



We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians whose land we educate our students

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

Yesterday it was well over the news that a bus driver had been in a tragic accident. This bus may have looked familiar to you as we use these buses regularly at our school. We knew him affectionately as Andy! He safely travelled our students here, there and everywhere for well over a decade. He was a kind hearted - a true people person! He also did many bus trips for our Parish as well. Our Mission Team and School Leaders will make a card for him to show our appreciation of who he was to us and to his family to pass on our condolences to them at this time.

We pray through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians for his soul and for his family during this time of grief; Mary Help of Christians; **Pray for Us.**

This week was the feast day of **Our Lady (Mary) Help of Christians**. The Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since the time of the early settlers. Early settlers suffered difficult living conditions in the penal colonies, and many Irish Catholics looked to Mary for help.

In September 1844, Archbishop Polding of Sydney and the bishops of Adelaide and Hobart met with some priests and decided to place the Church of Australia under the patronage of the Virgin Mary. Mary Help of Christians became the official patroness of Australia. St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney was dedicated in her honour.

Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Mary, our Mother,

You responded to the call of God with faith and courage.

Help us to express our faith with honesty

Help us to remain faithful in difficult times

Help us to discover meaning and purpose in the events of our lives

Help us to find healing in times of hurt

Help us to be gentle, reasonable and loving in all our relationships

Help us to be compassionate in the face of indifference

Help us to bring joy and hope into our lives and the lives of others

Help us to live lives of practical love.

Amen.

On Monday, the students all participated in a reflection to Our Lady during their Religious Education lesson.



Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic

Principal



General News

Staffing Updates

It is with great joy and sadness that Mr Michael Cappadona has accepted an opportunity to become a Secondary English Teacher at Xavier College commencing from Term 3.

Michael is excited and was originally thinking of being a Secondary Teacher before entering into Primary. He has been with us for almost two years. I am sure you will join me in wishing Michael all of the very best on this change in his career path. Some of our students may see him if they decide to attend this high school.

We will start our recruitment processes for this position to be covered. If we do not receive any suitable applicants, coupled with the current teacher shortages at this time; we may require some internal shuffling of staff (whether in class, leadership in support in classes etc) As you know my first priority is and always will be the students and their learning. In summary the positions vacancies we have are;

- an REC position (Mrs Khoury's maternity leave)
- Stage 2 Teacher (Mr Cappadona's teaching position)

School Counsellor Appointment from CEDP

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Jordan and her family on their twin baby girls!

Nina Mather has been introduced all of the children last week. Her days are the same Monday, Thursdays and (odd week) Fridays. This is an extra day of support per fortnight to our families compared last year.

"I am very excited to be joining the Saint Nicholas of Myra community and look



At times, there can be misunderstandings about counselling support. Sometimes it can be a weekly times which then may phase out to 2 or 3 check ins over a term. Sometimes it may be for a short period of weekly times due to the loss of a loved one in the family. This is all ongoing and adjusted based on the students needs and the professional judgment of the counsellor. The counsellor communicates with you on needs basis to check in and keep you updated.

The Learning Space is called and the child is asked to go to the office by the teacher. We try to make this process as discreet as it can be for the child.

If you require our school counsellor's support the process is as follows:

- To request this support you can send an email to the school addressed to the Principal Ms Knezevic. If you are concerned about confidentiality we recommend in the Subject Heading - place **CONFIDENTIAL and SENSITIVE** to the Principal and Counsellor. Our Office Staff will then directly forward this to the Principal without reading the details.
- Sometimes the Stage Teachers may suggest this support as well. The teachers will have the conversation with you and as Parents if you are open to this support the note will be sent home a sealed envelope with the child or emailed to the Parent.
- Following this email request; a Counsellor's form will be sent home in either an envelope or emailed as an attachment.
- The Counsellor will always speak with you first before seeing the child.

The Counsellor will commence seeing the child.

forward to getting to know all the wonderful staff, students and families."

Nina Mather

Could all parents please delete the SkoolBag App from your devices. All correspondence is to go through the Compass Parent Portal.

Skoolbag
Complete communication solution

2022 Kindergarten Enrolments for 2023

Thank you to the families who have already completed an "Expression of Interest" Form or have contacted the school. We begin making appointments for the 2023 Kindergarten Enrolment Interviews:

- As soon as we receive your application.
- 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 2023 are encouraged to complete an enrolment form as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.**

Enrolment forms can be found online at:

<https://www.stnicholaspenrith.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now/How-to-enrol>.

Leaving St Nicholas of Myra

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. Where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit can be calculated based on a 40 week year. One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following years' enrolment i.e. the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance.

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)

If your circumstances have changed or if you require any support with School Fees at any time throughout this year please contact the school office and speak to Rhonda Shirvington.

Fun Food Days

Thank you to the following Parents; Nicole Rebernik and Krishni Arokianathan for their helping hands to feed our students' bellies with the warm comfort food of Fried Rice/ Mac and Cheese - deeeelicious!!! We were able to raise \$95.54 Thank you to all families for your support with this Fun Food Day!

Building Child Safe Communities Training

As COVID restrictions are now easing and we are welcoming parent volunteers back on site it is a requirement from CEDP that all parent helpers and volunteers complete a training module called "Building Child Safe Communities". This training is valid for 2 years.

If you think you may like to be a parent helper or volunteer, if the need arises sometime during this year, you might have time during these holidays to complete the training.

If you have volunteered to help with the Canteen or other sporting events for example, this training will need to be completed prior to being on site.

Please find the link below for your convenience

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/about/student-safety/volunteer-and-contractor-training>

Communication Processes

If your details have changed please notify the office by email

Who to contact?

If you have any concerns about your child throughout the year, **your child's teacher/s should be the first person you contact.**
The other teachers on the stage are available, as well as the Leaders of Learning.



The Leaders of Learning are allocated to every stage in the school. In addition to facilitating learning in a particular area of the school, they also coordinate a stage of classes. They support the learning of the stage students in all areas including academic, social and emotional by working alongside the teachers in all matters. Leaders of Learning can be contacted if there is a matter that needs further attention after working with the classroom teacher/s.

Early Stage 1 and Stage 1: Miss Hannah Khalifeh

Stage 2: Mr Simpson

Stage 3: Mrs Khoury

For more serious matters or where work with the Leader of Learning needs to be escalated, please contact Assistant Principal: Miss Kirsty Reynolds and/or the Principal at any time over the course of the year.

All matters involving Child Protection issues need to be addressed directly to the Principal, or in my absence the Assistant Principal.

How to make an appointment?

We kindly ask that you email the school in order to make an appointment. If you are able to provide a few dates and times this will assist Teachers or Leaders of Learning to work around their duties and professional meetings requirements as well.

Medical Plans and Medication

If your child requires any medication please ensure their plan and medication is up to date and a copy is given to the school. Please ensure you contact the office as we do have a medical form that needs to be completed as well as certain requirements around the packaging of the medication. Please note we are unable to make any adjustments to medication plans without a signed and dated new care plan or doctor's certificate note. If your child no longer requires medication please provide a doctor's certificate so that we may remove them from our system. If you are unsure please contact the office via email and they will be able to respond to your query.



Life Education: Healthy Harold

From Monday 27 June to Wednesday 29 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.

Tell Them From Me (TTFM)

In the coming weeks we will be inviting our students, Teachers and Parents/Carers to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

From Monday, 30 May to Friday, 1 July, we invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning* survey. *As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Nicholas of Myra*

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.



Formation

Sacrament of Holy Communion

At this time we have a number of students preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Holy Communion and the whole celebration is also known as Eucharist, from a Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving.' Each year when a new group of students receive their First Holy Communion let us use this as a reminder to give prayers of Thanks to God for us also receiving the sacramental gift of the Eucharist.

Prayer for those preparing for Sacrament of Holy Communion:



O Jesus, You have loved us with such exceedingly great love as to give us the ineffable gift of the Holy Eucharist, inflame us with a burning zeal to promote Your glory by praying for (your child's name) to prepare worthily to approach Your holy table for the first time. Protect, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, this young soul from the assaults of evil, strengthen his/her faith, increase his/her love and endow him/her with all the virtues that will make him/her worthy to receive You. Amen.

Parish Mass

Last Friday, Stage 1 students attended Parish Mass at 12:10pm on Friday for the first time since COVID restrictions in 2020. It was wonderful to see how reverent the students were during this Mass. Each term Stages are scheduled to attend Mass. This Friday Stage 2 will be attending Parish Mass.
Playground Update

Opening and Blessing of New Playground

Please see the invitation welcoming you all to our Opening and Blessing of our new Playground! The playground looks so exciting and looks like it is finished, however we are still waiting for some netting and final touches to be completed. When these have been completed we are required to await for the project to be handed over with the appropriate certificates.

Then we can play!!

I know I cannot wait either!!

I wonder who will be first down the slide?

We warmly invite you
to attend
*The Opening and Blessing
of
St Nicholas of Myra's Playground*

Date: Tuesday 7 June 2022
Time: 2pm
Where: St Nicholas of Myra Primary School Penrith

RSVP: stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au
by Friday 3 June 2022.

If wet weather the ceremony will occur in the School Hall.

Mother's Day Mass





Over the last two weeks our Year 3 and our Year 5 students have been participating in the 2022 NAPLAN. Congratulations to the students for their resilience and hard work during this time as they have undergone a variety of tests. 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. Thank you to all the Staff who

coordinated the assessments and the technology during this time. Thank you also to our Parents and Carers who have prepared and supported the children so well. Results of the tests will be shared with Parents and Carers once the school receives them later this year.

Semester 1 Half Yearly Reports

Twice a year reports are sent home to give further information about the student'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, 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 students 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 available via the Compass Parent Portal on Thursday 23 June 2022. More information for Parents and Carers regarding Semester One Reports will be shared in the Week 7 Newsletter. Student Led Conferences will occur in Week 10 and will be offered both face to face and via Zoom from Monday - Thursday mornings starting at 8:00-8:40am and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30pm - 3:50pm. Our late night will be **Tuesday 28 June** starting from 3:30pm - 6pm both face to face and via Zoom. From 6:30- 7:30pm they will be via Zoom **ONLY**

Play Skills

The Genius of Play explains how we can help kids learn vital life skills such as communication, cooperation, problem-solving, and perspective taking.

“Learning the skills that children practice in social play takes lots of sensitive adult support because:

- Children often do not know what is expected in different social situations;
- They don't have the experience and knowledge of appropriate ways to solve conflicts;
- They are naturally self-centered, so it is hard for them to understand others' intentions and feelings.

Here's how you help:

Communication

- Teach appropriate ways of getting people's attention: “When you want Nikko's attention, say ‘Nikko,’ then wait for him to look at you.”
- Help children tell each other directly what they want or need: “Tell Sharon, ‘I want to pretend the that the baby is sick and needs to go to the doctor.’”
- Show them how to join in – asking to play is not always the best strategy.

Socially competent children often watch the children playing then find a way to ease into the ongoing play. “Look! They are building a road with blocks. Would you like to put some of these signs next to the roads?”

Cooperation -Explain what cooperation looks like in different play situations:

- Sharing: “Hold the book so Tim can see the pages.” “Roll the ball to Rachel, then she can roll it to you.”
- Taking turns: Help kids negotiate who goes first and the time for each turn.
- Compromising: Give children ideas about how each can get a little of what they want.

Problem-Solving -When children play together, conflicts are inevitable. Help kids learn to solve problems collaboratively by teaching them steps to negotiate:

1. State the problem – everyone gets a say.
2. Brainstorm solutions – again, everyone contributes.
3. Choose the solution that everyone agrees on.
4. Implement the solution – decide on the logistics (length of turns, who goes first, etc.)
5. Evaluate the solution – how is it working?

Perspective-Taking We can help children understand the perspective of others by pointing out:

- How others feel: “Her face is saying ‘I'm sad.’”
- How your child's behaviour affects others: “When you insist on having your way, friends may not want to play with you.”
- How other children might see things differently: “John may not like to be pulled that fast in the wagon.”

With your support and many opportunities for social play, your children will develop the social skills they need to get along with others throughout their lives. And they will have lots of fun, too!”





Awards

Awards - Friday 13 May 2022 - Term 2 Week 3

K	Emily OCONNOR
K	Miguel TIMM
K	Samritha VINOTHKUMAR
K	Zian LORENZO
1	Celine CHANPOWSEE
1	Ciaran HEAVIN
1	Diya GOEL
1	Kacey BAC
2	Jae LIM
2	Elloise FLOOD
2	Rome HILL
2	Isabella TEUMA
3	Anna DISSANAYAKE
3	Max DYKE
3	Karthik CHIKKA
3	Levi FENECH
4	Lilah SURENNE
4	Jadey LAU
4	Nicholas FALZON
4	Michael NAGARETNAM
5	Hannah REBERNIK
5	Byron FAPOI
5	Nevaeh COULTON
5	Angelo ISAAC
6	Jayden TEUMA
6	Nox HILL
6	Beau BROWN
6	William DOUGLAS





Correspondence

- ☺ COVID-19 Positive Notification to Parents (Several)
- ☺ Help Needed - School Athletics Carnival
- ☺ Reminders—Fun Food Day, Tea Towel, Bag and Apron Fundraiser & Science-Athon
- ☺ Industrial Action Update and Reminder
- ☺ Athletics Carnival Postponement
- ☺ Letter from Bishop Vincent re: Greg Whitby's retirement
- ☺ Stage 2 - Update on Mr Cappadona

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, excursions and incursions, mentoring programs, coaching sporting teams and supporting other extra-curricular activities, canteen support and other kinds of help.

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*. Or alternatively, on our website: <https://www.stnicholaspenrith.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now/Parental-involvement>



Friday 27 May - 12:00pm
Parish Mass - Stage 2

Monday 30 May
Athletics Carnival
9:10—10:10am - Parent Group Meeting

Friday 3 June
2:30pm - Whole School Assembly -
Stage 2 coordinating

Tuesday 7 June 2pm
Opening and Blessing of New Playground

Thursday 9 June
Newsletter

Friday 10 June
Science - athon

Parents Representative Council
 SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE

MISS CONNECTION – Raising Teenage Girls

How to find true, meaningful connection with your teenage daughter.

Dr Justin Coulson

Join us one of Australia's leading parenting and family experts, Channel 9's Parental Guidance Presenter, Author, Psychologist

Our guest speaker for the PRC parent engagement event is: Register here to attend

Justin will be discussing:

How we can keep them safe and informed? What is really going on in the minds of our teenage daughters?

How we can stay connected to our daughters and keep them motivated?

How to encourage them to develop strong, healthy relationships and resilience?

The best things we can do to support our daughters, Simple tools and techniques to help you guide them.

Educating young women for the future

Monday, 30th May 2022

Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm (2 hours)
(PRC General Meeting- will be held prior to guest speaker)
Catherine McAuley, Darcy Rd, Westmead, 2148
www.prc.catholic.edu.au @prcparra
 Light supper and refreshments will be provided,
 and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

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