily D
3M	Emily C	Isaac H
4A	Sophia S	Samantha U
4M	Gabriel S	Grace S
5A	Kelly D	Scott B
5M	Olivia B	Ethan A
6A	James M	Arielle T
6M	Anders S	Jessica K

St Paul the Apostle Primary

School Staff - 2022

Parish Priest Assistant Parish Priest	Fr Raning Creta Fr Marcus Hazelman
Principal	Mrs Megan Baird
Assistant Principal	Mrs Kathryn Newman
Religious Education Coordinator	Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Leader of Learning	Mrs Elizabeth Sargent
Leader of Learning & Diversity Leader (Formerly known as "Learning Support")	Mrs Michelle Brett

Class Teachers				
Kindy	KA	Miss Danielle Grace	KM	Mrs Karen Love
Year 1	1A	Mrs Julie Hooper	1M	Miss Jasmine Szanto
Year 2	2A	Mr James Gough	2M	Mrs Fiona Lambert
Year 3	3A	Miss Amber Paul	3M	Mrs Mary Richards
Year 4	4A	Miss Marissa Mentis	4M	Mrs Melissa Poole (T, W, Th) Mrs Kylie Windever (M, T, F)
Year 5	5A	Miss Amelia Lezon	5M	Mrs Lisa Spencer (M, T, F) Mrs Renee Henebery (W, Th)
Year 6	6A	Miss Niamh Gray (M, T, W & F) Mrs Kylie Baker (Th)	6M	Mrs Vanessa Holland

Teachers Supporting Learning and Diversity <i>(formerly known as Learning Support)</i>	Mrs Michelle Brett (Diversity Leader), Mrs Kathryn Newman, Mrs Elizabeth Sargent, Mrs Johra Brackenbury, Mrs Petrina Taylor, Mrs Mary-Lourdes Tedesco, Mrs Kylie Baker, Mrs Margaret Govender, Mrs Felicity Carvalho, Miss Adrijana Drazenovic
Reading Recovery (Year 1)	Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) Early Years (Year 1)	Mrs Elizabeth Sargent
EMU Middle Years (Years 3 & 4)	Mrs Fiona Lambert
Reframing Readers Resourcefully (R3) (Year 6)	Mrs Kathryn Newman
Teacher Librarian	Mrs Petrina Taylor

Physical Education	Mrs Kirstie Edwards (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
Creative Arts	Mrs Victoria Matterson (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
Language (Japanese)	TBC
School Counsellor	Ms Genevieve Carey
IT Trainee	Ms Siluni Fernando
Teacher's Aide's	Mrs Therese Ricketts, Mrs Jenny Usher, Mrs Samantha Smith, Mrs Marie Whiting, Mrs Leanne Thacker, Mrs Kimberly Taufu, Mrs Suzanne McGrillen
Administration	Mrs Berna Robson, Mrs Juanita Gray, Mrs Rita Nobili, Mrs Cheryl Long
General Assistant	Mr David Bonnar
Staff on leave	Mrs Amy Shelton - returning part time in Term 3 and 4 Mrs Teresa Draybi - returning part time in Term 2, Mrs Mirijana Loncar - returning in 2023 Mrs Rita Nobili - returning in Term 2

Enrolling now for Kindergarten 2023

*Enrolments for Kindergarten 2023 will open on **Wednesday 9 February, 2022**. Forms can be downloaded from our website www.stpawinstonhills.catholic.edu.au or enrolment packs can be collected from the School Office between 8:00am and 3:30pm*

*We encourage families with siblings at the school to enrol their children as soon as possible. **Enrolments close on 31 March, 2022.***

If you are coming to the School Office, to lodge your application, you must QR code in, wear a mask, social distance and should another family already be in the office, please wait outside until they leave.

We thank you for your cooperation.



***We look forward to a safe, healthy and rewarding year of learning.
Welcome back to school for 2022***