

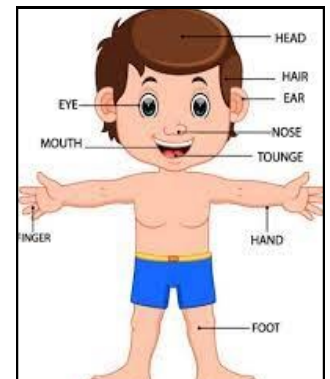
Dear Parents and Friends of Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School

WONDERFULLY MADE

The Bible tells us we are 'wonderfully made' (Psalm 139.14).
What does this mean?

Your body is truly amazing and here are some amazing facts.

- ◇ You blink about 15 times a minute.
- ◇ 75% of your body is made up of water.
- ◇ It takes only 7 seconds for food to go from your mouth into your stomach through your oesophagus.
- ◇ It takes 2000 frowns to create one wrinkle.
- ◇ Your liver has more than 500 functions.
- ◇ The fastest recorded sneeze reached a speed of 165 kilometres per hour.
- ◇ The average adult eyeball weighs 8 grams.
- ◇ Half of the average man's body weight is made up of muscle.
- ◇ The average human heart beats 100,000 times a day.
- ◇ The smallest bone in your body is in your ear.
- ◇ You have 14 bones in your face.
- ◇ You have 27 bones in your hand.
- ◇ You have 206 bones in total.
- ◇ Your left lung is smaller than your right lung to make room for your heart.
- ◇ If all the blood vessels in your body were laid end to end, they would reach 95,000 kilometres.



Wow.

Close your eyes and think for a moment about your body. Your heart is beating and pumping blood around your body and your stomach and intestines are digesting food. Your brain is full of activity.

All of this is going on because of you but without you having to make it happen. Your body is amazing.

Give thanks to God for your body and all the wonderful things it lets you do.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
THURSDAY 18th MARCH (This week)
No Students attend school on this day.



Celebrating 140 YEARS
1880 - 2020

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Our Lady of the Rosary Parish - Fr Brendan - 9623 1962

17 March, Pray with St Patrick.

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep.



In his memoir he wrote, "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rosed, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.

He had a vision, which prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. There, he converted many people -eventually thousands - and he began building churches across the country.

He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. So complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission, he feared nothing -not even death.

"The Breastplate,"

is St Patrick's poem of faith and trust in God:

Christ be within me,
Christ behind me,
Christ before me,
Christ beside me,
Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ inquired,
Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger."

Thought for the Week

"Only those who attempt the absurd, will achieve the impossible"
MC Escher

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL





From the Assistant Principal's desk...

Welcome to my desk. In each Newsletter I will provide general information, ideas and tips for parents in all key Learning Areas. If you have a particular question or query or anything you would like more information about, please let me know.

At OLR we wear our uniform with pride

Wearing a uniform is a badge of pride, creates an identity for a school and is an important part of being a school student. Uniforms give students a sense of belonging and create an identity for the school in the community.

Some people believe that a school uniform can improve learning by reducing distraction, sharpening focus on schoolwork and making the classroom a more serious environment, allowing students to perform better academically.



Recently we have seen some students wearing accessories that are not part of the uniform. These include: items of clothing under their uniform which are visible, different jackets and hats and inappropriate headwear, jewellery and footwear.

The uniform policy and dress code can be found in the Parent Handbook.

It states:

- Children must wear the full and correct school uniform each day.
- Children are to keep their uniform looking neat and tidy. □
- No jewellery is permitted at school except for earrings (studs or sleepers). A cross may be worn but must be tucked inside their shirt or dress for safety.
- Children are to have an appropriate styled haircut. Long hair needs to be tied back.
- Any hair ties, bows etc... must be in the school colours or a black or neutral colour.
- Nail polish is not permitted.

At present all students should be in full SUMMER uniform. If we start to get any cooler days students should wear a jacket or may wear the full winter uniform. It is not permitted to wear parts of one and parts of the other or clothing underneath such as tights.

Girls should have the dress with short white socks and black school shoes. No tights or long sleeved items should be visible under the uniform. On colder days the school jacket is worn.

Boys should be wearing the school shorts and the short -sleeved shirt with short navy socks and black school shoes.

The sport uniform includes: Royal Blue/Navy/Gold microfibre polo shirt, Royal Blue microfibre shorts, White short socks □ and predominantly white sports shoes. The school track pants or plain navy tracksuit pants can be worn on cooler days. No tights or bike shorts are to be worn.


Teachers will continue to monitor the students and reminder notes will be sent home if students are persistently wearing incorrect uniform items.

We are proud of our school and its reputation in the wider community. We ask for parent support in raising the standards of the uniform at OLR.


If parents have any concerns or require support please contact a member of the Leadership team.



WHATS HAPPENING AT SCHOOL

Wednesday 17th March ⇒ **St Patricks Day** 

Thursday 18th March ⇒ **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
⇒ **No students attend this day**

Friday 19th March ⇒ **St Joseph Feast Day** 
⇒ **OLR Cross Country**
⇒ **Celebration of Learning & STAR Awards 2:00pm**

Monday 29th March ⇒ **GOLD AWARDS**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthday in the last 2 weeks.

Mathieus Acuna; Mehwish Viridi; Renee Filoialii, Levi Fairley,
Suhavee Sandhu; Noura Athian; Jackson Bingham; Evangelina
Soriano; Layla Fau; Taara Hariraam; Jacob Sara; Nikki Zigouris;
Amajima Malek; Ayansh Singh; Larenz Wise; Abang Deng;
Monika Dabra; Ceana Paranís; Achol Ngor; Reyan Rami, Darrus
Tinga; Hanna Domjan; Alakier Akot.



LIGHTHOUSE AWARDS

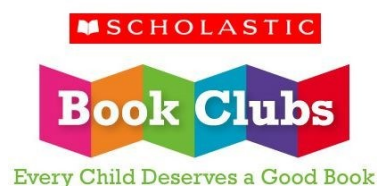
TERM 1 WEEK 6

Kindy	-	Nybol Jal Ngong
Year 1	-	Sabine Moises
Year 2	-	Elyora Gray-Poasa
Year 3	-	Kuol Ker
Year 4	-	Om Saha
Year 5	-	Shaurya Hardiya
Year 6	-	Ethan Schroeder



BOOK CLUB

Book Club brochures were sent home last week. All orders need to be completed online by Monday March 22. No Cash orders can be accepted through the office.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION @ Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys. NSW

From the page of the Religious Education Coordinator - Mrs Colleen Fuller

We look forward to 2021 as a year of Family, Faith, Formation and Fun.

2021 FORMATION GOAL:

All students to be self-reflective disciples of Jesus, through deep learning from the gospel and the RE New Draft Curriculum.

In 2020-2021 we continue to celebrate 140+ years of ongoing commitment to excellence in Catholic Education; at Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys and 200+ years of excellence in Catholic Education within Australia.



MASS TIMES: The church is open now without the earlier Covid restrictions. You are invited to participate in prayer, worship and thanksgiving as a believing community.

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am or 6:00pm.

Friday 19th March. FEAST OF ST JOSEPH. St Joseph also has a second Feast Day on May 1. (St Joseph the Worker).

Pope Francis has dedicated this year (2021) to St Joseph; patron saint of the Universal Church.

In his writing Pope Francis reflects on St Joseph as :

- a beloved father
- a tender and loving father
- an obedient father
- an accepting father
- a creatively courageous father
- a working father
- a father in the shadows.

Pope Francis presents St Joseph as an example of the type of father so very much needed in the world and in the church.

Quick Facts about St Joseph.

Saint Joseph is a well-known saint for Christians all over the world.

- husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- foster father of Jesus
- carpenter
- born in Bethlehem, lived in Nazareth
- an angel told Joseph in his dream to take Mary into his home
- in another dream, Joseph was warned to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt
- Joseph disappears from the New Testament before Jesus began his public ministry
- patron Saint of the Universal Church, the Patron Saint of the Sisters of St Joseph (the Josephites), unborn children, travellers, families, workers, happy death, fathers/dads.
- St Joseph is also the patron Saint of many countries including: Russia, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Belgium, Korea, Austria, Vietnam, Bohemia, and also Sicily, Italy.

As a family I invite you to pray the St Joseph prayer regularly throughout the year.



PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

Let us now make our prayer to him:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Husband 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.*

NEW DRAFT Religious Education Curriculum:

The New Draft RE Curriculum leads us to the 3H Paradigm of HEAD, HEART and HAND as a way of being in the world, living according to the Word of God. Within this paradigm students are taught the Dispositions and how to apply them in the ordinary of each day: **as the Success Criteria for our life.**

Head (cognition, intelligence)	Heart (affectivity, socio-emotional)	Hands (praxis, discipleship, action)
Be Attentive Be Intelligent Be Reasonable Be Responsible	Be Contemplative Be Empathetic Be Humble Be Loving	Be Present Be Active Be Compassionate Be Effective

Our continuing challenge and opportunity is to learn how to use these dispositions in contemplation and prayer each day, as we learn how to live as a true follower of Jesus.

Caritas Australia: During the season of Lent we focus on three areas of self-reflection and action in bringing ourselves closer to God and in contributing to a more just world:

Prayer Fasting and Almsgiving (good works).

This year through our connection and support of Caritas Australia our focus is taken from Oscar Romero's quote:

'Aspire not to have more but to be more!'

Caritas Australia does amazing work in accord with Catholic Social Teaching. This year there is a particular focus on Solidarity and Human Dignity.

Each classroom has a Mission Box (please encourage your child to go without something during Lent and give that money to the work of CARITAS.)

Students/ Staff/Parents are encouraged to give from what they have and share with those in need. These donations will be collected at Easter.

As well we are setting up an online opportunity for families to also contribute to helping families in great need. I encourage you to be thinking of how you can have less this Lenten Season and share with our neighbours who need our generosity.

On Friday, as a school we will have one hour with no electricity to stand in solidarity with our 1.6 million neighbours who have no electricity. We will be providing the online link as we are seeking student sponsorship on behalf of our suffering neighbours.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER BRENDAN

March 16 2021

Dear Parents, Friends and Staff,

We continue to be blessed in our country with an almost complete freedom from the effects of the pandemic still afflicting so many in other places. Let us thank God for our own preservation and intercede for the many who continue to suffer.

Tomorrow, March 17, we celebrate the feast of Saint Patrick. In this country we celebrate this as a solemnity, a major feast, because it is through the spiritual heirs of Saint Patrick, the early Irish migrants, that the Catholic Faith was planted in Australia. Let us pray for the Church in Australia today, that we may be faithful to our inheritance, brought to us at great cost.

On Friday March 19 we celebrate the feast of Saint Joseph. As you may remember, Pope Francis has given this year to us as the Year of Saint Joseph. I encourage us all to have very great confidence in and devotion to Saint Joseph. Take him as the father of your family, and turn to him in your needs.

I mentioned in my last letter that the church renovations are to begin on April 7, Easter Wednesday. Masses will continue at the usual times at the MacKillop Centre, the old OLR Infant School campus. We intend to have a temporary chapel in a classroom there, and the Masses will be held outside under the verandah. Let us pray that our great rains will be finished by then.

First Communion families have been advised that the First Communion programme will be held in the second half of this year. A more specific programme will be emailed in the near future.

The First Reconciliation will be brought forward this year. Notice of Parent Information nights will be forthcoming.

Confirmations will be at the end of August. The programme dates at this stage will remain as on the parish calendar.

Please pray to Saint Joseph for our church renovation programme.

We rapidly approach the holy season of Easter. Let us continue our Lenten observances and pray for all throughout the Universal Church preparing for baptism this Easter.

Let us thank God for the remarkable, historic and fruitful visit of Pope Francis to Iraq recently.

God bless.

Fr Brendan.

NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge is on again. This is a great opportunity for students to read books from a wide range of authors and genres. The Premier's Reading Challenge books can be found in our school library as well as your local library. Every student that completes the challenge receives a certificate from the NSW state Premier towards the end of the year. All students in grades K, 1 and 2 will complete the challenge with their teachers in their learning Spaces. Students in grades 3 – 6 who wish to complete the challenge can download a copy of their Personal Reading log from the following website, www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au, or pick up a copy from the front office. Good luck and happy reading.



NSW Department of Education
2021 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge
Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Key dates for students in K-20
Challenge opens
Monday March 1
Challenge closes
for student entries
Friday August 20
Artwork by Dr
Brennagh Blackcraft



TERM 1 SCHOOL FEES

Dear Parents / Carers,

Term 1 School Fees have now been sent. Term 1 fees are due on Wednesday 17 March.

School FEES

There are many payment options available. If you have not received your school fee statement, or if you would like to set up a payment arrangement, please contact Anne Rando - 8856 8301

If you are experiencing Financial difficulties and would like to discuss options for assistance, please also contact Anne Rando - 8856 8301 or via email - arando2@parra.catholic.edu.au

VOLUNTEER GARDENER REQUIRED

We are asking if any parent/carer is available to volunteer some time to help in the garden. We need someone to weed, trim and tend to the gardens. Any time you can volunteer during school hours will be appreciated.

If you require any further information, please contact the Principal, Michael Siciliano or the school office.



All volunteers do need to complete the online CEDP Building Child Safe Communities Training & Undertaking.

Please go to <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Building-Child-Safe-Communities> and click on **START NOW** to begin.



NDIS SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>April 5th</i>	<i>April 6th</i>	<i>April 7th</i>	<i>April 8th</i>	<i>April 9th</i>
CLOSED EASTER MONDAY	ABORIGINAL ARTS & CRAFTS SRAC Hub 10:00am - 2:00pm	KIDS BINGO (\$9.00) Departing from SRAC Hub 9:00am - 3:30pm	MOVIE DAY & BOARD GAMES SRAC Hub 9:00am - 2:00pm	WESTERN SYDNEY ZOO (\$20.00) Departing from SRAC Hub 8:30am - 3:00pm
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>April 12th</i>	<i>April 13th</i>	<i>April 14th</i>	<i>April 15th</i>	<i>April 16th</i>
KIDS TRIVIA Disney & Pixar (\$8.00) Departing SRAC Hub 9:00am - 2:00pm	ABORIGINAL ARTS & CRAFTS SRAC Hub 10:00am - 2:00pm	MUSIC GROUP AND DANCE CLASS Departing from SRAC Hub 9:00am - 3:00pm	INDOOR GAMES AND SPORT SRAC Hub 9:00am - 3:00pm	POWERHOUSE MUSEUM Departing from SRAC Hub 8:30am - 3:30pm

SRAC HUB: (02) 4721 1536

Please Contact our office to book a place.

51 - 57 Henry Street, Penrith NSW 2750

For children aged 5 - 16