

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 1 Week 3



Friday 12 Feb

Opening School Mass
and Student Leader
Commissioning
9:30am via Zoom

11am - Pancake Day
orders payment due

Sunday 14 Feb

Happy
St Valentine's Day

Monday 15 Feb

2021 Nepean Zone
Swimming
Good luck Team!

Tuesday 16 Feb

Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Day
Prepaid orders only

7pm—Reconciliation
Parent Meeting
St Nicholas Church

Wednesday 17 Feb

Ash Wednesday

Project Compassion
begins

Friday 19 Feb

12pm - Stage 1
Parish Mass

2:30pm—Stage 1 As-
sembly—prerecorded

School Census Day

Monday 22 - Thurs- day 25 Feb

Student Led Confer-
ences with late night
Tuesday 23 Feb

Tues 23—Wed 24 Feb

High School Visits to
Yrs 5 & 6

Thursday 25 Feb

Newsletter

Fire Evacuation Drill
(known)

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

Welcome to the 2021 School Year!

We hope your holiday break has provided your family time for relaxation and renewal. The first week a new school year brings with it the promise of new beginnings and unimagined possibilities. As teachers we are most mindful of the need to get to know each of our students during this time as individuals as well as establishing the sense of belonging as a stage/ team of learners.

We warmly welcome the many new children in grades Kindergarten to Year 6. We thank you as parents for your trust as we work in partnership to provide a place of faith and learning that strives to nurture your child academically, spiritually and socially.

We look forward to welcoming our new Kindergarten's and their families as well our new student leaders and staff members at our Opening School Mass tomorrow.

Pope Francis declared this to be the Year of St Joseph. On 8 December 2020, the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"). In that beautiful letter, the Holy Father proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021 (See: vaticannews.va). The Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a *Decree* granting plenary indulgences for this special year.

Pope Francis' Prayer to Saint Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted His only Son;
In you Mary placed her trust;
With you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
Show yourself a father
And guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
And defend us from every evil. Amen.

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal

Welcome back to



Truth Through Learning

Opening School Mass

Tomorrow Friday 12 February will be our Opening School Mass for 2021. The Mass will be live streamed using the church facebook page. The address for the live stream is:

<https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith>



Please join us online for our

Opening School Mass & Student Leader Commissioning

CELEBRANT: FR JESSIE BALORIO

WHEN: FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2021

TIME: 9:30AM

***Live streaming on the St Nicholas of Myra Church
facebook Page:***

<https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith>

General News

2022 Kindergarten Enrolments and Catholic Schools Week Twilight Tours

Each year in Catholic Schools Week (CSW), we hold two twilight tours one at 4pm and the other at 6pm. This year it will be held on **Monday 1 March 2021**.

COVID practices will be put in place and we recommend the wearing of masks during this tour. This will allow the Principal and Assistant Principal to be protected and speak without a mask making it easier for you to hear our tour. However, depending on the numbers of mask wearers we may still opt to wear one as we also have families to keep safe and protect.

Each person will be required to sign in and we are limited to a size of 30 people. You will be required to register via a QR code. If you are unwell or have any symptoms we ask you to keep everyone safe by refraining from attending.

We accept enrolment applications at any time.

However it is after our Twilight Tours, when we begin making appointments for the 2022 Kindergarten Enrolment Interviews. The School Enrolment Officer will contact you to make an interview time with one or both parents and the enrolling child attends. COVID check ins and practices are in place. Again if you would like to wear a mask during this enrolment interview that would be preferable.

Current St Nicholas of Myra families who have a child commencing school in 2022 are encouraged to complete an enrolment form as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Enrolment forms can be found online at - <https://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/02-Form-A-Enrolment-Application.pdf> or in the school office.

New School Counsellor Appointment from CEDP

Jordan was introduced to all of the children last week. Her days have changed to accommodate the other schools. These are Monday and Thursdays. This is an extra day of support to our families compared last year.

Parent Group

We had a great first meeting to launch 2021 via Zoom with our Parents. Thank you to the following parents for their support this year.

Chairperson: *Nicole Rebernik*

Pastoral Care: *Mrs Nicole Khoury (REC)*

Treasury Report: *Ms Anita Knezevic (Principal)*

Canteen Coordinator: *Still needs to be filled?*

Stage (K - 6 Grade) Representatives

- Kindergarten: *Sarah Edwy-Smith*
- Stage 1: *Krishni Arokianathan and Sarah Lestal*
- Stage 2: *Steven Head and Katie Watts*
- Stage 3: *Hamssa Danil and Clare Fidler*

Any parent/carer is welcome to join us for this meeting please just email the school the Friday before the scheduled time and we will ensure we send you the Zoom link. Likewise if you wish to raise an item for discussion that is related to the whole school community please email this on the Friday prior to the meeting as well or speak to your Stage Representative. Our next meeting will be on Monday 1 March 2021 at 9:10 - 10:10am.

General News

COVID-19 Safety

Thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping yourself and others safe. Just a friendly reminder to be socially distant in the car park, particularly in the afternoon pick up time.



School Fees

A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term. One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year's enrolment, that is, the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance.

The requirement for a term's notice (10 school weeks) is recognition by the family of the commitment to assist with funding of the School by having their child take a place that could have been offered to another family. Unless the student is present for the August census or the student is able to be replaced mid-year, which is unlikely, the loss of the student will most certainly result in the loss of significant government funding. Thus a term notice provides the school with an opportunity to replace the student within the next term.

Special circumstances that would warrant a waiving of this notice, include:

- Moving due to employment transfer
- Sale of house
- The student has been offered full time employment (High School)
- The student has been offered an apprenticeship (High School)

School Fees Statements will be sent out on Wednesday 17 February 2021, with a due date of Wednesday 17 March 2021. Payment arrangement details will be included with the statements. Any questions please contact the school office.

New Qkr! MasterPass App

Please ensure you download this app to make payments for all Fun Food Days, Mother's and Father's Day stalls, etc. An instruction flyer was sent on Tuesday 9 Feb with the Pancake Order Fun Food Day via email and Skoolbag..

It is vital that each child is registered separately - this is the only way you will be able to place orders for events and items from school from now on.

General News

Building Child Safe Communities - Volunteer Undertaking

In Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta (CEDP), we see parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. Parents and carers are encouraged to become involved in our schools in many important ways such as supporting classroom learning, being part of advisory groups, mentoring programs, coaching sporting teams and supporting other extra-curricular activities, canteen support and other kinds of help.

We acknowledge at this point in time, we are limited with parent help but when the NSW Health Dept give the go-ahead, you will be ready to volunteer.

A range of checks and undertakings are required for people who work for or provide services to CEDP. These checks reduce potential risk and form part of our strategy to build child safe communities.

CEDP has launched a new *Building Child Safe Communities form and online training module that all volunteers are required to complete.*

The purpose of this training is to inform you of the standards of behaviour and other requirements that must be adhered to when volunteering for CEDP.

The undertaking should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and the training module approximately 10 minutes. Once the form and training modules are submitted, an automated email will be sent to you within two business days to confirm the status of your submission.

The undertaking form will expire within two years or when your Working With Children Check expires (if applicable), whichever is sooner. At that time you will need to complete the undertaking form and training module again. You will receive an automatic reminder email when this occurs.

Further information on the new online form and training module can be found at www.parra.catholic.edu.au and clicking on *about us/building child safe communities*. Within the form you will also find help sheets and a video tutorial to assist you.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Religious Education

Prayer For The Beginning Of The New School Year

*Dear Lord, as we begin this new school year, we gather once again as Your community of believers.
We thank You for the energy and the spirit that You renewed in us through the summer months.
We thank You for the time to enjoy our family and friends and to reflect on what is important in our lives.*

*Let this year be marked by enthusiasm and love so that, with the inspiration of Your Spirit,
we may continue to grow in our faith.*

Help us to fulfil Your hope for us with honest intentions and works of faith.

Let us be gentle with ourselves and bring laughter, joy and love to others.

We ask this in Your name. Amen

Sacraments 2021 – St Nicholas' Parish Penrith

As a school we work closely with the Parish during the Sacramental Program. It is wonderful each year to watch our students celebrate their sacraments.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will commence with a parent meeting on Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 7.00pm. If you wish to enrol your child in this program it is essential that at least one parent/carer attend. This meeting will be held in the Church.

To be eligible for First Reconciliation, Children must be in Year 3 or above and must be baptised. If you have any questions please see Mrs Khoury or Rodney at St Nicholas Parish Ph: 4721 2509

The Sacraments of the Catholic Church



1st Reconciliation (in term 1)

- Parent information evening: Tuesday 16 February 7pm St Nicholas' Church
- Commitment Mass weekend: 20/21 February Sunday Masses except 7am
- Family session weekends 1, 2 & 3 in March: 6/7; 13/14; 20/21
- 1st Reconciliation evening: Thursday 25 March 7pm St Nicholas' Church

Understanding Faith Online Resource

We are able to use an online resource to support our religious education. Students do have access to this site at home as well as at school.

Why not check it out for yourselves.

<https://primary.understandingfaith.edu.au/log-in>

username: ceo.parra.1896

password: 32findJUMP

Mission Team- Project Compassion Launch

On Wednesday 10 February, the 2021 Mission Team members gathered with Mrs Khoury, Miss Cortis and Ms Knezevic to join with 48 schools from the Parramatta Diocese via Zoom for a liturgy and launch of Project Compassion. The students learnt about the importance of helping others and were able to develop actions they would like to lead during Lent this year. Students were able to reflect and think about their role as Mission Team Members at our school.

Student Reflections

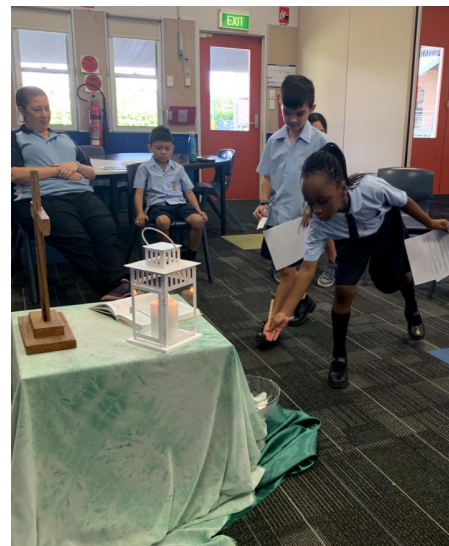
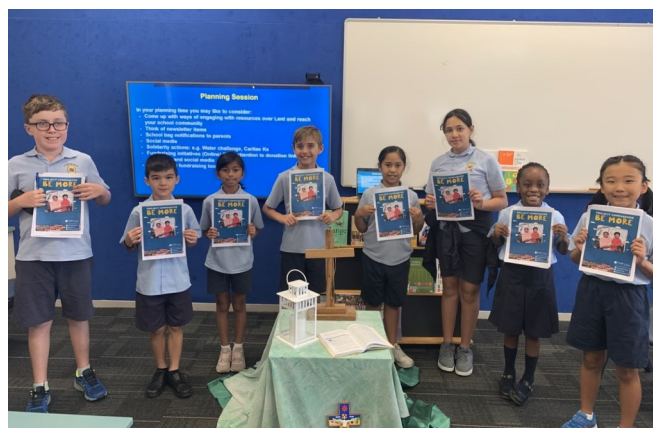
Jeremy: It was interesting listening to the different stories of people around the world and learning about how much we can do to help.

Sophia: One key message from the day was that every little bit helps and we have an important role in helping others.

Leo: One key message for me was: Not to have more but to BE MORE!

Alena: I learnt that what we might see as a simple action really can make a HUGE difference for others.

Amisha: I always knew Project Compassion was important but it was great to see how CARITAS help people all around the world.



Mascot update

On Monday 8 February our school mascot design winners; Byron Faapoi, Hannah Rebernik and Michael Nagaretnam met with Julie and Josh from the CEDP Jarara Indigenous Unit. This was to assist in the design process for our school mascot. Julie and Josh will be working with students to combine a variety of different designs of the kookaburra, including an indigenous art perspective. We can't wait to share these with you!



PBS4L Playground Initiative

During Weeks 1-3 the PBS4L playground focus has been: 'To be safe on the playground by walking and wearing our hats'. Students have been earning a double points playground token for their stage when staff observe this expectation in the playground. The stage with the most tokens at the end of **Week 3** will receive reward time towards an activity of their choice for their stage.

Welcome back to 2021.

The children visit the library each week to hear a story and to borrow books. This is also a special time for our students to learn how to navigate a library and to teach them what information hubs our libraries are.

Visiting Times:

Kinder and Stage 2 Wednesday

Stage 1 and Stage 3 Thursday

We need your support and encouragement to assist your child in making sure they have a library bag each week. It can be a plastic shopping bag, canvas bag or a school library bag that can be purchased from our office at a cost of \$15. These protect the books when travelling from school to home and assists with books not getting lost.

Please remind your child to return their books each week. It is disappointing for the child when they are unable to borrow if they haven't returned their books.

We still have many overdue books from 2020—please, please return!

Thank you to those parents who have offered to cover books, very much appreciated.

Finally, when your child comes home with their books we suggest grab a cuppa and sit and share and read the story together.

Happy reading—Mrs Masters Library Assistant



Correspondence

- 😊 Covid 19 Communication
- 😊 Welcome Back Information
- 😊 Positive Parenting Online Sessions Workshop
- 😊 2021 Student Absence Requirements
- 😊 Seesaw for 2021
- 😊 Online Homework (Kindergarten only)
- 😊 Healthy Back to School Lunchbox ideas
- 😊 Opening School Mass
- 😊 Book covering note
- 😊 Book Club
- 😊 Fun Food Day - Pancake Day
- 😊 Online booking for Student Led Conferences
- 😊 Term 1 Parent Calendar
- 😊 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



WORLD READ ALOUD DAY ACTIVITY HUB

St Nicholas of Myra celebrated World Read Aloud Day on Wednesday 3 February. Sharing stories with students is such an exciting way for stories to come alive for students.

LitWorld.
Be the Story.

Hearing lots of different stories from lots of different people is an important part of students' development. Our students listened to some of their teacher's favourite stories to celebrate the day.

