

St Nicholas of Myra School

PO Box 265, Penrith 2751. Phone: (02) 4752 3300 Fax: (02) 4752 3399

Email: stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au

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

Term 4 Week 3
2021

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

On Monday 25 October we welcome ALL students back K-6 ! Yippee!! ALL of our staff are so excited to have you all return to our school for face to face learning. There has never been a more apt time than to celebrate our Teachers! The switch from face to face to remote learning has been accepted with such grace and passion to keep the learning experiences happening at home with your Parents/Carers taking up the face to face aspect.

I would like to thank and publicly acknowledge the love, care, support and dedication our staff have toward their vocation of teaching and more importantly the love of students in their care. Thank you for saying yes and being so generous in giving of your time towards our school for our students. I am truly blessed and privileged to work alongside such a great group of professionals and kind hearted people. Thank you ! Thank you ! Thank you and

.....Happy World Teachers Day!

Lord Jesus, giver of all wisdom, greatest of all Teachers, look upon our teachers with love.

Grant them the resolve to nurture our eager minds and to never give up on those who fall behind.

Bless their hearts, for they rejoice when we succeed and encourage us when we fall.

Endow them with gentle patience, for the path of learning is never easy.

Kindle a spirit of passion in them; it is the flame that ignites the love of learning in us.

Help them to see the potential in every student; their belief in us means much more than the grade we make.

Instil in them a commitment to keep on learning; it shows us never to fear new knowledge and experiences.

Inspire them to touch the future; they influence how big a dream we dream for ourselves.

Bless our teachers of the past, for their work endures to this day.

Lord Jesus, let the light of your example shine upon all teachers, to encourage us with their words, to love us with their minds and to share with their hearts. Amen.

(Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines – Circular 18-09)

Peace and Joy

Anita Knezevic

Principal



School Fees Statements

We are aware of the financial strain that COVID-19 is having on some families and its impact on their capacity to pay school fees. We ask families to pay 'what they can when they can'. If you have any queries regarding your account or your payment arrangements, please contact Rhonda Shirvington on 0247 523 300 or myra-prthfees@parra.catholic.edu.au. If you are already on a payment arrangement or are awaiting the outcome of a concession application, then the statement you receive early Term 4 is for information purposes only.

COVID-19 Cancelled Excursion/activities

With the current uncertainty around whether excursions/activities will go ahead for the remainder of the year, please understand that it is hard to know when to make the decision to cancel an event. We can still make adjustments for the Information Statements we send in Term 4. Where events are held in Term 4 after these statements have been produced, we will make the adjustment prior to issuing Instalment 1 2022 Statements.

Reversal/Refunds

The reversal of cancelled excursions/activities together with accounts paid in full has led to these accounts now being in credit. If an account is for a continuing student, the credit will be applied to 2022 fees. For students moving to another school within the Diocese, the credit balance will be moved to the new account.

Term 4 Information Statements will be sent with a due date of 18 November 2021. This is a week later than what was scheduled as part of the 2021 School Fee Billing Schedule.



Welcome back to Kindergarten and Year 1

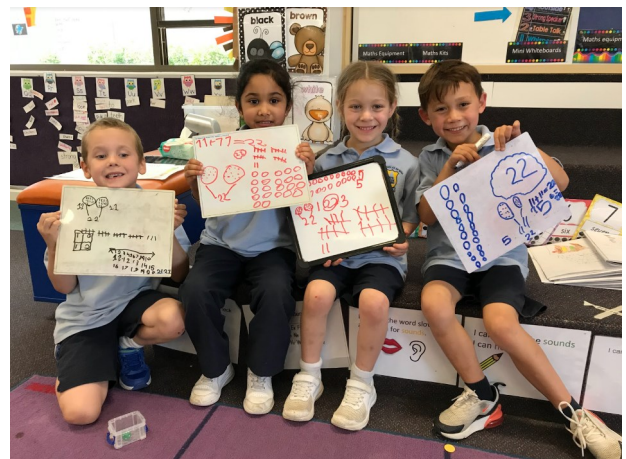
St Nicholas of Myra staff were so excited to welcome students back this week. There were lots of smiling faces as Kindergarten and Year 1 returned to school. We can't wait for Year 2-6 to return next week on Monday 25 October 2021!



Kindergarten

Robert- I like being back at school because I can play with my friends and learn about God in Religion.

Devika- I like being back at school because I loved seeing the balloons outside the school and seeing my teachers again.



Year 1

Chris - I like being back at school because we are learning together and I got to meet my friends again.

Bridget - I am enjoying being back at school because I can play with my friends and we are back together as a group.



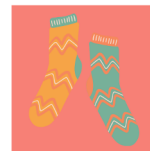
Formation

Socktober is an initiative of Catholic Mission. One way in which our school can be involved is to engage in advocacy and formation activities for Catholic Mission during World Mission Month in October.

The 'sock it to something' concept is an Australian expression that means to strike out at. We want to help Catholic Mission strike out at social issues, such as; poverty, child labour, child trafficking, homelessness and lack of education and to do so we are helping to raise awareness.

On **Friday 22 October 2021** the students are invited to wear crazy socks to school or on their Zoom. As students in Year 2-6 will be participating via Zoom they are encouraged to get creative with their socks and perhaps wear them on their hands, ears or even in their hair to support this initiative. Students will complete an awareness raising activity during the day.

Please note this is **not** a mufti dress day and students are still required to wear their school uniform and shoes as per the School Uniform Policy if learning on site.



Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to the students in Year 5 and 6 who are currently completing the Sacrament of Confirmation lessons via Zoom. We have you all in our prayers as you continue on your faith journey. We wish you all the best for your Sacrament of Confirmation in November.

Parish Mass

On a Friday Stages are normally scheduled on to attend the 12pm Friday Parish Mass at the Church. At this time although the Church is open for Mass we are unable to attend as a school group in line with the CSNSW guidelines. Once we are able to attend Parish Mass this will be communicated.

Drivers please remember you must stay seated in their car.

Some people have been parking in the zone for much greater length of time and getting out of their vehicles to walk children to the entrance gates in the morning. This is inconvenient for other drivers.

Make sure bags and hats are easily accessible and children must leave the car from left hand side near to the kerb.



It is a great anticipated joy that Mrs and Mr Camilleri will be welcoming their new baby as Mrs Camilleri begins her maternity leave.

I am sure you will join me in wishing the Camilleri family a healthy baby and Mum and joy at this precious time! Oh and fingers crossed for some sleep! When it's safe we cannot wait to meet Baby Camilleri!

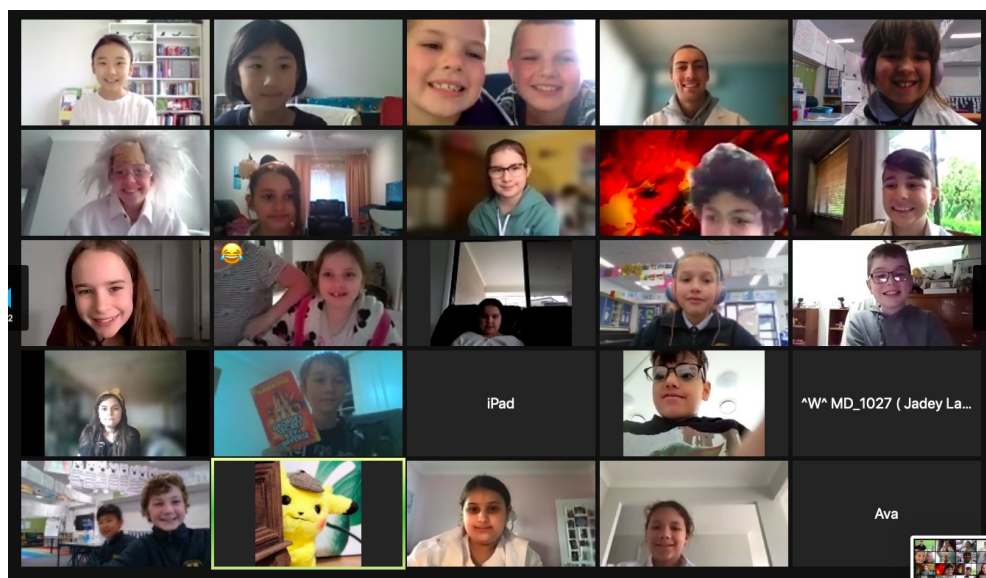
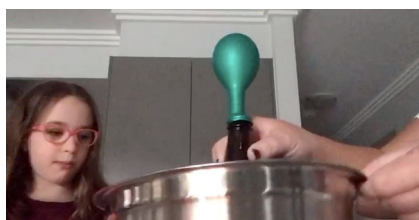
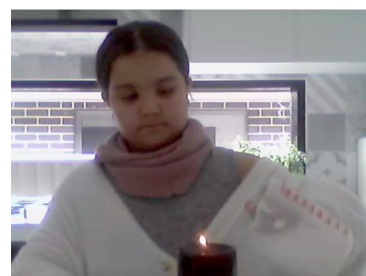
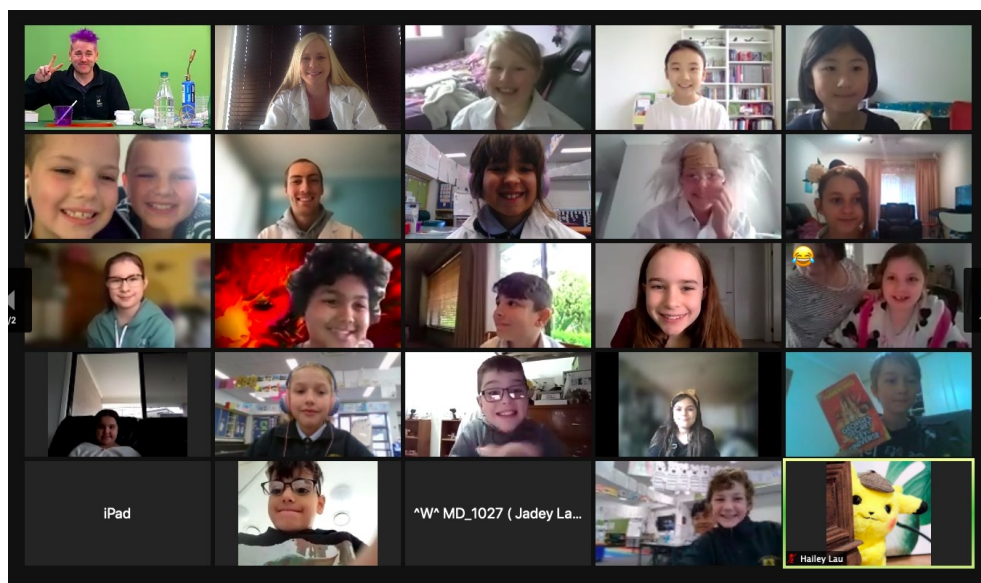
Stage 2 Science Incursion Fun Day!

On Tuesday 12 October, Stage 2 enjoyed a day of science learning to tie in with their Science Unit about 'States of Matter'. The students began the day with a Zoom led by Rusty from 'Fizzics Education'. The students were in awe of what they saw and learnt during the talk and presentation of experiments.

During the middle session, we spent the time together on Zoom where the students shared which scientist they dressed up as and gave some information about why they chose the scientist and what they investigated, invented or researched. They had a lot of fun showing off their knowledge about the states of matter through trivia using Kahoot.

The afternoon was a scene of excitement, chaos and mess! The students were able to try different experiments looking at the states of matter. They then reflected and explained what they learnt and why things happened.

What a fun day!



The incursion was amazing! We learnt about hot and cold and what they really meant. We also learnt about different types of thermometers and some cool experiments. I enjoyed the experiments but thought the ones involving fire were a bit dangerous. I think the incursion could be improved for future lessons by explaining things deeper and with simpler words. I would recommend this to every school because all students would be shocked by the experiments. I give it a rating of 4 out of 5 because of the danger of fire. **Sophia Yang**



Today, on Tuesday 12 October, Stage 2 had a science incursion. We had an amazing time. There was fire, balloons and **much much more**. I enjoyed all the experiments and learning about hot and cold. I would recommend these experiments to anyone 6 and over. I would rate this a 5 of 5 stars! **Lilah Surene**



Wow! What an experience that was!

I learnt that science is very fun and very very exciting. My favourite part was when he did the tea bag science experiment.

It's an amazing way to see how science is in our everyday life, my whole family enjoyed it! **Nicholas Falzon**

Science incursion

Review and Recommendation

I learned about, that water takes out fire and that fire can not burn water, because, what Rusty was trying to do with the balloons, he tried to burn the balloon that was filled with water, but it did nothing, it didn't burn, but with the balloon that was filled with air, it got popped by the fire, because air is a Gas and it popped easily.

What I liked

I liked how that, glass swirly thing with the red liquid inside of it, went up and went down because when you touch the bottom of it, the red liquid goes up, but when you touch the top of it, the liquid goes down so i thought that that was pretty cool!

What I disliked

Now what i disliked was when Rusty had 2 balloons and the gas balloon was the one he got and then he grabbed some fire and we all thought what it was gonna do and it popped so loud and it made me jump, i was so scared LOL it was funny but scary i did not like that.

Recommendation

I recommend this to schools because its fun, scary sometimes and can also help with learning about the states of matter. This was so much fun i really loved it!

By Hannah Rebernik



2021 NAPLAN CELEBRATING our SUCCESS!

In May this year, our Year 3 and Year 5 students participated in the 2021 Naplan assessments. Congratulations to all students for their hard work, persistence and resolve in completing the annual assessments!

St Nicholas of Myra has achieved some outstanding results which is a credit to the hard work of everyone in the school community.

Writing

An increase of 8.4% of students in the top two bands of Year 3 Writing and 14.8 % increase in Year 5 in the top two bands.

Three Year 3 students in the top 4% of the state.

Year 5 average growth well exceeded the NSW state average by 15.5 scale points.

Reading

An increase of 9% of students in the top two bands of Year 3 reading and 9.5% increase in Year 5 in the top two bands.

Year 5 average growth well exceeded the NSW state average by 19.7 scale points.

Language Conventions - Grammar and Punctuation/ Spelling

Grammar and Punctuation

An increase of 7% of students in the top two bands of Year 3 Language Convention - Grammar and Punctuation and 6% increase in Year 5 in the top two bands.

Year 5 average growth well exceeded the NSW state average by 17.8 scale points.

Spelling

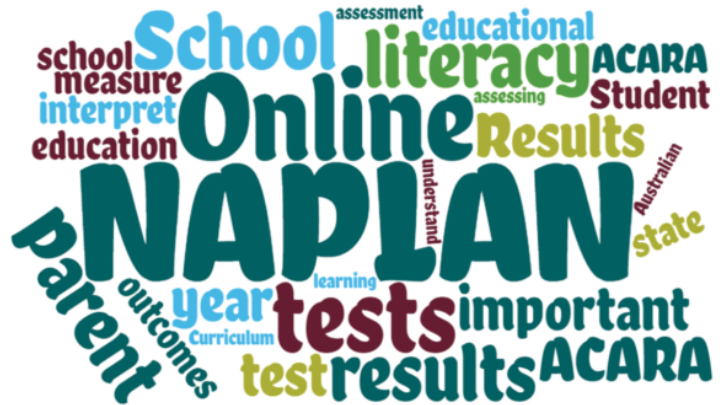
An increase of 15.4% of students in the top two bands of Year 3 Language Convention- Spelling and 9.6% increase in Year 5 in the top two bands.

Year 5 growth well exceeded the NSW state average by 27.8 scale points.

Numeracy

Year 3 and Year 5 both maintained the percentage of students in the top two bands and shifted student results from the bottom two bands to the middle bands.

Year 5 average growth well exceeded the NSW state average by 17.2 scale points.



Got It!



Returning to school – tips for caregivers

Worried about your child returning to school?

Back to school facts:

- Face-to-face learning with a trained educator is important for child health and wellbeing.
- Children learn better when physically at school with their peers.
- Daily connection to peers and your school community fosters your child's social and emotional development.
- School staff are there to keep your children healthy and will model safe behaviour.



Masks:

- School staff are required to wear face masks and it's strongly recommended that primary school students wear face masks when indoors.
- Teachers will be utilising frequent opportunities to ensure that children wearing masks feel comfortable and are supported by their peers.
- If your child is feeling worried about the reactions of others for wearing or not wearing a mask, validate their emotions and let them know that they can talk to you or their teachers.
- Some people will be able to wear masks easily and others may have a more difficult time. Let your child know that the reasons for this are not always visible or obvious. Encourage empathy and kindness.

Adult worries vs child worries:

- Feelings of stress, anxiety or uncertainty about school return are normal. Acknowledge your own worries and focus on what is within your control.
- Avoid introducing your own worries to your child where possible. Instead discuss your concerns with your adult support network (e.g. partners or spouses, teachers etc.) out of your child's presence.
- Remain calm and let your child know that the big problems will be managed between adults, they can focus on learning and fun.



NBMLHD Got It! October 2021

 **Health**
Nepesin Blue Mountains
Local Health District

Correspondence

- ☺ Term 4 Week 1 Remote Learning Survey and Reminder
- ☺ Monday 4 October Public Holiday
- ☺ Rebecca Teulan Announcement
- ☺ Return to School and Update
- ☺ Term 4 Week 2 Remote Learning Survey and Reminder
- ☺ Lowes 20% off School wear Sale
- ☺ Updated Return to School Plan
- ☺ Parent Friendly Reminder—Hair and Cuts
- ☺ Introduction of 'Ambrose' (COSH C)
- ☺ Transition back to School—'Yay'
- ☺ Term 4 Week 3 Remote Learning Survey and Reminder Years 2—6 only
- ☺ Kindergarten and Year 1 Return to School
- ☺ Socktober—Crazy Sock Day—Friday 22 October
- ☺ Masks Update—urgent and important
- ☺ Curriculum Overviews

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