

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 2 Week 5 2021



Friday 21 May
12:10 pm Parish
Mass Stage 2

3:30pm - Parent
Assembly Survey
and Student Led
Conference Survey
close

Sunday 23 May
Pentecost Sunday

9pm - Pizza Slice
Day - orders and
paid via Qkr! due

Monday 24 May
Our Lady Help of
Christians Feast
9:10am Parent Group
Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday 26 May
Stage 3 Girls
Soccer Gala Day

Thursday 27 May
Fun Food Day
Pizza Day

Friday 28 May
2:30pm Assembly
Kindergarten
Coordinating

Monday 31 May
The Visitation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Life Education

Tuesday 1 June
Life Education

Wednesday 2 June
Life Education

Thursday 3 June
Life Education

Newsletter

Friday 4 June
12:10pm
Parish Mass
Stage 3 and Early
Stage 1
(Kindergarten)

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

Forgiveness: Firstly, we need it.

The most basic fact for Christians is this: people have value because Christ has died for them. God, Thank You for the love and forgiveness that You gave to me, through Your Son, Jesus, on Good Friday. Thank You for the gift of eternal life. Help me to be an instrument of Your love, compassion and forgiveness, not Your judgement.

As God treasures people, whoever they are, whether they have responded to Christ or not-Christ died for everyone. The problem rests with us.

We often want to establish hurdles that others must jump before we give them value. Reconciliation is at the heart of life's business. If the most important single factor about any of our lives is God having reconciled us to God's very self, then the proper celebration of our relationship is to share it with others by fostering reconciliation and the actions/words of making it right whenever and wherever we can no matter WHO. Paul Sampley. New Interpreter's Bible Commentary.

Spirit of God within us,

so often we view reconciliation in terms of changing other people, whereas, we can only attempt to change ourselves. We ask from You the gifts of healing and reconciliation and that, through You, these gifts will come to us from our willingness to open ourselves to receive them.

Spirit of God within us, we ask for patience and humility to hear the story of every person with dignity and respect.

Your Son "has given us a ministry of reconciliation so we are ambassadors for Him."

God, I need to feel that I have forgiveness from You. Strengthen me to forgive those who have wronged me so they can feel my forgiveness. Let His words of reconciliation be in our mouths and in our hearts so that His peace might be present to all people.

Amen.

TAKE AWAY THOUGHTS:

God, when we accept one another fully, completely, we accept You. (2 Cor. 5: 18, 20.)
To err is human; to forgive is divine. Alexander Pope.

Congratulations to Mrs Kristen and Mr Daniel Camilleri as they are expecting a baby girl in November this year. I am sure you will join me in wishing them the very best of health during this exciting time. Staffing for Mrs Camilleri's Year 3 class will be arranged and communicated later in the year.

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal

General News

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 terms 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)

Thank you to those families who have finalised their Term 2 school fees. These fees are due by Wednesday 26 May 2021. If you require assistance or an extension, please call Rhonda Shirvington in the office on 02 4752 3300 or alternatively you can email her at myra-prthfees@parra.catholic.edu.au. All enquiries regarding school fees should be directed to this email.

2022 Kindergarten Enrolments are underway and places are being accepted!

We accept enrolment applications at any time for any grade.

2022 Kindergarten Enrolment Interviews have commenced and places are being accepted by families. 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.

The process:

1. 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.
2. Once you have submitted your paperwork via email, post or have handed it into the office.
3. The School Enrolment Officer will contact you to make an interview time with one or both parents and the enrolling child attends as well.
4. 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.

Staff Availability in relation to Phone Messages and Emails

Thank you to the Parents/Carers who are emailing or ringing the school for an appointment as our Staff value your concerns, questions and knowledge about your child. Staff have morning, lunch, fruit break and after school duties which they have to attend to first for the safety and duty of care of all students. If Staff are absent, they will get back to you when they return to work. Our Staff also have a variety of meetings to attend to during the week. This information is being shared with you, as I am sure you can appreciate, to provide an understanding that our Staff will return your phone message or email inquiry as soon as possible. We all value the partnership we have in educating our children.



Catholic Culture

Mother's Day Stall - A Word of Thanks

Thank you to the following parents for helping out early on Friday morning to help set up the Mother's Day gifts ready for the students to select their gifts from the stall: Felicia Meyer, Alma Mallunxa, Taren Wood, Krishni Arokianathan, Nicole Rebernik, Aparna Matto, Rossarica Gayagay and Rong Sun.

Thank you also to Nicole Rebernik, Rong Sun and Racquelle Kassouf who helped the students select their gifts from the Mother's Day Stall just after lunch on Friday.

Assembly Survey - DUE tomorrow at 3:30pm!

In the most recent Parent Group Meeting; and due to the fact we changed the usual Friday Assembly due to the Infants Zoo Excursion, a suggestion was made to survey the parents to see if another day or a rotational system for 'Friday Assemblies' would be preferred.

This survey will only take 5 minutes; results will be published in the newsletter. If changes are preferred they will be trialed in Term 3 of this year, as we need to make sure it works for the students learning.

We are unable to have an assembly on a Wednesday or Thursday due to Release From Face to Face Teaching (RFF - this is where the students do Creative Arts and Sport).

The survey was sent on Friday 14 May 2021. If you did not receive this please email the school office and we will resend this to you. This survey will be closed by Friday 21 May at 3:30 pm.

https://cedp.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8HctKdo2eHhyjrg

Parent Group

We had a great Term 1 to launch 2021 via Zoom with our Parents. These meetings occur twice a term Week 3 and Week 6 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! We are working towards a cashless canteen and how to operate this using the QKr! App for our families.*

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 date and we will 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 24 May 2021 at 9:10am - 10:10am (Week 6).

Fun Food Day

The next Fun Food Day planned for this term is Thursday 17 June: Nuggets Day.

If any parents are able to assist with this day, please contact the office. If we are unable to find volunteers for this day, it may be cancelled.



Formation

Sharing Our Faith

Each newsletter I will be asking a question for you to ask your child about their faith. It would be wonderful to see parents and students engaging in dialogue together with the question posed. It would be wonderful to see responses either written down, drawn or creatively depicted each fortnight. These responses can be shared via Stage SeeSaw pages or to the school email.

Question:

What gifts do you have that you could use to bless others?

200 Years of Catholic Education in Australia

The National Mass to celebrate 200 Years of Catholic education in Australia is being held on Monday 24 May 2021 at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta each school has the Principal, one student and parent attending across the diocese. The event will be live-streamed on the day and you can use the following link if you wish to participate on the day [link to the livestream](#).

We will continue to celebrate 200 years of Catholic Schooling throughout the year. On Monday each student will be given a special pin to celebrate the 200 years at a prayer service in their classroom in line with the National Mass.



Learning

Student Led Conference (SLCs) quick 5 minute survey - DUE tomorrow!

Over the past 18 months we have been required to run Student Led Conferences (SLC) via Zoom. In Week 10 of this term, we will once again host SLCs.

As raised in the Parent Group meeting, we will like to gain insights into what is most accessible and favourable by our families.

The survey was sent on Friday 14 May 2021. If you did not receive this please email the school office and we will resend this to you. This survey will be closed by Friday 21 May at 4:00 pm.

This feedback is very important, and it will decide how we will cater for our SLC for this Semester.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOx5Xu8h5AMYkjE-IVDFstBDv-joQDkQD-smE9PmvRTD1zow/viewform>



Life Education: Healthy Harold

From Monday 31 May to Wednesday 2 June, the Life Education 'Healthy Harold' van will be visiting our school. All classes from Kindergarten to Year Six will have the opportunity to visit the van for a lesson. Life Education provides a unique learning experience for children and teaches them the skills needed to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

Where to go if you have concerns about your child's learning or you would like to know how they are travelling in their learning?

Education is a partnership between home and school. Learning looks and feels different for everyone. An analogy I like to use is when babies learn to crawl/walk. Each child does this in their own time; some are early, some do this later, some don't crawl at all. However they each meet their milestone in their own way. They also do it in their own style; some do it with one leg in the air, some do it like a gecko, some crawl backwards first and again some go straight to walking.

Learning is like this analogy, we want our children to love learning, continue to try especially when it is hard and to show their learning growth or improvements. Just as parents support in different ways when your child is learning to crawl (some walk behind, ensure they are on the soft surfaces, show your child how to crawl on the floor next to them, clap or hug or kiss them when they have etc). This is similar to the support teachers offer in the classroom; different ways at different time for all students at their point of need.

So if you at any stage have questions, concerns or worries bubbling please:

make an appointment with the class/stage teachers by emailing the school with your concerns and some different times you are available. This will allow the teachers to prepare and perhaps show work samples to address your concerns.

It is ok to ask and share your concerns. What is not helpful is:

- comparing between siblings or other children in the same stage either at this school or other schools.
- having conversations with everyone else except the teacher/s.
- not acting on these concerns in a timely manner.
- to have the mindset of 'catching up'.
- comparing it to when you went to school. So much has changed; the curriculum, the pedagogy (the way we teach), the expectations on parents, students and teachers, the global connectedness and finally not to mention the technological impact.

NAPLAN update

Last year NAPLAN was postponed due to COVID-19. This year the students of Year 3 and 5 participated in these exams during Weeks 4 and 5. These exams provide the school with patterns of learning and progress in your child's life twice in their primary schooling years. It also provides a benchmark against the whole of Australia and a 'where to next' for the teachers. The students have shown great patience, perseverance and genuine support of each other during this time. A huge congratulations to all of our students for their mature and calm approach to this national assessment.

Semester 1 Half Yearly Reports

Twice a year reports are sent home to give further information about your child's learning. This is a time to celebrate their hard thinking and their effort towards their learning. A Half Yearly report is also a great time to set some goals to achieve for the second semester. It is important that if you have concerns about your child's learning throughout the year to make an appointment with the teacher/s.

Here is further information to assist Parents and Carers with understanding the staging of learning, this particularly affects Kindergarten (Early Stage 1) as they have one year to learn and achieve the BOSTES objectives and outcomes.

This is a general guide, as we know all children learn at different paces in different Key Learning Areas (KLAs) and in different areas of the KLAs i.e. English (Reading and Viewing, Composing (Writing) for example. The two year cycle of attainment allows for the growth and pace to be adjusted according to the student's needs. If the student attains the current stage then they begin the next stages' learning. Learning is a lifelong journey not a destination.

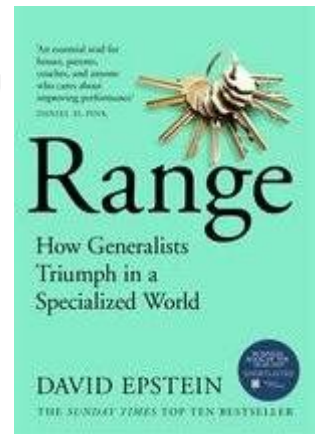
Semester One (Half Yearly) Reports Stage Guide:

Stage	Stage/Class/ Grade
Early Stage 1 (One year to achieve Early Stage 1 Objectives and Outcomes)	
Early Stage 1	Early Stage 1 Kindergarten
Stage 1 (Two years to achieve Stage 1 Objectives and Outcomes)	
Introductory to Mid Stage 1	Year 1
Mid Stage 1 - Later Stage 1	Year 2
Stage 2 (Two years to achieve Stage 2 Objectives and Outcomes)	
Introductory to Mid Stage 2	Year 3
Mid Stage 2 - Later Stage 2	Year 4
Stage 3 (Two years to achieve Stage 3 Objectives and Outcomes)	
Introductory to Mid Stage 3	Year 5
Mid Stage 3 - Later Stage 3	Year 6

Semester One Reports will be sent home addressed to Parents on Thursday 17 June 2021. Student Led Conferences will then be held in Week 10. More information for Parents and Carers regarding Semester One Reports will be shared in the Week 7 newsletter.

This last weekend I just finished a book called **Range** by David Epstein. This book is about how to be successful in the twenty first century; it explores learning analysing different people, eras and types. The following quote is directly from **Range** which I found apt when thinking about children's learning, following on from some parent meetings regarding their child's learning progress...

"Approach your own personal voyage and projects like Michelangelo approaches a block of marble, willing to learn and adjust as you go, even to abandon a previous goal and change directions entirely should the need arise. Research on creators in domains from technological innovation to comic books show that a diverse group of specialists can not fully replace the contributions of broad individuals. Even when you move on from an area of work to an entire domain, that experience is not wasted. (2019 p.290)"



This quote highlights that all learning is valuable and the most important aspects for primary children are to be loving faith filled people who are curious learners, have a go even when it's hard and keep improving from their last goal. The positive habits and mindsets of being a good learner are critical.

WHAT TO ASK KIDS INSTEAD OF "HOW WAS YOUR DAY?"		
Instead of: How was your day?	Try this: → What's one thing that made you laugh today?	You can learn a lot about your child's sense of humor, friends, and get them smiling by asking them to recount things that made them laugh.
Instead of: Did you eat your lunch?	Try this: → Who did you sit by at lunch today?	Allowing your child to discuss friends they may have a hard time getting along with, opens opportunities to discuss how others make them feel.
Instead of: Did you have a good day?	Try this: → What did you do that made someone smile today?	Show your kids that school isn't just about academics. Kindness matters.
Instead of: What did you learn at school?	Try this: → Did you enjoy art or science more today? Why?	When questions are broad, it's easy for a child to feel unsure of how to answer. Being specific facilitates a detailed response and opens the door for further discussion.
Instead of: What did you do today?	Try this: → I love hearing about your day.	Sometimes questions are overwhelming. Just letting your child know that you're interested, gives them permission to share when they are ready.
Instead of: How was your day?	Try this: → What was easier today than yesterday?	Encouraging your kids to notice that their practice is making a difference helps instill a positive self-image and a growth mindset.

Athletics Carnival

Athletics Carnival

On Wednesday 19 May students participated in the 2021 Athletics Carnival. Throughout the day our senior and junior students participated in a range of track and field events including the 800M, 200M and 100M running races and long jump. Our infants students also joined in the Athletics Carnival fun by participating in a 70M race and they played a variety of novelty games including relays, captain ball, tunnel ball, parachute games and much, much more. The students then blew us away with their house team chants and school spirit.

Congratulations to Freeman who won the most house points for the day. Well done to all the students who joined in the events and displayed fantastic sportsmanship.

A big thank you to our parent, ex -student and staff-parent helpers including Mr Brown, Mr Spain, Ms Sun, Mrs Edwy-Smith, Mr Head, Ms Busstra, Mr Hoare and ex- students Jai, Brayden, Isaac and Will.

Congratulations to our Senior and Junior Age Champions and Runners Up for 2021.

Senior Boys Champions- Matthew Fidler & Jayden Mendonca
Senior Boys Runner Up- Zachary Herrero
Senior Girls Champions- Skyla Hill
Senior Girls Runner Up- Lolah Lestal- Braid

Junior Boys Champions- Lachlan McIntosh
Junior Boys Runner Up- Max Faapoi
Junior Girls Champions- Harmoni Hill
Junior Girls Runner Up- Madison Herrero



All photos from the Presentation of Ribbons Assembly held this morning (Friday 21 May 2021) will be available on the School's Youtube channel by this Monday 24 May 2021.



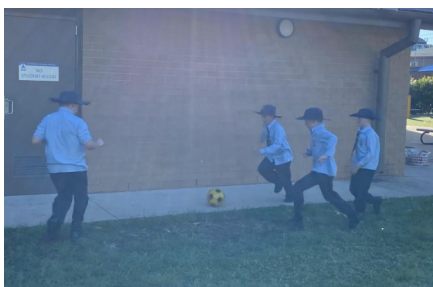
**ON YOUR MARKS...
GET SET... GO!**

PBS4L Playground Reward



During Weeks 7 - 10 of Term 1 and Weeks 1 - 4 of Term 2 the PBS4L playground focus was: **I am respectful when I listen to a teacher's instruction the first time.**

Congratulations to **Stage 2** who were the winners for the Weeks 1 - 3 round of the playground reward! Stage 2 students received a total of 275 tokens over the three weeks. Students in Stage 2 voted to have free time on the playground as their reward with students skipping, playing night at the museum, soccer, basketball and handball.



This fortnight (Weeks 5 - 6), the PBS4L playground focus is: **I am safe when I walk on the concrete.**

When a teacher sees students demonstrating this, they will receive a double points token. Students continue to receive single tokens for following any of our expectations as well. The stage with the most tokens at the end of Week 7 will receive reward time towards an activity of their choice.



PBS4L Playground Initiative

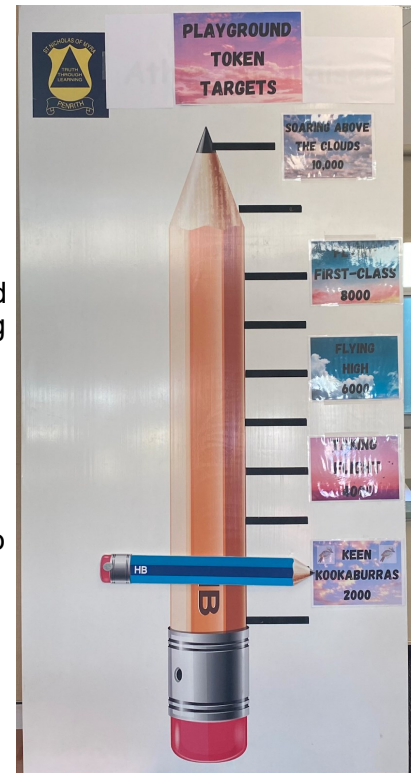
2000 Tokens!

When students arrived at school on Thursday 20 May, there were signs displayed around the playground showing the number 2000. There were a lot of questions about what these meant.

Students then lined up for a whole school assembly where they were told they had collectively reached the first target of 2000 tokens! For reaching this target the whole school will receive a 30 minute reward time in Week 6. Students will get to vote on their reward time in their stage group.

There was also a reveal of our new Playground Token Targets tracker that will be displayed in the playground. The blue pencil will be moved up the large pencil as more tokens are collected each three week period. For each target they reach, there will be an exciting reward. Students have already brainstormed in classes what the reward for each target could be.

Everyone was very excited!



I wonder how long it will take the students to reach 4000 tokens?



Library News



**Visit the PRC
Student Site!**

<http://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/StudentExperience.html#/>

Congratulations to the following children who have completed their Premier's Reading Challenge.
Well done!

**Robert Wood
Ozias Arokianathan
John Wood
Lola Gibbs
Brian Nguyen
Odessa Gibbs
Evie Gibbs**

PRC books can be borrowed from the school library or public library.

To identify a PRC book they will have one of these stickers on the front cover.



Please support your child by making sure they have a library bag each week. A plastic recycled bag is fine. Students are unable to borrow a book and take it home unless they have a bag. Gently remind your child to return all library books and readers each week.

"...as parents, we have to find the time and the energy to step in and help our children love reading. We can read to them, talk to them about what they are reading, and make time for this by turning off the television, putting down our devices ourselves. Libraries are a critical tool to help parents do this." Barack Obama

Susan Masters – Library Assistant



Correspondence

- ☺ Revised Term 2 Calendar and Week 3 Newsletter
- ☺ APC News
- ☺ School Athletics Carnival Permission note
- ☺ School Athletics Carnival reminder
- ☺ 2021 Parent Assembly Survey
- ☺ 2021 Student Led Conferences Survey
- ☺ Fun Food Day—Pizza Slice Day
- ☺ School Athletics Carnival - seating arrangements
- ☺ Athletics Carnival Awards Assembly and delay of Newsletter for Week 5

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





Parents Representative Council
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



Diocese of Parramatta
Partners in Learning
Partners in Faith

Emerging from COVID-19: Implications for Wellbeing HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE ANXIETY




Learn effective way to deal with child anxiety.
How to encourage positive behavior practices.
What can you do?
Our guest speaker for the evening is:

Anoushka Houseman



Clinical Psychologist


School Wellbeing counselor - Santa Sophia Catholic College
Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP)



Register FREE now: www.prc.catholic.edu.au

Monday, 24th May 2021
Meeting will be held via Zoom
7 pm start

www.prc.catholic.edu.au  @prcparra  @prcparra



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR
Floral Expressions
For details on the School fundraising program
Call Charles Lukasik on 02 9683 1116

