

THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2023



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Royston Parade Asquith 2077

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Parish Clergy

Fr Joy Thomas OSH
Assistant Priest of the Parish

Weekend Mass Times

St Patrick's Asquith	St Bernard's Berowra Heights
Saturday Vigil 6pm	Saturday Vigil 5pm
Sunday 8am, 10am, 6pm	Sunday 9am



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Parents, Carers, Girls and Boys,

It was great to see the smiling faces of the Kinder children as they started their first full day of attendance at St. Patrick's last Thursday. The children have settled in remarkably well and I thank parents for supporting us and our Kinder teachers for enabling such a positive start.

Thank you also to our parent volunteers who provided boundless support by welcoming our new Kinder parents on Thursday morning with a friendly smile and a cuppa. This was a lovely opportunity to show our new families firsthand the spirit and support which is so evident in our community.

As we embark on the year ahead, I pray we work closely together between school and home to support one another and ultimately the children who are the reason we are all here. Undoubtedly the year ahead will provide both exciting moments, but also challenges. How we manage each of these moments will reflect directly in the messages we send our children and support them more broadly.

Welcome New Families

I sincerely welcome all our new families in 2023. It's always wonderful to see new faces amongst the children and parents joining St Patrick's Asquith for the first time. I encourage our existing families to extend a smile and welcome when crossing paths.

We welcome the following new families to St Patrick's: The Andres, Appleton, Barekzai, Beattie, Byrne, Cashin, Cimino, Da Ros Smith, Day, Griffin, Griffiths, Hasler, Kharel Sherpa, Leo, Mancilla Jones, Martinez, Odarchenko, Patel, Rabet Eshaghi, Rijal, Rim, Rohin, Stipo, Szollosi, Taheri Gutierrez-Solana, Tennakoon, Vignasan, Abesamis, Burrows, Douthwaite, Sharma & Shrestha

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

P&F News

A reminder to parents to come along to Welcome BBQ. Please put the event in your diary for Friday 3rd March. The BBQ is an opportunity for us all to welcome new families to the school, everyone is invited to come along and connect. The P&F will be sending more information very soon about this wonderful community event.

Throughout the year there will be many opportunities for parents to assist with a variety of events ranging from school carnivals, assisting in the canteen or at Mother's and Father's Day stalls to name a few. I encourage all parents to find the time to support these events firstly with your presence and on occasion with your time and energy to help facilitate. Apart from being a great help to the school community, your child/ren will also see that you value the school as a place of learning and a place of community. The children really get a kick out of seeing you making a difference and it also is a great example to them.

With that said, I wish to thank our parent volunteers in advance, particularly the parents who are taking on roles with the P&F. The school has a long history of our parents being an overwhelming source of strength and support for our school which we see time and again in particular with our school fete and other regular celebrations.

School Mass

Our Whole School Mass to celebrate the beginning of the School Year is scheduled for Wednesday 15th February at 9:30am. The mass provides our whole school community the opportunity to thank God for all our blessings and ask for his grace and guidance for the coming year.

I always look forward to witnessing the traditional Year 6 blessing of our new Kindergarten children that is celebrated at the mass. It has a great significance in the school's traditions and is such a lovely way to welcome our youngest students to our school community. We will also take the opportunity to bless the Year 6 students and have the parents or family representatives of our school captains and sports captains proudly present them their badges. I encourage parents to join us for the Opening School Mass.

Communication Methods & Protocols

Communication is an important and crucial aspect to our work as partners. Each year the communication protocols are provided to the community to support that vital partnership between home and school. The school values strong and respectful communication and when we get this right, the children are best supported.

If you wish to speak to a teacher:

- You can make contact through the school office staff by phone, via email or in person. The office staff will pass this message onto the teacher concerned. The teacher will either confirm an appointment, or phone to talk within a reasonable timeframe (usually 24 to 48 hours or the following Monday if contact is made on a Friday). Often a return call might come earlier, but for practical reasons, at least one day's grace is required.

If it is a matter to be conveyed in writing:

- Please either send a note to the teacher/staff member or an email to the front office.
- Emails will be forwarded to the teacher within normal hours and in a timely way. If confidential, please send as an attachment and mark as confidential. The school email address is: spa@dbb.catholic.edu.au
- I ask that parents don't email teachers/staff directly. Emails received late at night or on weekends can impact on a staff member's personal and family situations and add to their stresses, especially if the matter is emotive or subjective. Also, if a staff member is on leave, delays in response can result.

I thank all parents in advance for adhering to and respecting these protocols and for your continued support.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Parent Information Meetings

Parent Information Meetings will take place next week on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th February. This year parents have the option to attend in person at school (in classrooms) or online via Zoom.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity at the start of the school year for parents and carers to collectively meet their child's teacher. It will also allow teachers to provide information to parents and carers about class, grade and school routines and expectations, curriculum topics and planned events. Each grade will provide a brief summary of the information that will be presented.

The times for the sessions are:

Time	Tuesday 14th February	Wednesday 15th February
5.30pm	Kindergarten	Years 1 & 2
6.00pm		Years 3 & 4
6.30pm		Years 5 & 6

Further information about the Parent Information Meetings schedule and links to access each meeting will be provided to each grade/stage separately.

These meetings are not meant for individual parent meetings. Parents who have important information they wish to communicate to their child's class teacher are encouraged to make an appointment through the school office or communicate information via an email to the school office to be passed on to the class teacher.

Parking, Morning Drop Off and Afternoon Pickup

At this time of year, it is often busier than usual, with many parents re-establishing routines for a new year. The increased traffic will impact on parking, drop-off, and pick-up. Ultimately patience will be required from parents, grandparents, and others as it won't be possible to be in and out quickly on most occasions. I ask parents to adhere to the procedures in place as a streamlined process benefit everyone.

This week I outlined the procedures for the morning and afternoon drop off and dismissal routines. Thank you to parents who are mindful of driving slowly, using the pedestrian crossing and being vigilant with their young ones. I encourage parents using drive through to have the family name card on display to assist with calling children to be ready for pick up. New family name cards will be sent home this week.

Safety is highly valued in our school community. Please remember to stay in your car when dropping off or picking up in the 'No Parking Zone' at the front of the school. When parents leave their vehicle to assist their child it slows the process down significantly and causes frustration.

I ask as a community we remain patient, keep calm and follow the protocols so that safety is maintained. Please refer to the supporting document provided earlier this week by the NSW and Local Government regarding current parking and traffic road rules around schools.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Swimming Carnival

Unfortunately, Mrs Huggins and I had to attend a meeting and were not able to attend the School Swimming Carnival last Friday. We have been told that the carnival and the Water Fun Day were overwhelming successful events thanks to the efforts of parents and teachers.

We were fortunate to have Mrs MacMahon return to facilitate the carnival prepared by Miss Fryar. It was also due to the wonderful efforts of the children who participated with good spirits in the events but also supported each other to take on a challenge and do their best. The introduction of some new fun novelty events was well received by the children who were happy to get another chance to cool down on a hot day. Congratulations to Mercy (Blue) House led by Natalia and Will for being crowned Champion House and to McAuley (Gold) House led by Ashleigh and Archer for claiming the Spirit Trophy.

Monday and Friday Assemblies

Our main assemblies each week occur on Monday and Friday mornings. Each Monday we pray (school prayer), acknowledge the traditional owners of the local area, raise the flag and sing the national anthem, celebrate birthdays and acknowledge students with behaviour awards. At Friday assemblies we acknowledge selected children for the week who have gained a merit or pastoral care awards.

Although many parents need to drop students at school each morning and then begin their day I invite and encouraging parents to consider joining us for a morning assembly from time to time.

God bless you and your families.

Todd Vane-Tempest
Principal

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 14th February - Kinder Parent Information Session - 5.30pm

Wednesday 15th February - Beginning School Mass - 9.30am

Wednesday 15th February - Parent Information Session - 5.30pm

Wednesday 22nd February - Ash Wednesday Mass - 9.45am

Friday 3rd March - P & F Welcome BBQ - 5.00pm

Wednesday 15th March - Naplan Begins

Friday 17th March - St Patrick's Feast Day Mass

Wednesday 22nd March - School Cross Country

Thursday 23rd March - School Photos

Thursday 6th April - Holy Thursday & End of Term 1

Friday 7th April - Good Friday

Sunday 9th April - Easter Sunday