



St Patrick' Parish School

Strength in Gentleness

Opening Newsletter February 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians, past and present, of this land of the Ngarigo (Nnn gur i go) people who long before us lived, loved and raised their children here.

We also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our community and acknowledge their deep physical and spiritual connections to their land.

We come together to learn, to share and to journey together.

We are proud to be learning on Ngarigo land.

We also remember **St Brigid** (feast day 1st February) and the **Brigidine Sisters** who served in our Parish for over 100 years. It is their charism that we uphold. They brought love and the light of Jesus into the lives of so many in our community.

St Brigid,
You were a woman of peace.
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness.
You brought hope to the downcast.
May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious.
And may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world. Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.
Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the weary. Strengthen what is weak within us.
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.
May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.
Amen



2023

We pursue the work and mission
entrusted to us



God's Work Our Hands

"Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours..."
St Teresa of Avila

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and
proclaim the good news to the whole creation."
Mark 16:15

Welcome to the 2023 school year.

We look to this new year with optimism, as we focus especially on the second part of our Vision Statement: '**we pursue the work and mission entrusted to us**' as our theme for 2023.

At St Patrick's we know that we are a **Place of Learning, a Place of Safety and a Place of Belonging**. We believe that good learning is not only possible and achievable, it will also be founded on deep connections between the students, the teachers and our families.

Above all, our School motto, **Strength in Gentleness**, guides all that we do. It is our mantle and our calling.

I look forward to a working partnership with you in 2023.

Frances Robertson
Principal

The School at a glance

PARISH PRIEST (Pres Ph number: 83317609)

Fr Mark Croker

PRINCIPAL

Mrs Frances Robertson

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Mr Steve Joyce

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Mrs Kath Kovacs

CURRICULUM & PASTORAL COORDINATOR-PRIMARY

Mrs Stefanie Cook

CURRICULUM & PASTORAL COORDINATOR- SECONDARY

Mrs Lou Mackay

OFFICE STAFF

Mrs Sarah Hamilton (Office Manager) Mrs Jolanta Zieja (Finance Manager)

Mrs Rachel Dibley, Mrs Rebecca Hain (Clerical Officer P/T)

KHS-Mrs Emma Hill		KQ- Mrs Kirsten Queck
1D-Mrs Giovanna Davies		1M- Mrs Ginnie McIlvenny
2WS - Mrs Kate Whackett, Mrs Kellie Summerville		2W – Mrs Abbie Williams
3PL – Ms Polly Paradise, Mrs Natalee Litchfield		3R – Ms Emma Reneker
4M -Mrs Glenyce Moxon		5M – Mrs Bernadette Moser
6I-Mr Mike Introna		K-6 Library - Mrs Melinda Barrett
Carnivals & Representative sport organisation: Mrs Natalee Litchfield (K-6) Mr Tim Lawley (Secondary)		RFF Teachers- Ms Alex Strudwick, Mrs Ang Introna
Learning Support Teachers: Mrs Stef Cook (K-6), Mrs Lou Mackay (Secondary), Mrs Kellie Summerville (K-10)		
Secondary teacher	Homeroom	Subjects
Mrs Luaun Aldous	Year 8	7 Mandatory Technology, 8 Art, Elective 9/10 Industrial Arts
Mrs Kellie Branscomb	Year 8	7 Maths, 7 Science, 7 technology Mandatory,8 Maths, 8 Geography, 9 Maths
Ms Cheryl Daniel	Year 8	7 English, 7 History, 7 PDHPE, 8 English, 8 Music, 9 English
Mrs Jenni Fraser	Year 9	Elective 9/10 Food Tech ,7 Science, 8 Science, 8Technology Mandatory, 10 Science
Mrs Kerrie Harris	Year 7	Library, 7 Learn2Learn, 7 RE, 9 History, 10 Geography, 9/10 Elective Commerce
Mr Steve Joyce	Year 8	8 Religious Education
Mrs Kath Kovacs	Year 7	7 Music, 7 RE, 7 Learn2Learn, 9 RE, 10 RE
Mrs Rachel Kitcher	Year 7	7 Learn2Learn, 8 English, 9 PDHPE, 10 English, 10 PDHPE, 9/10 Elective PASS, 9/10 Elective Food Technology
Mr Tim Lawley	Year 9	7 PE, 8 PE, 8 Geography, 9 PE, 10 PE, 9/10 Elective PASS
Mrs Lou Mackay	Pastoral	10 English, ATSI Support teacher, Learning Support Coordinator
Ms Emily Stewart	Year 10	7 English, 7 History, 7 Art, 8 French, 8 Technology Mandatory,
Mr Steve Summerville	Year 9	7 Science, 8 Science, 9 Science, 10 Maths, 10 Science,
Ms Suja Tessy	Year 8	7 Maths, 7 RE, 8 Maths ,8 RE, 9 Maths, 10 Maths

SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs Miesje Blumer (Learning Support Yr 7-10, ATSI support K-10, Royal Far West Support K-2)

Mrs Lisa Haines (Learning Support K-6)

Mrs Lyndal Benson (Contract Relief)

Mrs Alicia Rampal (EALD Support K-10)

Mrs Sumera Sadaat (Learning Support 7-10)

Mrs Rebecca Hain (Classroom Support – 7-10) Mrs Michelle Mitchell (Learning Support K-6)

Mrs Denise Menshic (K-6 Library Admin/Relief)

Mrs Laetitia Miria (Classroom Support -French class)

Mr Ben Davis (Maintenance)

Mr Don Southwell (Grounds/Maintenance)

Mrs Emma Kanowski (Canteen Manager)

Mr Arawn Nicholson (ICT Support)

Mrs Melanie Caffarelli (Learning Support Yr 3-10, Wellbeing Support Officer)

Ms Alex Strudwick (Instrumental Piano)

Mrs Leslie Spencer (Instrumental Strings)

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

PO Box 870 Cooma NSW 2630 Ph: 02 64521721

Email: office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au

School Office hours: 8.30-3.30

TEACHERS' EMAIL CONTACT

first name.surname@cg.catholic.edu.au



Welcome to Shandelle Steere, our new School Counsellor

Shandelle has been working in Canberra but will be working at St Patrick's this year, two days per week on Wednesday and Thursday. She is very keen to begin meeting students, supporting them with managing their time at school.

Shandelle will contact the parents of continuing clients to confirm consent for working with these students.

Here is a link to submit referrals. <https://catholiccare.force.com/housing/s/school-referral-form> Students over 14 years can fill it in themselves. Children under 14 years will need parental consent to attend counselling.

Introducing our St Patrick's team

Our Leadership Team



Frances
Robertson



Steven
Joyce



Kath
Kovacs



Lou
Mackay



Stef
Cook



Fr Mark
Croker



Luaun
Aldous



Melinda
Barrett



Lyndal
Benson



Miesje
Blumer



Kellie
Branscomb



Melanie
Caffarelli



Giovanna
Davies



Cheryl
Daniel



Ben
Davis



Rachel
Dibley



Jenni
Fraser



Hain
Rebecca



Lisa
Haines



Sarah
Hamilton



Kerrie
Harris



Emma
Hill



Ang
Introna



Mike
Introna



Emma
Kanowski



Rachel
Kitcher



Tim
Lawley



Natalee
Litchfield



Ann Marie
Madden



Laetitia
Miria



Michelle
Mitchell



Virginia
McIlvenny



Denise
Menshich



Bernadette
Moser



Glenyce
Moxon



Polly
Paradise



Kirsten
Queck



Alicia
Rampal



Emma
Reneker



Sumera
Sadaat



Emily
Stewart



Alex
Strudwick



Kellie
Summerville



Steve
Summerville



Suja
Tessy



Kate
Whackett



Abbie
Williams



Jolanta
Zieja

Student Leaders for 2023

School Captains: Ava Burke, Jeremiah Abrokwah

Secondary Student Leadership Team: Gabby Buscall, Emily Revelant

Secondary House Leaders: Gabi Bitar, Ashton Dibley, Abbie Hamilton, Tia Quodling, Esther Robinson, Ben Smith

Primary Student Leadership Team: Nate Quodling, Devon Stacey, Olivia Nassar, Clara Stefanetto

Leaders of the SRC: Alice Luton, Sophie Anderson

Leaders of Liturgy: Amelia Zieja, Annaliese Musengi

Environmental Leaders: Amalia Issa, Arabella Andrews

Primary House Leaders: Alex Bradbury, Luciana Forero Losada, Beau Gallagher, Zara Maxwell, Marcos Taylor Hamish Ward, Isabel Wallace, Uri Thomas

The ceremony for formally receiving their badges and blessing will be a special service, during the school's Opening Mass in the Church. Further details will be communicated to the families of the Student Leaders.

Safety first at St Patrick's

1. We want our students to be **safe users of the internet**. There is an **Internet User's Agreement**, which outlines the expectations and guidelines. All students will receive a new form, which parents will be required to sign.
2. **Pedestrian crossings are for people**. Please use them and do not cross the road at random spots. When driving, slow down and watch out for our precious students.
3. **Arrival time for all students (K-10) is after 8.30am**. The gates will still be closed before then, as there is no supervision available until 8.30am. Students should not be at school before then.
4. **Leaving time is after the last afternoon bell at 3.25pm** or until the last bus leaves. Students should not be on school grounds outside of these times, unless it is a designated school event.
5. **Bus zones are for buses**. Secondary students must not exit the side gate on Murray St, unless accompanied by an adult. There are other exits via Soho St and Vale St.
6. **Bikes and scooters must be walked** around the school area on footpaths and stored in the designated places.

Using Technology at School

St Patrick's Parish School believes that students should have the opportunity to access various technologies to:

- prepare our students for further education, employment and social awareness
- provide access to a range of resources to obtain information
- enable electronic communication, both on a local and global level.

Our aim is to develop independent learners who are able to:

- define the purpose for which information is required and locate the appropriate sources of information
- understand and appreciate information from several sources
- present work in an appropriate fashion
- acknowledge the work of others through quotations and citations
- evaluate their own learning.

Students are responsible for their own actions and face disciplinary action or sanctions if guidelines are not followed.

All Students from Year 6-Year 10 are part of the Bring Your Own Device program (BYOD).

This means that students use their own devices (laptops) at school and access the St Patrick's WiFi network. The device must meet the specifications outlined by the school.

Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of their devices, including labelling, protective casing, maintaining up-to-date anti-virus software and legally licenced operating systems on their device, data protection, insurance coverage of their own device to protect any accidental damage, theft or loss and daily battery charging prior to the school day.

Prior to bringing their device for the first time, students and their parent/caregiver must **read and sign the BYOD User Agreement** which sets out the responsibilities and expectations relating to the use of the personal devices. Students must follow teachers' directions as to the appropriate use of their devices during class.

While the use of technology makes a positive contribution to learning at St Patrick's Parish School, it must take place according to the School guidelines for appropriate use. These guidelines are based on the need for safety for each student, as well as courtesy and respect for others. However, they are also based on laws that have been established to protect against such things as invasion of privacy, harassment or bullying of others, breaking copyright.

Use of Mobile Phones and Smart Devices Policy

At St Patrick's we wish our students to be empowered with learning as they move to engaging with the world as adults. Mobile phones and other cellular devices are important modern day communication tools. However, they can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must, therefore, be effectively managed.

Policy statement

To ensure that St Patrick's Parish School provides a safe environment for all members of the school community, students and staff must know their rights and responsibilities and are expected to comply with the school's Use of Mobile Phones and Smart Devices Policy.

The purpose of this policy is to utilise the benefits of mobile phones, whilst managing and limiting the problems they can potentially cause.

All communication by parents to and from school, during school hours, must be via a teacher or the Office. Parents directly communicate with their children via phone is not permitted.

Any student's use of a personal device of any kind at school will *at all times* be subject to the review and direction of teachers, and that failure to follow those directions may lead to disciplinary consequences. The school does not accept responsibility for lost or damaged student mobile phones or smart devices.

Definition

Smart device: A smart device is an electronic device, generally connected to other devices or networks via different wireless protocols, that can operate to some extent interactively and autonomously. It can include devices such as smart phones, tablets, phablets, smart watches, smart glasses and other personal electronics. They are typically small, portable personal electronics, used to communicate, share and interact remotely.

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Primary Students

1. **Primary students (K-6) must not bring personal mobile phones or smart devices to school, unless express permission from the Principal has been successfully sought by parents.** who have outlined the health, safety or personal reasons that justify the student being in possession of a mobile phone or smart device.
2. Where permission is granted, the students can only use the mobile phone or smart devices for the purpose for which it was granted.
3. Mobile phones or smart devices which are brought to school after this permission has been obtained ***must be handed in at the office each morning***, where it will be securely stored. The student is responsible for collecting the phone/device each afternoon.
4. Primary students using personal mobile phones or smart devices at school, without permission, will be subject to disciplinary action. In these cases, the mobile phone or smart device will be retained in the office until it can be collected by a parent.
5. The Principal may revoke a student's previous privilege of bringing mobile phones or smart devices to school.
6. These conditions apply to all school activities including in the classroom, on the playground, on camps and excursions.

Secondary Students

In Secondary, students may bring a personal mobile phone or smart device to school. **The use of mobile phones or smart devices needs to be *reasonable, respectful and responsible*.**

1. It is not *responsible or respectful* to have phones or smart devices on during class time when the focus is on learning.
2. It is not *respectful* to have phones or smart devices on during conversations and activities on the playground.
3. It is not *reasonable* to expect others to listen to personal calls in shared spaces. It is, however, *reasonable and respectful* to explain a situation to a teacher and ask to send a message to a parent if, for example, there is a change of plans for after school. For learning purposes, taking photos with mobiles or smart devices or logging a reminder can only happen with a teacher's permission.
4. **It is *not reasonable, nor respectful*, for parents to make calls or text their children during class time and expect a response, as this interrupts learning. Messages should be left at the Office.**
5. **It is not *responsible or respectful* for students to call/text their parents if they are unwell or need something from home. This is the duty of the school. All important messages must go through a teacher or the Office.**
6. It is not *reasonable, responsible or respectful* to send inappropriate messages, harass, intimidate or bully other students or staff. Instances of this will be subject to disciplinary action.
7. It is not *reasonable, responsible or respectful* to capture video or images of people without permission, as this may constitute an infringement of personal privacy laws. Recording images at school can only be for specific educational purposes, and permission must be given for this.

*To the St Patrick's Parish
School Community*

As the summer holidays come to an end, it's time to gear up for another busy year of learning. I hope the summer break gave you the opportunity to relax and have fun with friends and family.



I'd like to extend a warm welcome to new students commencing at St Patrick's Parish School for the first time. I am sure the school community will welcome and support you during this exciting time. It is fantastic to see the school grow, with local and international students contributing to the vibrant sense of community within the school.

I hope the year ahead is full of laughter, learning and fun and I'm excited to see the amazing things you get up to this year. If there is an opportunity to visit Canberra, please let me know and I can help arrange a class visit to Parliament House.

*I look forward to catching up in person soon.
Kristy*

St Patrick's Parish School's Expectations

At St Patrick's Parish School, we believe that **learning**:

- is founded on the Good News of Jesus Christ
- has purpose and meaning
- encourages and develops a broad range of communication skills
- develops independence and confidence
- is enriched as a result of team work
- is best supported when students feel safe to explore and take risks
- gives rise to creativity
- encourages awareness of global citizenship
- is life, and life is learning

At St Patrick's Parish School, the **safety** and well-being of all members of the school community is important and everyone's shared responsibility.

At St Patrick's Parish School, we **belong** to a school and Parish community that is proud of its heritage and its reputation.

This school is	Our community has the responsibility to:
<i>A place of learning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Come to class prepared to learn• Recognise the right of others to learn• Make a positive contribution in class and listen to all instructions• Develop our skills and knowledge• Choose appropriate times to speak and to listen attentively• Bring all necessary equipment to school• Be punctual to all classes and school activities• Attend school regularly• Complete all work on time and to the best of our ability• Reflect on our learning, using effective feedback on our progress
<i>A place of safety</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow directions given by leaders• Follow the 'hands off' policy• Follow WHS requirements and teachers' direction about use of equipment• Respect the personal space and safety of others• Keep the school grounds and classrooms clean and tidy• Use personal electronic devices appropriately• Create a culture where all we are encouraged to appropriately express an opinion and take sensible risks
<i>A place of belonging</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively participate in the prayer and contribute to the liturgical life of the school• Always be honest and truthful• Relate positively to others and if needed, to restore relationships• Respect the personal space of others• Respect the property of others• Wear the uniform correctly• Be polite and inclusive to all within the school community• Speak to others with courtesy• Actively participate and engage in all classes, school events and activities• Make visitors welcome to our school

A note from the school canteen

Welcome to 2023!

Our canteen runs on Mondays and Fridays.

Orders for K-6 can be placed:

1. before 9am on Monday and Friday mornings, online via the QKR app, or
2. in a paper bag and sent up from classrooms in K-6 lunch tubs on those mornings.

Secondary students can either submit orders in the morning or make selections of their choice during the breaks.

Our canteen runs smoothly with the help of our parent volunteers. If new and returning parents can spare a few hours on a Friday morning (usually 9am until 11.30am), once or twice a term to help us keep it going that would be fantastic. It is a great way to support the school and meet other parents.

The canteen is in the Secondary campus under the Library, but if you are unsure of the location, the lovely office staff will help you. You also need a WWCC.

Please email me on emma.kanowski@cg.catholic.edu.au or call or text me on a Monday or Friday on 0401 725 922 if you have any questions and want to come in.

I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting some new ones... The more the merrier!

Emma Kanowski Canteen Manager

St Patrick's Canteen Menu- 2023

Lunch Food:

Chicken and Salad Wrap, Roll or Sandwich \$5.00

Ham Cheese Salad Wrap, Roll or Sandwich \$4.50

Garden Salad \$4.50

Chicken Salad \$6.00

St Pats Pasta: Small \$3.50

Large \$5.00

Chicken Burger \$5.00

Fresh bun with warm chicken, lettuce, tomato, cucumber, carrot and your choice of sauce.

Garlic Bread \$2.00

Pizza \$4.00

Beef Pie \$4.80

Party Pie \$1.10

Sausage Roll \$3.50

Sweet Chilli Chicken Wrap \$5.00

Lasagne \$5.00

Toastie \$4.00

Ham or chicken with cheese, tomato available.

Drinks:

Flavoured Milk \$2.50

Chocolate, Strawberry or Vanilla Malt.

Juice \$2.00

Apple, Orange, Apple Black Currant.

Glee \$2.50

Rockin Raspberry, Blackcurrant Burst, Bubblegum Grape, Tropical Treat, Watermelon, Blueberry.

Water \$1.00

Waterford's Sparkling Water \$2.50

Tahitian Lime, Orange Passion.

Groove Drinks \$2.50

Strawberries & Cream, Grape, Raspberry & Watermelon.

Ice blocks/ Ice creams:

Quech Sticks \$1.00

Milo Scoop \$3.50

Lemonade Icy Pole \$1.50

Snacks:

Muffins \$2.00

Homemade muffins different flavours

Popcorn \$2.00

Sea Salt, Sweet and Salty

Cheese and Crackers \$2.50

Fruit-seasonal \$1.50

Fruit Salad \$3.00

Extras:

Sauce Sachets 30c

Tomato or BBQ

Reusable Lunch Bag \$10.50

Paper Lunch Bags 10c