



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
Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8am, 10am, 6pm

St Bernard's Berowra Heights
Saturday Vigil 5pm
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,

Even though we are fast approaching the end of the school year there is still much to do and celebrate. We have the Leadership Assembly with the announcement of new captains for 2024 along with the P&F Cake Stall and Coffee Van scheduled for tomorrow.

In Week 9, we have Step-up for students in Kinder to Year 5 as they find out their classes and teachers for 2024. We acknowledge and thank our Year 6 students as we celebrate their graduation, and the whole school celebrates the Christmas story at our Christmas Concert.

In Week 10 our Year 6 students enjoy their celebration day at Moving Bodies, we celebrate another wonderful year of learning, fun and community at our End of School Mass, we celebrate and farewell our leaving students with the Guard of Honour and we will acknowledge and celebrate Fr Biju's 25 years of Priesthood.

Leadership Assembly

Tomorrow we will have our Leadership Assembly to announce all badged leaders for 2024 from approximately 2:10pm. It is fantastic to have a significant number of students who have put their names forward for selection. Although there are only a few positions available I am sure the successful candidates will be congratulated and well supported by the students who have missed out on selection.

All parents are welcome to attend the Leadership Assembly which will coincide with the P&F Cake Stall and Coffee Van event.

Cake Stall

On Friday 1st December, the P&F will be running a cake stall alongside a free coffee van from 1:45pm until 3pm. The P&F would kindly ask for donations of homemade sweet treats for us to sell at the cake stall to fundraise for the P&F welcome BBQ next year. We would love to see cupcakes, cookies, slices, or any other sweet afternoon treats from our school community.

Please could you drop off any donations on either Thursday afternoon (31st Nov), or Friday (1st Dec) up to 1:30pm, in the school canteen. We ask you to mark any containers that you would like to find their way back to you, with your child's name. Please contact our P&F President, Katie Barillaro, if you would like more information.

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Christmas Concert

As you are aware, our School Christmas Concert is scheduled to be held at the Asquith Girls High School Auditorium on Friday 8th December. During the finale we will have every child on stage to sing the last song which promises to be a wonderful way to finish the evening. The children are sounding great and are looking forward to a fun evening in 1 weeks' time.

A separate communication will be sent out to parents regarding the lead up to the concert and the concert performance.

I again thank and acknowledge the work that each class teacher and the students are putting in to prepare for the Christmas Concert. I especially thank our talented music teacher Mrs Teaghan Pugsley along with our Religious Education Co-ordinator Mrs Kylie L-J for much of the behind-the-scenes preparations.

Another reminder that we are not able to hold a sausage sizzle but instead, parents are encouraged to bring along a picnic dinner that can be enjoyed prior to the concert on the grassed area outside the auditorium. We are also looking to provide some snacks and drinks for sale before the Christmas Concert.

Christmas Concert Schedule

- Gates opening around 5pm.
- Families to enjoy a picnic dinner and members of the band busking.
- Concert will begin at 6pm with class groups and choir singing Christmas Carols.
- Presentation to St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal (more information about how to support this important initiative in this newsletter)
- Acknowledgement and Good Wishes to Leaving Families
- Christmas Concert- each class presents part of the Christmas Story in song and movement. There will be a finale involving every student.

I also acknowledge and thank Asquith Girls High School for providing a weatherproof space to hold our end of year concert.

Following the concert, we would be grateful for any parent volunteers to assist with packing away the seating.

Semester 2 School Reports

The class teachers are finalising the Semester 2 Reports which will be available through your COMPASS App later in the term.

This semester report will provide information on your child's achievement in the various curriculum areas and their learning dispositions for Term 3 and Term 4. Parents are encouraged to send an email to the office if you would like to discuss the report with your child's teacher.

Step Up- Class Arrangements for 2024

I have communicated in recent newsletters that while staff take great care when finalising class groups for 2024, there is a lot to be considered. The teachers endeavour to balance the classes according to many factors including the children's social and emotional needs, academic abilities, personalities, gender, friendship groups, learning needs and work habits.

Other factors that impact class arrangements are school enrolments (grade size) and staffing allocation. These two factors combined can have a significant bearing on what is possible across the school regarding grade and class structures.

Often at St. Patrick's, the establishment of stage classes across two grades due to enrolment numbers is inevitable. As the classes in a stage group are taught the same topics and syllabus outcomes over two years, we can combine these groups without changing or impacting the learning required. There are no special criteria for children who are selected to be in a stage class.

Next week, the children in Kinder to Year 5 will find out their class group and class teacher for 2024. I ask parents to please 'talk up' your child's teacher and potential options in the lead-up to this date. It is the best way to ensure a positive build-up to next year.

Please do not engage in discussions that might inadvertently undermine our very hardworking staff, or indeed families and children in classes. This achieves very little good but often sets the way for hurt feelings and difficulties.

We have organised for the children to spend some time with their new teacher on the afternoon of Wednesday 6th December which will be a helpful transition to learning in 2024.

It takes many hours to determine the classes across all year groups. Once classes at school are announced, we cannot change them. I thank you for your support of our school and look forward to a great year of learning in 2024.

We ask parents to contact the school via email or phone call if your circumstances have changed and you will be leaving the school at the end of the year.

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Enrolment Opportunities at St. Leo's Wahroonga

Yesterday I communicated to parents that St. Leo's has advised that after several rounds of offers for Year 7 2025, they are now at waitlist stage for any remaining 2025 applicants who have not yet advised St. Leo's via the online enquiry form that they are interested in attending St Leo's.

All applications received to date from each Priority Feeder School have been offered a position, however any remaining late 2025 applicants will now need to join the waitlist. To give an indication of numbers, St. Leo's will be accepting just over 200 Year 7s in 2025, and already have an additional 80+ on our waiting list for that year.

Attached is an advertisement that I will also place in the school newsletter along with this reminder to enrol now if you are interested in sending your child/ren to St. Leo's. I take this opportunity to highlight this to all families but especially our Year 3 and 4 families that now would be the ideal time for them to complete an online application for St Leo's. I understand that St. Leo's have applications that go up to 2036. By applying now, you ensure that your application is further up on the priority list. A reminder also that there are no application or acceptance fees involved for St Leo's.

Building Works

The Building Works have started with some preliminary work being carried out on site by various trades. There has been a delay in delivering the Temporary Classroom and Building Site Offices due to access, safety provisions and weather. These are now expected to be delivered on Monday 4th December. Other works have also been delayed and the expected movement of classes and equipment will not happen until late in Week 10. This decision will minimise impact on classes for this year.

Kuringai-Chase Parish

Parents are encouraged to click on the link to connect with all the current information regarding the parish through parish website including the weekly Parish Bulletin. [Link- Parish Bulletin](#)

Parish Children's Choir would like to thank all our families for a fantastic cake stall last Sunday, to raise money for Vinnies Christmas Appeal. This Friday, 1st December, we will finish the year with our annual Christmas party at 5pm outside the church, after our usual 4pm practice. If you can bring some Christmas goodies to share, that would be great! Parents/carers/ siblings also invited! This will be our final practice for 2023. Further information: Patricia Smith 9482 7935

Save the Date! For an evening of beautiful Christmas Carols for the whole family on Wednesday 20th December at 7.30pm in St Patrick's church. Come and sing along and feel the true Christmas spirit.

God bless,

Todd Vane-Tempest

Principal

Dates to Remember

Term 4

Thursday 7th December -Year 6 Graduation

Friday 8th December -Christmas Concert performance

Monday 11th December - Year 6 Celebration Day - Moving Bodies

Wednesday 13th December -End of year whole school Mass & Guard of Honour (Yr 6 last day)

Thursday 14th December -Last day of school for students (K-5)

Friday 15th December - Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day)

Term 1 - 2024

Tuesday 30th January - Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day)

Wednesday 31st January - Year 1-6 Students return to school

Friday 2nd February - Kindergarten Start School