



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 1
Week 6
5th March 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are in the Church's season of Lent. Pope Francis in his homily on Ash Wednesday stated, "Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives, and allowing Him to 'make His dwelling among us'"

Lent is a very spiritual time in the Church's liturgical year. As we travel with the Church into the Lenten season, we come to many core realisations in life. It is a time where we can stop, reflect and renew ourselves. This enables us to move to our life's goal as Christians to be united with God in this life and the life after.

This Lenten season of 2021 needs to be taken as a one-time opportunity in the world's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that from the Old Testament, a lent was proclaimed by prophets when there was the visible evil that suppressed the people. The prophets called for prayer, fasting and putting on sack cloth and ashes, in order to repent and do reparation for the evil affecting humanity.

We have a great burden with the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to take this lenten season seriously and be spiritually active to pray for our world, that God may renew humanity and make anew our world.

Next week is Catholic Schools Week. It is a time when we highlight the rich history of Catholic schooling in Australia and especially this year as we are celebrating 200 years of Catholic Education. Catholic Schools Week provides an opportunity for the community to recognise our committed, gifted teachers and support staff for their work in encouraging success, promoting Catholic values and attitudes, supporting creativity and instilling compassion in our young people. Over 250 000 students are educated in over 600 Catholic schools throughout New South Wales each year. We work in partnership with our families, to provide for and shape students' lives academically, spiritually, emotionally and creatively.

It is in partnership we can achieve great things for the children in our care.

Jenny Bellenger

Principal

KINDERGARTEN 2022

We have begun accepting applications for enrolment for Kindergarten in 2022. We have had strong early interest from new families seeking a place for next year. I would encourage all families with siblings who will be starting Kindergarten in 2022 to submit their enrolment applications as soon as possible to ensure that a position is allocated for next year.

If any parents know of friends or neighbours with a child ready to start school next year, please let them know that we have a school tour next Tuesday 9th March at 9:30am – 10:30 am.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK—OPEN DAY TUESDAY 9TH MARCH

Prospective parents are invited to attend our Open Day & Enrolment Day for Kindergarten 2022 on Tuesday 9th March from 9.30am - 10.30am.

This will give you the opportunity to find out about our school and also meet our Principal. Enrolment packs will be available on the day or are available from our website. Enrolment forms are being accepted now and are available to download from our website.

PBS4L



PBS4L Fortnightly Focus

Each fortnight we will have a school wide focus linked to one of our school expectations. Our focus for weeks 6 and 7 is to ***speak politely and calmly***. Students have spent some time in the classroom learning about what this looks like. Students are expected to speak politely & calmly in all areas of the school & to all teachers and students. Please continue to encourage this at home.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jessica plays baseball for Plumpton Braves and she was selected to represent the Greater Western Baseball association at the Rookies Cup on Sunday. Her team finished 2nd overall in their division after playing 4 games against teams from Illawarra, Macarthur, Ryde and Rouse Hill. One player from each team was selected to receive a medal from Baseball NSW as player of the tournament and Jessica was chosen from her team to receive this medal. Congratulations Jessica this is a wonderful achievement.



ATTENDANCE

Letters will be going home today for students in Kindergarten to Year 2 regarding attendance. This letter will be sent home as a reminder of the time your child has already had off. Any child that has had 3 or more days off whether it is explained or unexplained you will receive this letter.

Mrs Jackson
Attendance Family Liaison Officer

SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS

School fee statements have now been sent out to families. If you have not received your statement please contact the office, so a copy can be organised.

I have had a few enquiries from families regarding the billercode being different when setting up the Flexible Payment Plan (FPP). We have confirmed with CEDP that the Billercode is prepopulated on the DD eform on the website, so it is ok to proceed. If you require further assistance please contact the office.

Mrs Falconer
Finance Officer

URGENT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS RE BUILDING

FAL Constructions will be pouring the first of 4 major concrete slabs on Monday 08.02.2021. FAL will be providing traffic control on Gregory Street to mitigate the flow of traffic along both entrances and exits of the building site. The first concrete pour will be approximately 300 cubic metres of concrete. The concrete will be pumped with a boom pump set up in the middle of the site with a 51m reach, one of the biggest available. There will be approximately 50 aggregate trucks entering the site throughout the course of the day.

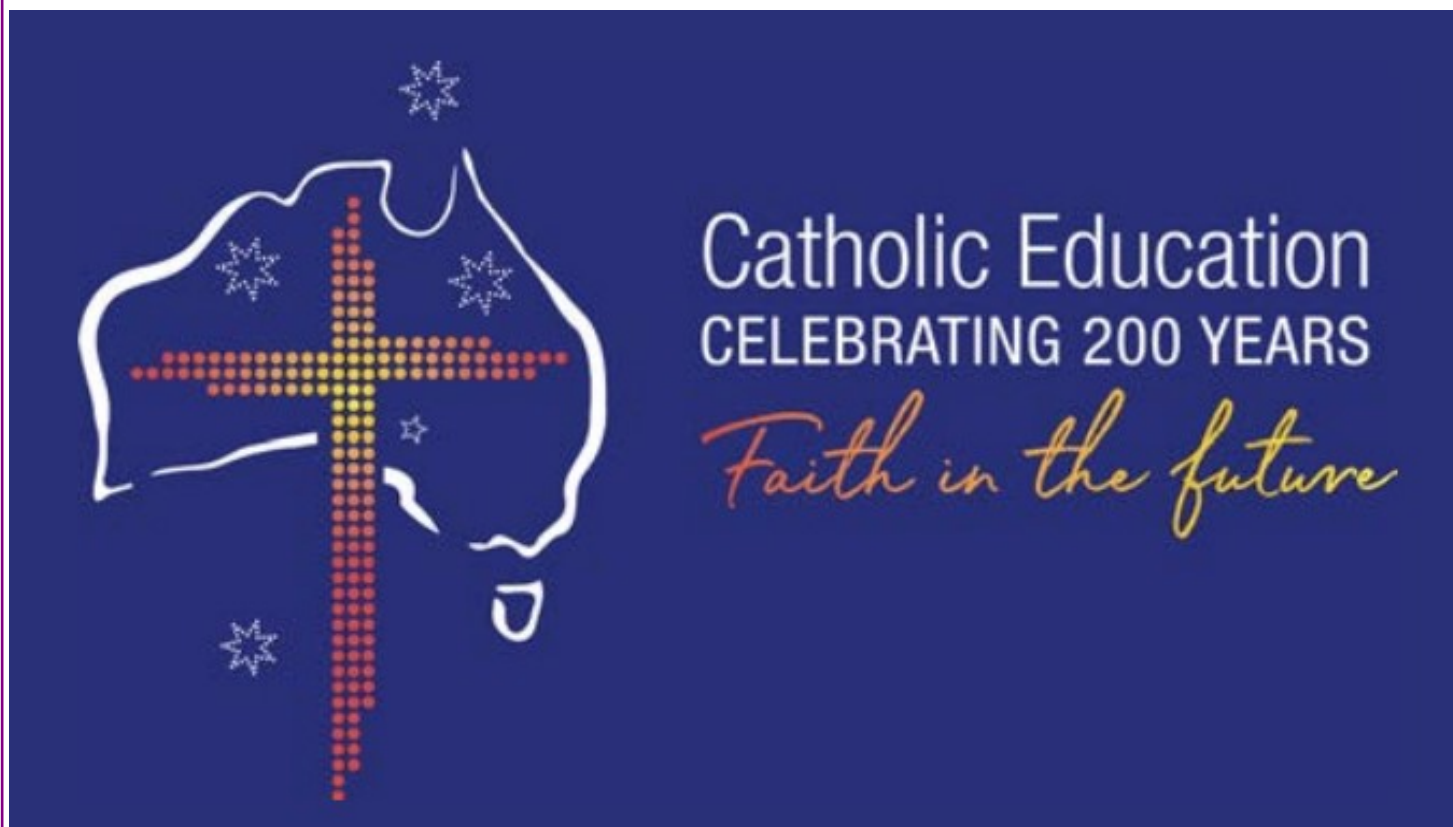
Aggregate trucks will be entering from Gregory Street and turning into the St Francis of Assisi “drop of zone” and reversing back into the site. When leaving the aggregate trucks will drive straight out of site back onto Gregory Street.

The concrete pumping will commence at 7am and with a steady flow of trucks the pumping should be finished in 6 to 8 hours.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

2021 Catholic Schools Week celebrations will take place from 7-13 March and will announce the start of the official enrolment period. The theme for 2021 is '*Celebrating 200 years of Catholic education*'.



In 2021, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will celebrate the bicentenary of Australia's first Catholic school, established in Parramatta in October 1820 through continued commitment of growing opportunities of Catholic education for all.

From our first school in 1820, the contribution of the earliest Catholic schools transformed access to education for disadvantaged Australians. Today, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta builds on this legacy through leadership both on equity and the transformation of learning and teaching through innovation.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will celebrate the bicentenary of Australia's first Catholic school through a continued commitment to growing opportunities of Catholic education for all. This milestone will provide the opportunity to learn from one another, inviting the voices, curiosity, and creativity of our students, teachers and parents to celebrate the gifts of faith and learning. In owning the history of Catholic schools in Australia, we recognise the hurts of the past. We acknowledge the victims of abuse and injustice and continue to support them in healing together.

We acknowledge the history, stories, and Dreaming of the Darug people. We learn from the wrongs of the past, and these challenges guide us to a future that is accepting, welcoming and proudly diverse. The history of Catholic education in Australia is far from staid, beginning with Irish insurgency in the early colony. We continue to grow from our beginnings in 1820, acknowledging the spirit, determination, and initiative shown by our earliest lay teachers.

Ours is a story of courage and determination with heroes like St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, a woman whose extraordinary faith effectively extended the opportunities of education to ordinary Australian children. We continue to grow from the foundations laid by the religious orders and the legacy of the clergy who dedicated their lives to building Catholic schools and their communities.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (cont.)

The contribution of the earliest Catholic schools transformed access to education for disadvantaged Australians. Today, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta builds on this legacy through leading, transforming learning and teaching and through outreach. Above all, we celebrate all that unites us, and we commit to a hope that defines us, in living out God's love for one another.

The St Francis community will celebrate the official launch of the Bicentenary next Monday with classroom liturgies. This will coincide with our annual Catholic Schools Week Celebrations, where children reflect on the importance of a faith filled education and reflect on what they love about their own Catholic School Community - St Francis of Assisi!

The students will engage in activities centred around Catholic education, past and present! The students will also learn the National Song for this wonderful celebration - *'Faith in the Future' composed by Fr Rob Galea, and they will read the National Prayer daily throughout the week.*

A copy of the National Prayer Card will be sent home with all students during the week. We encourage you to pray it and reflect on the words, which commemorate this important time in our shared history.



200 YEARS - FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

Almighty and all-loving God,
with gratitude for the endeavours of Catholic education in the past,
with confidence in our Catholic pre-schools, schools and universities today,
and with faith in their continuing contribution in the future,
we celebrate 200 years of Catholic education in this Great South Land.

As our Heavenly Father,
we thank you for your providential care for your children in this land
in inspiring priests, religious and lay people
to found and staff our schools in ages past.
Through them the Good News of your Son was brought to the young
even in colonial times – and ever since.

As Christ the Teacher,
you grace the staff and leaders of Catholic education today.
As they build on the achievements of their predecessors
direct them in their present efforts
to ensure that every young Australian has the opportunity
for an excellent education and formation in faith.

As our Inspiring Spirit,
you lead us into the future.
In the century ahead grant those teaching and
learning in our schools,
those planning and leading,
and the families and community that entrust
their young people to us,
a love of learning and a willingness to be the
face of Christ
in the world of tomorrow.

Pour out your abundant blessings upon all involved in
the ministry of Catholic education. Amen.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross – pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Patron of Catholic
Education in Australia – pray for us.

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Catholic Education
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS
Faith in the future

PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Please remember the road rules around the school when dropping off and picking up your children.

If you are using the car pick up/drop off area, please remember that is not a parking area. Do not double park next other cars and do not leave your car. In the morning parents should pull up, drop off their children, and then leave. **Do not get out of the car.** Students will need to walk into school on their own if using this option. If you need to get out of the car, you will need to find parking elsewhere.

When picking up your children in the afternoon, parents form a queue on Armitage Drive. **Please do not cut in on the queue, as this only upsets parents who have been patiently waiting their turn.** Please go to the end of the line. **Do not get out of the car.** Children using car pick up need to be able to enter the car from the curb side safely and do up their own seatbelt. If they need assistance to get in the car or do up their seat belt you will need to use an alternative method of pick up.

Also to parents who walk in to collect their children from the Stone Street parent collect, please do not cross the road through the car pick up area. If you need to cross on Armitage Drive please use the pedestrian crossing to the right of the gate.



Mufti Easter Egg Collection Day

Monday 22nd March

Please bring along an Easter egg or Easter themed gift with an Easter gift bag.

Easter raffle will be drawn

Friday 26th March





22 February 2021

Dear parents and carers

Please find below the Annual Diocesan fees schedule for 2021. The fees remained unchanged from 2020, a reflection of Bishop Vincent Long's aim of making our Catholic schools as affordable as possible for families.

School-based fees have also remained unchanged. School-based fees cover the costs of things such as technology and school administration.

School fees are generally billed in instalments during Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee is made up of three main parts:

1. Diocesan tuition fee

These are set by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta and are the *same for every school*. There are **significant sibling discounts** for families with more than one child at a Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta school (it does not have to be the same school).

Those discounts and a list of the annual Diocesan tuition fees for 2021 are outlined below
2021 Diocesan tuition fee schedule (per year)

	1 st child (100%)	2 nd child (75%)	3 rd child (50%)	4 th Child (0%)
Kindergarten	\$1,224	\$918	\$612	No fee
Years 1 – 6	\$1,581	\$1,185	\$792	No fee
Years 7 – 8	\$2,190	\$1,644	\$1,095	No fee
Years 9 – 10	\$2,430	\$1,824	\$1,215	No fee
Years 11 – 12	\$3,102	\$2,328	\$1,551	No fee

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 9840 5600 www.parra.catholic.edu.au

2. Diocesan Building Levy

This fee is set by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta and is the same for every school. The annual Diocesan building levy for 2021 is \$822. **There is only one Diocesan building levy per family with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College, Kingswood** and it is billed in instalments over the first 3 terms of the year. A sibling discount of up to 50% applies to families with children within the bordering Archdiocese of Sydney and Dioceses of Wollongong and Broken Bay.

3. School-based fees

These are determined by the school according to the needs of that school and billable for each child. School-based fees are often called 'resource fees' or 'activity fees'. These fees help schools cover the costs of things like teaching resources, technology, excursions etc.

This fee varies between schools. Please contact the school to find out more about their school-based fees. *Although it varies from school to school, as a guide, the Diocesan tuition fee represents roughly half the overall fee per year.*

Here's how we can help

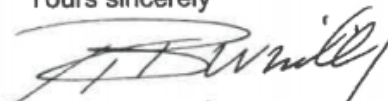
We appreciate that from time to time, some families experience financial challenges. As well as sibling discounts, confidential fee support is available through the following means:

- **Flexible payment options**
Families enrolled in CEDP schools are offered flexible payment options at the start of each year. These options provide opportunities to select a payment plan that best suits you. Payments can be made by direct debit, debit, or credit card, or BPay on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis at no additional charge.
- **Fee assistance**
We understand financial circumstances can change and that these changes can impact on families. Please speak with your school principal confidentially if your family experiences financial difficulty or hardship so an appropriate arrangement can be made.
- **Bishop Manning Support Fund**
In addition to fee assistance programs, the Bishop Manning Support Fund is available to families who experience challenges meeting the cost of school fees due to financial hardship. Further information is available at the [Bishop Manning Support Fund](#) page of the CEDP website.
- **Byallawa Co-contribution Scheme**

The Byallawa co-contribution scheme provides assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to ensure a quality Catholic education is affordable and accessible. Further information is available on our [Byallawa Co-contribution Scheme](#) page of the CEDP website.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Catholic schools. Please contact your local Catholic school if you require further assistance.

Yours sincerely



Gregory B Whitby AM KSG
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta