



St Paul's Post

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

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Term 2, Week 2

6 May, 2022

From the Principal

A very warm welcome to Term 2. I hope that you all had a Happy and Holy Easter. The children have settled into their learning routines well and have really enjoyed seeing their friends and teachers.

My thanks to Mrs Kathryn Newman, Mrs Johra Brackenbury and Mrs Elizabeth Sargent for stepping into different leadership roles during my period of leave last term. We are very blessed to have such strong leadership capacity at St. Pauls.

As COVID restrictions have continued to ease, it's been wonderful to welcome parents back onsite this term. Last week, we celebrated Jesus' joyous resurrection at a special prayer assembly and we held a special prayer service to commemorate ANZAC Day. It was lovely to see so many parents and family members join us for these assemblies. We will continue to plan for events at St. Paul's and are committed to revisiting our COVID smart protocols and working within these to plan events and opportunities for our community. Prior to the commencement of the term, an update regarding COVID19 protocols was sent to parents, via Skoolbag. Thank you for working with us to keep everyone safe.

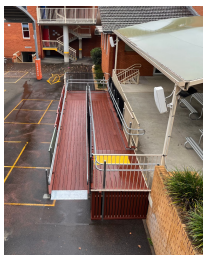
Mother's Day Celebrations

Yesterday, we celebrated Mother's Day with a beautiful and thoughtful eucharistic celebration - thank you Father Marcus for leading us and to Mrs Sargent and Mrs Brackenbury for coordinating our Mass. Prior to our Mass, it was wonderful to see so many families join us for our Mother's Day picnic lunch and to hear the children cheer as our visitors come through the gates.

A very special thank you to our Parents and Friends for their hard work and support of our Mother's Day celebrations. The Mother's Day stall was well stocked with gifts and we appreciate the volunteers who were able to assist with the stall and the photo booth today and yesterday. We wish all our Mothers, and those who are like mothers, a very happy day on Sunday.



Playground update



During the recent school holidays, the latest addition to the playground commenced - a new ramp to the Infants classrooms and stage area. The ramp is almost complete and ready for use. This addition to our school grounds gives accessibility to all those in our community - students, staff and visitors alike. Thank you to Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta for their support in managing these enhancements to our community and to Mr Bonnar - our Groundsperson for coordinating the project in the Easter holidays. During the next school holidays, Mr Bonnar has plans to re-paint some of the handball courts in the back playground.

Thank you Class of 2021

Thank you to the graduating class of 2021 for their lovely gifts of an outdoor clock and outdoor tables - all of which have been put to good use. The clock has been placed on the wall outside the library and the outdoor tables are in use on the Kindergarten verandah. We appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness.



We are here to help

Finally, if you are experiencing difficulty paying school fees, please make a confidential appointment with me. Be assured that no child will be disadvantaged because of a family's financial circumstances and all conversations regarding school fees will remain confidential.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Peace and Joy!

Mrs Megan Baird
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Supporting our community

On Tuesday night, all of our staff stayed back at school for our 2 hour CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) training. As professionals, we are committed to maintaining our accreditation in this area. Although this training was postponed in 2021, due to COVID restrictions, we are very grateful to ReVIVA First Aid and Resuscitation Training Pty Ltd for their support of this training. Further training in Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Emergency Care is planned for this year - COVID restrictions dependant.

Parent Voice

Last year, as part of our ongoing commitment to working in partnership with parents, we asked parents to offer some feedback to our school and we would like to offer this **optional** short survey again this year. The aim of this survey is to gain insights and information to assist with our planning for the remainder of the year. So, if you have a couple of minutes to answer some questions about what, and how, you would like to receive information regarding school events, your child's learning, parent meetings and parent information sessions, Mrs Baird and I would love to hear from you. The survey can be found at <https://forms.gle/QDUqGPy44cJrJatT8> and will be available until Friday 20 May.

Volunteering at school

We are very grateful for parent helpers/volunteers and for your assistance. 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 (Further information can be found under General Information, later in the newsletter) 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.

Mrs Kathryn Newman
Assistant Principal

From the Religious Education Coordinator

Parish News - Altar Servers

After a lengthy absence due to COVID, our Parish of St Paul the Apostle Winston Hills will be reintroducing Altar Servers to our weekend Masses!

Children intending to be Altar Servers must have already received the Sacrament of Holy Communion and regularly attend Mass. *Children who will be receiving their First Eucharist in June this year are also eligible to begin altar server training.*

Training will begin in late May so it is important to register your interest by Tuesday 17 May.

If you want to know more, or if your child is interested in becoming an Altar Server here at St Paul's, please either:

- email altarservers2153@gmail.com;
- phone our Altar Server Ministry coordinator Peter Samson on 0422 448 206;
- or contact the Parish Office on 9639 6516

Sacrament of Eucharist (First Holy Communion)

Please keep our Year 4 children in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacrament of Eucharist.

Parents Prayer as your child prepares for First Holy Communion

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of our children who bring so much love and light to our lives.

We thank you for this opportunity to think about how to help them grow in faith.

May we support one another as we journey towards our children's First Holy Communion,

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Mrs Johra Brackenbury
Religious Education Coordinator

Car Park Safety

As you all know, we are very fortunate to have the use of the Parish Car Park but we are becoming increasingly concerned about parents **double parking at pick up time in the afternoon. THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND PRESENTS A SERIOUS SAFETY ISSUE TO OUR FAMILIES. YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIME CONCERN.**

Please do the right thing and park in nominated spaces. Perhaps collect your child a little bit later when the car park has emptied this will ease congestion and negate the need to double park. Please help us to keep our community safe!



From the Leaders of Learning

REST@ St. Pauls

To address the differing needs of students at our school and in an aim to create an environment where children feel safe and happy we have reopened a classroom at lunchtime. This room is called REST and it stands for **R**espect, **E**veryone, **S**olving problems, **T**ogether. Children are invited to attend REST if their teachers believe they would benefit from the skills being taught in this room at lunch time. During their time at REST, children are taught social skills such as turn taking, problem solving and compromise through games. Values such as respect, tolerance and empathy are also promoted through the REST program. We also recognise that some children need a soft, quiet designated place where they can relax and have some space away from the busy areas on the playground.

Children are encouraged to use the strategies learned in REST when they transition back into the playground. If you have any questions about the REST program, please feel free to contact me at school. Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Mrs Michelle Brett

Leader of Learning and Diversity

NAPLAN

Next week, children in Year 3 and Year 5 will complete NAPLAN testing (National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy). These assessments are conducted nationwide by ACARA, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, and will assess children's literacy and numeracy skills. Children will complete these assessments every two years starting in Year 3, until they reach Yr 9 in high school.

There will be four assessments across the week, including:

- Writing, scheduled for Tuesday 10 May
- Reading, scheduled for Wednesday 11 May
- Language Conventions, scheduled for 12 May
- Numeracy, scheduled for 13 May

Support has already been arranged for students with additional learning needs. This is based on the regular support students may receive in the classroom, including during assessment tasks. Staff have made contact with qualifying families earlier in Term 1. Opportunities for 'catch up' tests will be available in Week 4 for children who have been unwell and unable to complete NAPLAN testing in Week 3.

NAPLAN testing is one of many tools we use at St. Paul's to monitor and track your child's progress. The results from these standardised assessments provide information for students, parents and teachers which can be used to improve student achievement.

However, it is important to note that this test is only a 'snapshot' of your child's learning on one particular day. Teachers consistently engage in many other forms of assessments to build their knowledge of your child, their progress and next steps for their learning.

If you are ever concerned about your child, their learning or wellbeing, we encourage you to make contact with your child's teacher to discuss your concerns. Our staff are committed to ensuring your child's learning remains a priority throughout their journey at St. Paul's and are dedicated to providing learning opportunities at your child's point of need.

NAPLAN tests are assessed externally, and the results shared with the school later in the year (usually in Term 3).

Mrs Liz Sargent

Leader of Learning

Inquiry Learning

This term, students have a new driving question they will be investigating during Inquiry Learning. Early Stage 1, Stage 1 and Stage 2 students are all engaging in a Science inquiry this term. Students in Stage 3 are exploring a History inquiry. The driving questions each stage will focus on this term are listed below.

Driving Questions across the School

Early Stage 1: What is it made of and how does it move?

Stage 1: How does the Earth change and provide for us?

Stage 2: How are environments and living things interdependent and why have food technologies and techniques been created to produce healthy foods?

Stage 3: What do we know about the lives of people in Australia's colonial past and how do we know?

Mrs Julie Hooper

Leader of Learning

Inquiry in Kindy!

In Kindergarten, we have been eagerly investigating: *What is it made of and how does it move?*

As mini-scientists, Kindergarten students have been busy learning about the physical characteristics of objects and the effects of these on how they move. Kindergarten have started planning and conducting investigations around force and motion and have looked at the properties of a variety of materials.

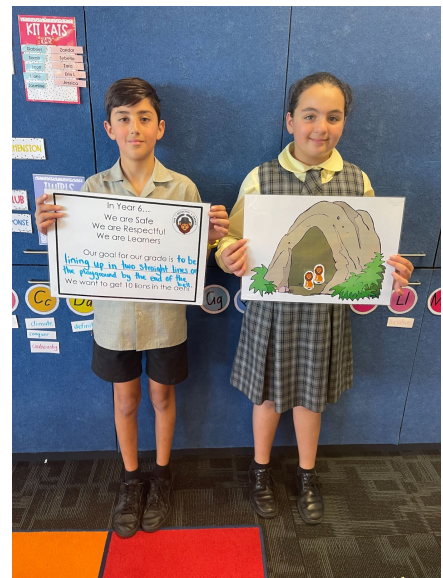
The students are looking forward to using their new knowledge to design and create a comfortable, sheltered mode of transportation for the class toys.



PBS4L

St Paul's utilises our PBS4L (Positive Behaviour Support for Learning) Framework to foster positive behaviours and relationships amongst all students. The children commenced the term by revising the classroom and playground expectations. Each grade is currently focusing on a specific classroom goal that encourages safe and respectful actions. Each time the grade demonstrates this objective, they earn a "lion for their den". Once ten lions have been earned, the grade receives recognition for their positive behaviours.

The whole school PBS4L focus for Week One was to be in the right place at the right time. The children are expected to be in the correct location during each session. They demonstrate this focus by waiting in their designated areas in two straight lines when the bell rings. Well done to everyone for continuing to be safe, respectful learners.



Miss Amelia Lezon
PBS4L Lead Teacher

General School Information

Staffing update

During the Easter holidays, Mrs Suzanne McGrillen tendered her resignation and will not be returning to the St. Paul's community. We thank Mrs McGrillen for her contributions to our community in her short time here.

Changeover into Winter Uniform

From Monday May 9, all children are expected to wear their **full** winter uniform. Please label all items clearly, especially hats and jackets. Children are responsible for their own belongings. Lost property is placed in a tub in the Undercroft.

Complaints Handling

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.

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.

COVID 19 Updates

Under the latest public health advice, testing and isolation are no longer mandatory after being exposed to someone with COVID-19 in school settings. However, we recommend that you consider the information provided by NSW Health about exposure to COVID-19 when making decisions for your child and family.

Students and staff cannot attend school if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19. These include fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell/taste, muscle/joint pains, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, extreme tiredness, unexplained chest pain or conjunctivitis (eye infection).

If symptoms occur at any time, your child should undertake a rapid antigen test (RAT). If the RAT is positive, your child should isolate as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. If you cannot access a RAT, you can attend a PCR (nose and throat swab) testing clinic. Our school has a limited supply of RATs that students can use for symptomatic testing or daily testing as part of requirements for close contacts returning to school. All families received their latest supply of RATs this week.

You must register any positive test on the Service NSW website or Service NSW app so that you can be linked to important health care support and advice. Please ensure that you select your school name when prompted when registering a positive test for your child.

We really appreciate your support of our COVID-safe measures at school and will continue to keep you updated.

Building Child Safe Communities Training for Volunteers

In Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta (CEDP), we see parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. Parents and carers are encouraged to become involved in our schools in many important ways such as supporting classroom learning, being part of advisory groups, mentoring programs, coaching sporting teams and supporting other extra-curricular activities, canteen support and other kinds of help.

A range of checks and undertakings are required for people who work for or provide services to CEDP. These checks reduce potential risk and form part of our strategy to build child safe communities.

The CEDP **Building Child Safe Communities** form and online training module is the training that all volunteers are required to complete.

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 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.

2022 School Terms & Important Dates

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

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

Birthdays

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

Mikaela K, Bradley R, Marcus C, Ella U, Jayson B, Roman C, Eliza F, Joshua S, Marcus B, Chelsea B, Jamie P, Ethan A, Patrick McK

Awards

	St Paul Award	Student of the Week
KA	Lucy W	Samuel S
KM	Isabelle V	Ethan S
1A	Mason S	Isabella T
1M	Kiyomi Y	Aaron C
2A	Lucas A	Claudia A
2M	Isabella F	Sofia D
3A	Ella W	Jacinta G
3M	Savannah M	Xavier D'S
4A	Timothy V	Luke L
4M	Fletcher M	Elijah D
5A	Archie O	Gabby S
5M	Keira D'S	Joshua S
6A	Sarah B	Audrey S
6M	George A	Andrew D

