

THURSDAY 9th MARCH 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 |

We recognise the Traditional Owners of the land of Hornsby Shire, the Darug and Guringai peoples, and pay respect to their Ancestors and Elders past and present.



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers, Girls and Boys,

What a great turn out to our annual 'P&F Welcome BBQ' held last Friday. It was fantastic to see families both new and experienced meeting for the first time or catching up again at the start of 2023. It certainly was a positive, relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone who were able to attend.

The free sausage sizzle, jumping castle, Zumba, drumming, tattoos, coloured hairspray, raffle and other fun activities were a great hit. I thank our P&F leadership team for facilitating the event as well as parents who have volunteered to help on each activity.

St. Patrick's Day

We are now looking forward to our next community event with our St. Patrick's Day celebrations. St. Patrick's Day is traditionally a big day on the Australian calendar that has major significance to our school community as St. Patrick is our school's name and the name of our school's patron saint.

St Patrick is one of the well-known saints around the world and is often celebrated outside of religious celebrations as well. Saints are people who have been recognised by the Church for living a life that focuses our attention towards God. We look to the saints as great models of Christianity, and we can model ourselves on the qualities the saints displayed.

St Patrick was a humble, virtuous, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in Jesus is a shining example to each of us. He is well known for bringing Christianity to Ireland and using the shamrock to explain the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

On Friday 17th March), we will have a host of activities throughout the day starting with:

- The children can wear their sports uniform and something green e.g., t-shirt, ribbon, or another accessory. Some items may be appropriate to wear after mass.
- Parents in the Morning- mums and dads are welcome and encouraged to be on site and have some fun before school begins. I encourage parents to practice some handball or skipping to prepare for a fun morning.
- A coffee van will be onsite for parents to enjoy while catching up with each other.
- All classes will celebrate St. Patrick's Feast Day Mass together at 9:30am- parents are welcome to attend.
- Free sausage sizzle and green jelly and popcorn available for purchase.
- Classroom-based activities during the day.

We are looking forward to a great celebration.

This day will begin with Parents in the Morning with both mums and dads welcome to come along to be involved in before school games and activities or catch up over a coffee from the Coffee Van.

K-2 Parent Meeting- InitialLit Program

This week parents of K-2 children had the opportunity to learn about the new InitialLit Program that is being used as part of the school's daily reading program across K-2 classrooms.

Our K-2 teaching team led by Mrs Huggins were able to explain the InitialLit program and the impact we are seeking to have on student learning. The meeting also provided an opportunity for parents to understand how they can support the program at home. I thank parents for their interest as the meeting was well attended both in person at school and online.

SRC

Congratulations to the following children who have been selected by their classmates to represent them on the Student Representative Council for 2023.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1/2 Gold (Year 2 students only) | Michael S | Sophie V |
| 2 Green | Max C | Liesel P |
| 3 Green | Oliver H | Oliviamarie G |
| 3 Gold | Hugo B | Anamaria D |
| 4 Green | Cristiano G | Lila B |
| 5 Green | Liam D | Mia N |
| 5/6 Gold | Karl C | Sophie S |
| 6 Green | Ethan A | Elena K |

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Parent Online Resource- NSW Student Learning Library

The NSW Student Learning Library was launched recently by the NSW government and was created to give parents of K-2 students access to learning resources including parent guides to the new syllabuses. There are currently more than 200 resources available on the online library, from identifying shapes to understanding pre-fixes. Topics come with short videos, activities and worksheets, making them accessible and easy to use at home. You can access these through the following link:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/initiatives/nsw-student-learning-library#/>

Pastoral Care Behaviour Focus- Use Safe and Caring Actions

This coming fortnight we will highlight the behaviour of being safe with the focus on 'Using Safe and Caring Actions'.

During Week 7, we will look at what it looks like to be safe and why this is important for our community. One example we will focus on is not sharing our food. One of the main reasons for this is that we have children in our school who have allergies to various food types including some children who are severely allergic to nuts, particularly peanuts.

I am sure that parents and teachers would recognise that not all, particularly the youngest children have the necessary knowledge at this time to navigate some of the situations that may occur when hundreds of children are sitting down to eat. They are also learning what it means to be allergic and how to reduce the risk of an anaphylactic episode.

To support these children, the school already has in place measures like children not sharing food for all students. The school is unable to police a ban on nut products, but parents can support children with allergies where possible by refraining or limiting sending nut products to school including products like peanut butter to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction.

During Week 8, we will focus on what it means to be caring. This theme will sit nicely with our Well-being Week celebrations which includes Harmony Day and a Peer Support focus on our Mercy values. During Week 8, our Year 5 and 6 Leaders will lead our younger students in learning about our Mercy Values and what it means to demonstrate these to others including showing hospitality and compassion and giving service to others.

Calendar Dates

We have some busy weeks ahead with St. Patrick's Feast Day, P&F General Meeting, the School Cross-country, school photos, K-2 Easter Hat Parade, Year 6 Easter Raffle Fundraiser, and P&F Easter Egg Hunt before our celebration of Holy Week in the lead up to Easter at the end of the term. I encourage parents to check the dates to remember and put them in the diary.

P&F General Meeting

There will be a P&F General Meeting on Tuesday 21st March from 7pm. This will be held in person at school as well as on Zoom for those that have little ones at home. All parents are welcome to attend. At the meeting our Leadership Team will outline our major learning focuses for the year ahead as well as other initiatives including the scheduled school refurbishment.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

School Open Day

Although we have only just welcomed the current Kindergarten students to our school, we are beginning preparations for our school Open Day on Thursday 18th May. You will notice the Open Day Banner displayed outside the school office that is one of several promotional initiatives we have in place. Often it is parent recommendation that is the key promotional tool that brings new enrolments to our school. If parents are aware of families that have children ready to start school next year, I encourage you to recommend our school and the offer to come and find out more information from one of our Open Day sessions.

St. Leo's Open Day- 22nd March

One of the advantages of enrolling at St. Patrick's is the clear Kinder to Year 12 pathway provided through our Priority Feeder School arrangement with St. Leo's Wahroonga. All students enrolled at St. Patrick's have a guaranteed place at St. Leo's. I encourage all parents to check out the upcoming St Leo's College 2023 Open Day on Wednesday, 22 March 2023, from 4pm to 7pm on the College grounds. Use the following link to find out more: [St. Leo's Open Day Information](#).

God bless you and your families.

**Todd Vane-Tempest
Principal**

Dates to Remember

Sunday 12th March Kindy & Yr 6 Family Parish Mass

Wednesday 15th March - Naplan Begins

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

Monday 20th March - Kinder parents visit classroom

Tuesday 21st March - P & F General Meeting - 7pm

Wednesday 22nd March - School Cross Country

Thursday 23rd March - School Photos

Friday 24th March - Kinder parents visit the classroom

Friday 31st March- Easter Hat Parade -K, 1 & 2

Friday 31st March - Yr 6 Easter raffle

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