

# St Nicholas of Myra School

PO Box 265, Penrith 2751. Phone: (02) 4752 3300

Email: [stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Website: <http://www.stnicholaspenrith.catholic.edu.au>

Term 4 Week 3 2020

## OUR PBS4L MASCOT HAS ARRIVED!

Thank you to all the students and families who participated in our PBS4L Mascot competition. We had a great number and variety of entries, each reflecting our faith, school values, expectations and local Indigenous heritage.

### THE PROCESS

After receiving the entries, Ms Knezevic and Mrs Camilleri set them out in the learning space and invited the members of the Student Representative Council and two representatives from each stage, K-6, to look at these. During this time, they looked at the designs and the meaning behind each mascot. The students engaged in rich discussion about what they liked about the mascots, including the colours, animals, expectations and so on. The students also discussed how they liked elements of various mascots and we explained that these elements can be used to help create the final design. Each student chose their top 3 mascots and explained why they liked them. These responses were tallied and recorded.



We then did this same process with the staff, inviting them to look at the entries and discuss what they liked about them. The staff also selected their top three mascots and this was tallied and recorded.



Following this, we then looked at the mascots that had been chosen the most and there were two clear favourites; the Kookaburra and water dragon. We then presented this to the students in a Google Slide which explained the characteristics of each animal and where they are in our local area. The students and staff then anonymously voted for their favourite on a slip of paper.

This led us to our final mascot...

On a momentous Monday morning, 26 October 2020, St Nicholas of Myra students gathered in the playground in anticipation of what mascot had won. A large wrapped box was placed in front of each stage, ready to unveil the winning mascot. The countdown began... 3, 2, 1... out popped colourful balloons with... The KOOKABURRA! The students cheered and were very excited.



## Characteristics of the Kookaburra

The Great Spirit Biامي created the first Kookaburra to call out when the sun rose each morning to awaken the people and day creatures. He did this with a loud, ringing laugh so the people and creatures awoke with gladness in their hearts; and so the Great Spirit Biامي was happy too.

One important thing to note about Kookaburra is that he must NEVER be mocked. It is absolute Lore. Although this fellow appears to be bursting with self-confidence, he is indeed a sensitive soul. Any teasing will result in hurting the Kookaburra's feelings so deeply, he won't waken the star people. Imagine living without the sun!

### ***The Kookaburra (is):***

The older Kookaburras help to feed their younger siblings. This connects to the work that St Mary MacKillop and St Nicholas of Myra did which continues to be a focus within our school today, *"Truth through Learning"* and *"Never see a need without doing something about it"*.

- family spirit and looks out for others
- a healer / forgives
- brings change
- optimistic and joyful
- shares for the greater good



## WINNERS

The three successful applicants who drew the Kookaburra were; Hannah Rebernik and Byron Faapoi of Stage 2 and Michael Nagaretnam of Stage 1. We would like to thank and congratulate these students.



Byron Faapoi



Hannah Rebernik



Michael Nagaretnam



## STUDENTS' REFLECTIONS OF THE REVEAL

**Kindy:** Irene Harris

*I liked the balloons because they could fly. I like the Kookaburra because they laugh and I have seen a real one before. The Kookaburras wake up all the animals with their loud laughter.*



**Year 1:** Michael Reales *I felt happy and excited because we were doing something new. At first I thought it was going to be a water dragon but the clues changed my mind.*



**Year 2:** Alyssa Mirukaj

*I was happy and surprised with the Mascot reveal because I was hoping for the Kookaburra. I like the chosen mascot because of its characteristics like, it brings a change.*



**Year 3:** Zain Danil

*I like that it is an Australian animal and the colours link to the school. I was excited when I saw the big box and was wondering what was inside. When I saw it was balloons, I felt proud of my school and glad we had a great mascot.*



**Year 4:** Xavier Isaac

*I was confused with what was happening and then I was excited to see which mascot was picked. Once I saw it was the Kookaburra and was glad we have a mascot for PBS4L.*



**Year 5:** Matthew Fidler

*I was surprised when the teachers walked out with really big boxes wrapped in wrapping paper. I was confused about what might be in it. I was trying to think about what could be inside. I heard them say the word, 'mascot' and I thought, "what does a giant box have to do with a mascot?" Then they opened the box and out came a bunch of balloons with Kookaburras on them! I thought it was going to be the Kookaburra because the clues that were given really led me towards the Kookaburra instead of the water dragon. The Kookaburra is a good choice for our school because it represents our area and the country we are in.*

**Year 6B:** Rachel Idris

*When the teachers walked out with all the different wrapper boxes I was wondering what could be hidden inside and then Ms Knezevic started talking about the PBS4L mascot. I thought then that some kind of animal was going to come out of the box. When the teachers started unravelling the boxes and the balloons popped out I at first was confused but then I saw the image of the Kookaburra and knew this must be our mascot. I think the Kookaburra is a great choice as it is native to our country and I like Kookaburras. How exciting that we now get to name the mascot.*



**Year 6G:** Keeva LeMaire

*I liked how the reveal was a big surprise because I love surprises. I like how they revealed the Kookaburra by opening the boxes. I think the Kookaburra is a good mascot because it is native to Australia. They also help out and do a lot for their family. Our school is like a family so the Kookaburra will be able to do a lot for our school.*



Another **BIG** thank you to all the students and families who took the time to enter the competition for our school. We greatly appreciate your time and effort!

PBS4L Team

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

On November 1 we celebrate All Saints Day and on November 2 All Souls Day in the Catholic Church. The Gospel reading for All Saints Day is the Beatitudes. Jesus gave us the Beatitudes at the Sermon on the Mount. In the Bible, the mountain is regarded as a place where God reveals himself. Jesus, by preaching on the mount, reveals Himself to be a divine teacher. He didn't give us the Beatitudes and then wanted us to fail. He wanted to give us something to aim for, to work on our whole life to try to achieve and help us to flourish.

Mary and the saints give us an example of a life lived according to the Beatitudes. A Saint is someone who the Church believes is in heaven with God. Wrongly, we often think Saints are perfect, but in fact their greatest witness is how they coped with the ordinary difficulties of life and how they reflected in a variety of ways the love of God. The Beatitudes are said to be a road map for Christians given to us by Jesus which show us how to follow His example. As Catholics we are called to follow Him and live a Christian life. On January 19 this year Pope Francis said "The beatitudes always bring joy; they are the way to joy," Pope Francis said that the beatitudes should be considered "a Christian's identity card" because they reveal "the face of Jesus himself." The Beatitudes are a beautiful reminder of what we can become, if we trust and believe. Thousands of years later, they still speak to us and call us to live more fully as Christian people.



**Mt 5:1-12**

*Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:*

*'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.*

*Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.*

*Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.*

*Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.*

*Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.*

*Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.*

*Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'*

We can reflect as a family on the Beatitudes using the questions below:

- What do we consider to be our family's greatest riches?
- How do we find comfort in our family?
- How do we resolve conflict in our families?
- How do we show forgiveness to one another?
- What risks do we take to make peace?

Gracious God, You have so richly blessed us with life, with love and joy, with hope in the midst of despair. Help us to be the salt of the earth. Help us to be the light of the world, sharing with others that which we have received, boldly proclaiming the good news of Your love, finding the seeds of Your kingdom within us and letting Your way grow in our lives and throughout the world. Amen

Peace and Joy  
Anita Knezevic

# General News

## **Enrolments for 2021**

We understand that family circumstances alter and that children sometimes need to change schools. If you know that you will not be attending St Nicholas of Myra in 2021 please advise the school and complete a notification of leaving form that is available from the school office. You are reminded that concerns regarding financial difficulties is not a reason for seeking another school, as the Catholic Education Office and St Nicholas of Myra can and will assist families with meeting these costs when genuine financial difficulties arise.

We have healthy enrolments for most classes in 2021, with some children on waiting lists, so in fairness to these families we ask you to let us know if you are changing schools. If you know of anyone considering a Catholic school education for their child at St Nicholas of Myra from 2021, in any grade, please encourage them to contact the school as soon as possible to assist us with our planning.

## **Advance Notice around End of Year Dates.**

In Term 1 Week 9, we notified families about these events dates. Then COVID -19 arrived and changed many events. Below is a reminder of these dates as we move into Term 4. These may be subject to change in relation to the Parish needs and the Parish Priest and the Government's advice specifically in relation to COVID-19. We are still awaiting advice from the Government and CEDP for some of these events; however I did not wish for anyone to not be aware. Once we have confirmation we will inform you as soon as possible.

## **Term 4**

### **Week 8:**

- Swim School - Monday 30 November to Friday 4 December 2020 (at this point in time we are going ahead with this program with students only)
- Christmas Concert - Thursday 3 December 2020 (at this point in time we are not sure how this will occur whether via facebook live etc)

### **Week 9:**

- Wednesday 9 December 2020 - Year 6 Graduation Fun Day
- Friday 11 December 2020 - End of Year Mass, End of Year Awards (at this point in time we are going ahead with these end of year events with students only)

### **Week 10:**

- Monday 14 December 2020 - Year 6 Farewell Arch (at this point in time we are not sure how this will occur whether via Facebook live etc)
- Monday 14 December 2020 - 10:30 - 11:00 am Transition to new learning spaces and/or stages.
- Tuesday 15 December - Swimming Carnival with Ribbons being awarded at the end of each race
- LAST DAY for STUDENTS! (at this point in time we are going ahead with this carnival with students only).

### **Staff Development Days:**

***Wednesday 16, Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December 2020 (no students on site)***

# General News

## 2020 Excursion Levy

As COVID-19 has changed our ability to attend some excursions we have been able to provide incursions for all stages this year. Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 normally attend a farm or zoo experience; instead they had the farm visit including a sausage sizzle. Stage 2 usually visit Nepean Lakes; instead they had a Science incursion which included a sausage sizzle. Stage 3 were able to experience their excursion of Teen Ranch just before COVID-19 occurred. Our other whole school events still occurred, for example; Life Education, World of Maths and Music Aviva.

At this point in time we have Risk Assessments for the Swimming Program, Carnival and Bus Transport. We are able to, as advised by the NSW Government and CEDP Health Advice to attend these important excursions. Further details regarding parent attendance at these events will be communicated over the coming weeks as further advice is given.

## 'Kiss and Drive' Zone

It has come to our attention that the procedures around dropping off and collecting of children from the 'Kiss and Drive' zone are not being adhered to and are causing some concern in relation to the safety and convenience of our children and families.

Essentially, the 'Kiss and Drive' zone allows for only a two minute period where a vehicle can be stationary and children may be dropped off or picked up

- The driver or adult passenger **MUST NOT** leave the vehicle.
- Children must vacate the car from the left hand side (footpath)
- Avoid putting school bags in the boot (see note below)



**Families with more than 3 children require the use of the boot for their school bags, so please be mindful when approaching a vehicle already stopped that there is a safe and enough space to ensure safety for the students collecting their bags.**

- Make sure your child's school bag is packed and organised and zipped up before you leave home
- Do not park across our neighbours driveways
- Do not overtake vehicles who are in the carline with children exiting/entering their vehicle

We are very fortunate to have a well developed 'Kiss and Drive' zone that operates smoothly when all concerned follow correct procedure. Thanking you for your cooperation and support.

# Religious Education

## Operation Christmas Child

This year the staff of St Nicholas of Myra generously donated boxes of hope and joy for children around the world to open for Christmas. Operation Christmas Child is a hands-on way for you to bless children in need across the world by filling shoe boxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts.

Samaritan's Purse, the organisation responsible for this initiative writes: 'We want boys and girls around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Children need great joy now more than ever! Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.'

Check out the website today to learn more about this mission initiative.

[Operation Christmas Child](#)



## Religious Education and Reports

As we are in the process of trialling the Draft New Curriculum the report comments you receive this Semester will be focused on the essential content and learning expectations from the learning cycle completed from the New Draft Curriculum. Each unit of work has several statements of Essential Content and Learning Expectations which the students cover over their term of learning. We will continue with the five dot points; three on what the child is able to do as well as two for their next steps in learning.

## Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education

When it is launched in late 2021 the Draft New Curriculum will replace 'Sharing Our Story,' the current curriculum that has been in place for more than 20 years. For several years now, our Catholic community has been working together to update the way we share our faith with children and young people.

The Draft New Curriculum remains faithful to Sacred Scripture and Tradition while ensuring that the way that the learning and teaching happens is kept up-to-date. The Catholic Education Office is continuing to make changes based on feedback from clergy, parents, teachers and students.

A guide to Understanding the Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education in the Diocese of Parramatta has also been provided on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website to help community members learn more.

## Crazy Sock Day

Thank you to all the students and staff who participated in Crazy Sock Day on Friday 23 October. We raised \$253.60 which will be donated to Catholic Mission. This year the money is being used to help empower children and young adults with disability at the Arrupe Centre in Cambodia, which provides vital care for those who would otherwise have limited opportunities or support to lead a fulfilling life.





Truth Through Learning

## Tell them from Me (TTFM) Learning survey

In Term Three, students, parents and teachers completed the 2020 Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Learning survey. Thank you to our parents who took the time to complete the 2020 survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community your feedback is greatly appreciated. The information that has been provided is being used to further develop our partnership and to further improve student learning and wellbeing St Nicholas of Myra.

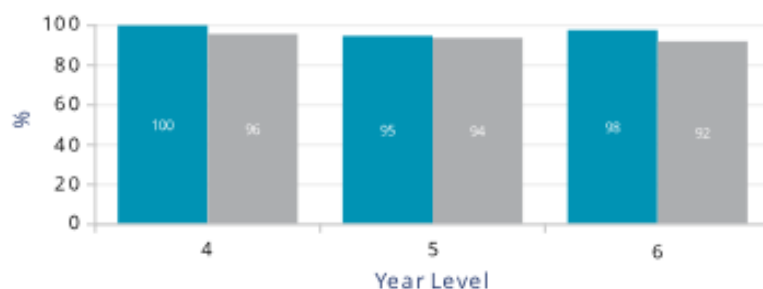
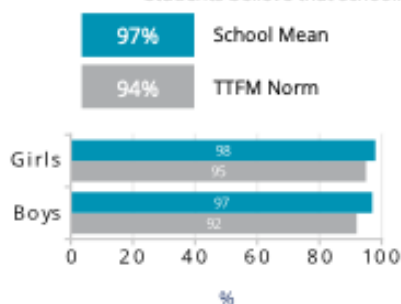
### Student

#### Celebrations

- 41% of students had scores that placed them in a desirable quadrant with high skills and high challenge.
- Students, especially Year 6, feel like they have someone to turn to for advice.
- Students feel that teachers respond to their needs and encourage them.
- Students believe that schooling is useful in their everyday life and will have a strong bearing on their future.
- Students have friends at school they can trust and who encourage them to make positive choices.
- Students feel classroom instruction is well-organised, with a clear purpose, and with immediate feedback that helps them learn.
- Students are not subjected to moderate to severe physical, social, or verbal bullying, or are bullied over the Internet.
- My school helps me to apply the teachings of Jesus in my life.

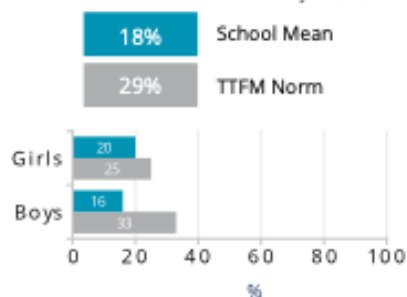
### Students that value schooling outcomes

Students believe that schooling is useful in their everyday life and will have a strong bearing on their future.



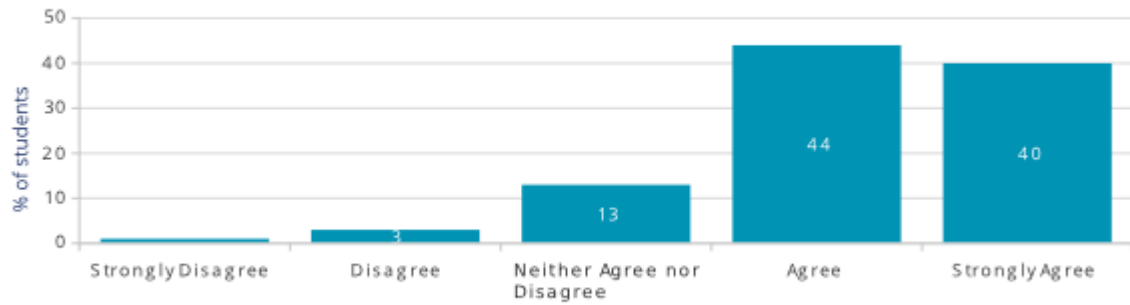
### Students who are victims of bullying

Students who are subjected to moderate to severe physical, social, or verbal bullying, or are bullied over the Internet.

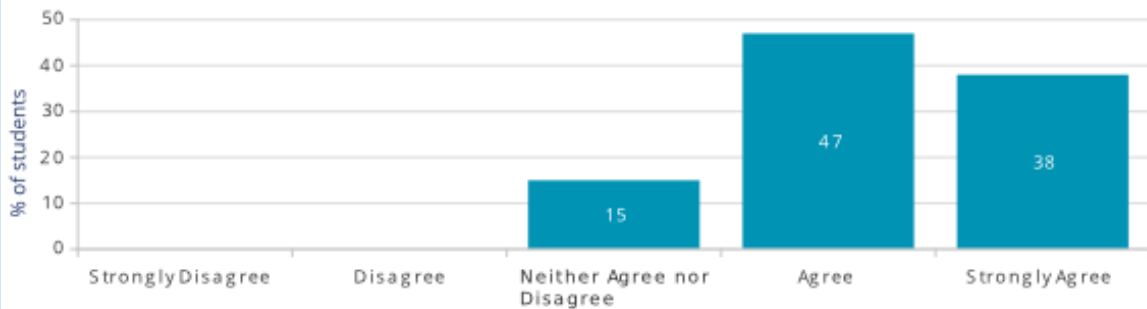


### 2020 Mission - Tell Them From Me Questions

My school helps me grow in my understanding of Jesus.



My school provides me with meaningful opportunities to engage in prayer.

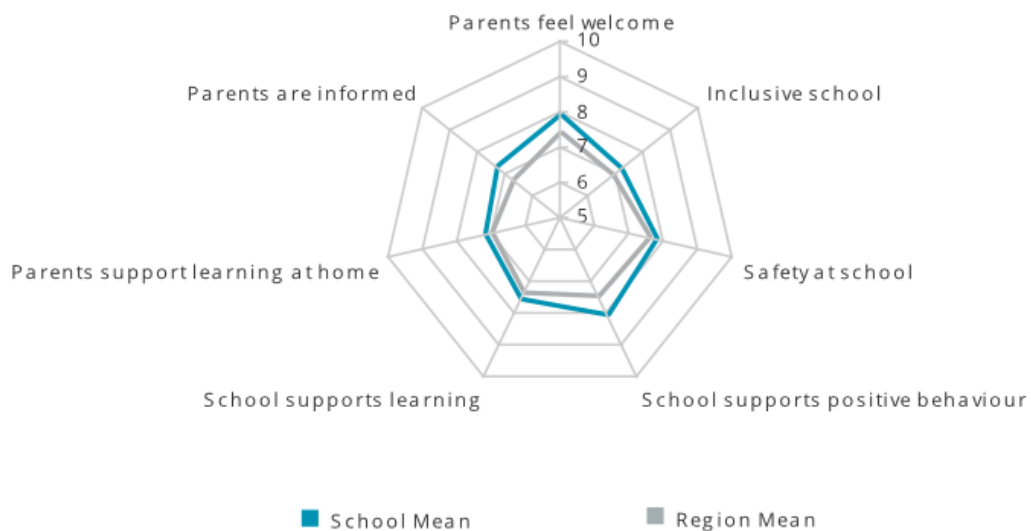


#### Opportunities/ Next Steps

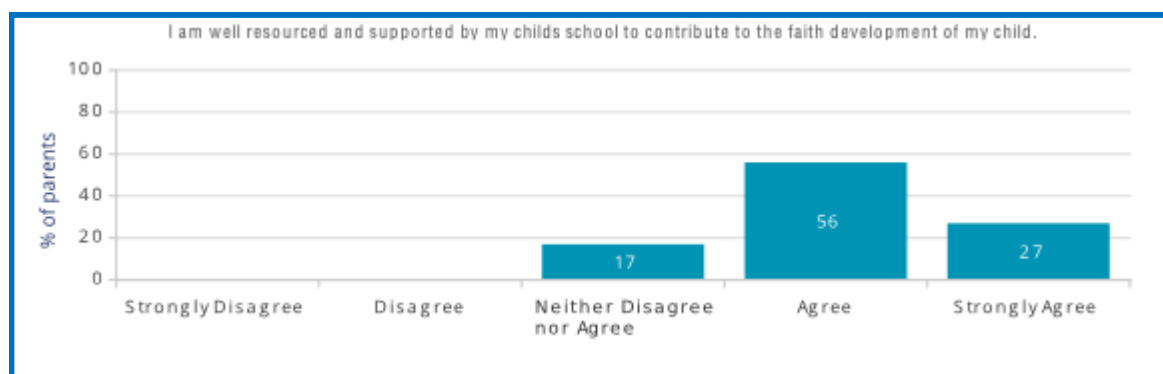
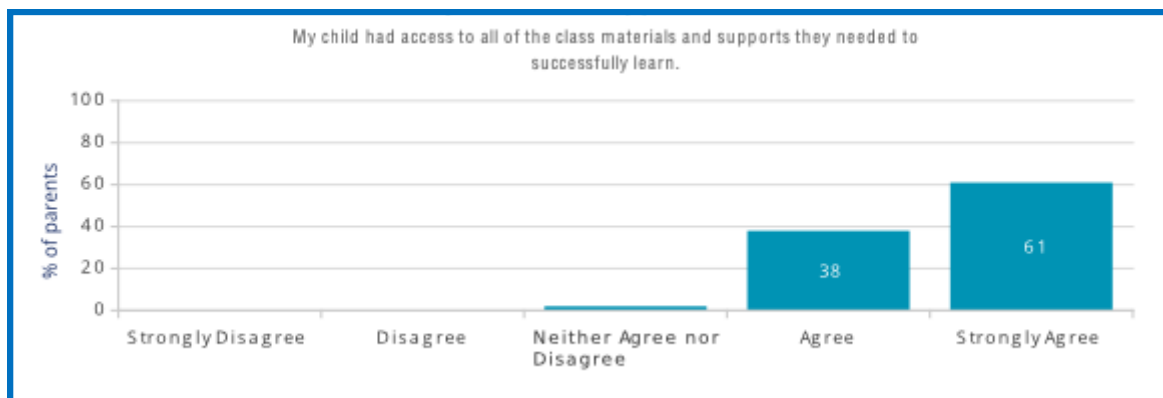
- Students completing their homework in a timely manner .
- Students to be more motivated in their learning.
- Unpack, 'What is bullying'?- how to be cybersafe (Year 4), a learning programme occurring in Year 4 this term.

#### Parent

Celebrations



- **St Nicholas' parents rated St Nicholas of Myra higher than averages of other schools in the region in ALL key areas.**
- Parents are well informed about school activities.
- Parents think teachers take an interest and have high expectations for their child.
- Parents were communicated/ informed when there are concerns about child's behaviour at school.
- Parents feel that they talk to the teacher 2 or 3+ times a year.
- Parents feel children feel safe at school.
- Parents feel teachers understand students' needs.
- Less parents felt their child was excluded.
- Parents perception of online communication tools have increased.



#### **Opportunities/ Next Steps**

- More regular positive communications/ check ins with parents for ALL students.
- Teacher check-ins around student homework.
- Explicit teaching around social bullying- strategies on how to address it.

#### **Staff**

##### **Celebrations**

- Teachers select high expectations for student learning.
- Teachers set clear expectations for classroom behaviour.
- School leaders have helped create new learning opportunities for students.
- Staff are regularly available to help students' learning needs.

#### **Opportunities/ Next Steps**

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, next year we would like to involve parents in the learning spaces more regularly again.

## Correspondence

- ☺ Crazy Sock Day with Penrith Panthers Colours - Fri 23 Oct
- ☺ Head Lice Case
- ☺ Year 6 Graduation Update
- ☺ 2021 Kindergarten Transition Note
- ☺ Current families help for 2021 Kindergarten Transition
- ☺ Billy Cart Incursion - Kindergarten
- ☺ Swim School Notes
- ☺ Curriculum Overviews

## St Nicholas of Myra Parish

326 High St Penrith  
4721 2509

### Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm  
Sunday 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am & 6:00pm

### Weekday Masses:

Monday 9.30am  
Tuesday 6:45am, 9.30am  
Wednesday 6:45am, 9:30am  
Thursday 9:30am  
Friday 6:45am, 12:10pm



### Friday 30 October

- ☑ Assembly - In class

### Sunday 1 November

- ☑ All Saints Day

### Monday 2 November

- ☑ All Souls Day
- ☑ Billy Cart Incursion—Kindergarten

### Thursday 5 November

- ☑ 2021 Kindergarten Transition Session 2 9:30 - 10:30am (H—Z Child Surnames)

### Friday 6 November

- ☑ Suzanne Bannister's Farewell Mass - 9:30am (via Livestream)

### Monday 9 November

- ☑ Leadership Speeches

### Wednesday 11 November

- ☑ Remembrance Day Service 10:50am

### Thursday 12 November

- ☑ 2021 Kindergarten Transition Session 3 - All Students 9:30 - 10:30am

