



St. Matt's Matters Newsletter

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new year at St Matthew's. As always, I am very proud of our beautiful children. They are treating each other with respect and understanding, focusing on their learning and working together as a faith community. Each morning in class the children start their day by reciting our school prayer. It is a lovely way to begin each day of faith, fun and learning.

Our children are very settled and enthusiastic about their learning. Our new Kindergarten students have been particularly impressive and are well and truly already part of our St Matthew's community.

Grade Information Evening

Thank you to all families who attended the information evening last Wednesday. The information evening serves as an opportunity for all involved in the education of the children to establish an understanding of class expectations and routines for the year ahead.

Opening School Mass

Our Opening School Mass will be held tomorrow 15th February in St Matthew's Church commencing at 9.45 am. Everyone is most welcome to come and to be part of this wonderful celebration of our Faith. The children really enjoy having their parents present, if it is possible. We hope you can attend on this special occasion as we gather to pray for a safe and enriching year for everyone in our school community. At the mass we will present our new Kindergarten children to the school community as well as commission our Year 6 students into their leadership roles for 2019. Parents are most welcome and are encouraged to attend. We hope you can join us.

Welcome BBQ

We look forward to gathering with our new families across Years 1 to 6 and all Kindergarten families on Friday 22nd February for a welcoming BBQ, commencing at 5:00 pm under the COLA and in our playground.

Canteen Update

Our new canteen operator Mel's Cakes and Catering will begin setting up next week and will begin trade from **Monday 25th February**. The canteen will operate Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week. Options for ordering lunches and a menu are on page 5. Melissa will also make use of Facebook to advertise special lunch deals and other specials.

Parent Forum

On Wednesday 27th February there will be the opportunity to join a parent forum to discuss and give feedback on various initiatives related to learning and student needs at St Matthew's. There will be two sessions for this hour long forum.

The first will be from 2:15-3:15 pm and the second from 6:30-7:30 pm.

All parents are warmly invited and we hope that you will be able to attend.

Student Leaders 2019

Our student leaders for 2019 will be commissioned into their new roles at tomorrow's Mass. We look forward to their enhanced participation and representation in our school community in 2019.

SRC

Stefanie Kim, Natalia Lupi, Max Turner, Charlotte Cook

Colour House Captains

Green - Rachael Gaul, Sean Miskelly

Yellow - Holly McKay, Jasmine Crinnion

Blue - Emerson Finch, Lincoln Burgess

Red - Georgia Crozier, Noah Beattie

KINDERGARTEN 2020 ENROLMENT INFORMATION

SESSION AND SCHOOL TOURS

Thursday 7th March at 9:00 am with tours between 9:15-10:45 am. Please pass this information onto neighbours, friends etc. who may be interested in enrolling their child in our great school.

In partnership let us continue to work to develop in the children strong minds and gentle hearts.

Tim Vane-Tempest

Principal

Fri 15 Feb	Opening school mass 9:45 am Picnic on The Green 11:00 am Launch of PBS4L 12:00 pm
Mon 18 Feb	Hills Zone Swimming Carnival Hawkesbury Oasis Windsor 8:00 am
Mon 18 Feb	Primary Awards Assembly 2:45 pm presented by Stage 3
Wed 20 Feb	Parish Mass 9:00 am Year 4
Fri 22 Feb	Welcome bbq 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Sausage sandwich & drinks available to purchase
Mon 25 Feb	Canteen opens today
Wed 27 Feb	Parish Mass 9:00 am Stage 3
Wed 27 Feb	Parent forum 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm & 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Tues 5 Mar	Burning of the Ashes 2:20 pm
Wed 6 Mar	Ash Wednesday
Thur 7 Mar	Kindergarten 2020 Enrolment info session & school tours 9:15 am - 10:45 am

STAFF 2019

Principal Mr. Tim Vane-Tempest

Assistant Principal Mrs Janine Whiteman

Religious Education Coordinator Mrs Ann Climpson

Literacy Coordinator Miss Noreen Keane

PBS4L Coordinator Mrs Sharon Williams

Numeracy Leader Mrs Janine Whiteman

Teaching Teams

Kindergarten Mrs Sarah Galea &
Mrs Danielle Hudson

Year 1 Miss Stephanie Viviani,
Miss Jacquie Mortimer

Year 2 Mrs Aimee McGee (Mon/Tues)
Mrs Emma Worrall (Wed-Fri)

Year 3 Miss Danielle Galea

Year 4 Mrs. Ann Burke
Mrs Ann Climpson

Stage 3 Mrs. Sharon Williams
Mrs Erin Blackman
Mrs Amy Stockman (Mon-Wed)
Mrs Rachael Usher (Thurs/Fri)

Learning Support

Miss Noreen Keane (Mon-Fri)

Mrs Mary Thornton (Mon, Tues, Wed)

Mrs Rhona Hughes (Thurs, Fri)

Mrs Annette Larnach (Year 1 Support/
Reading Recovery)

Teacher Assistant Mrs. Kathy Richards
Mrs Sandra Mitchell

Administration Staff

Mrs. Stacey Roberts (Mon-Fri)

Mrs. Sophia Babazogli (Tues, Wed, Thurs)

Teacher Release

REC Release Mrs Karen Brand (Wed)

Music/Drama Miss Abbey Pollack (Thurs,Fri)

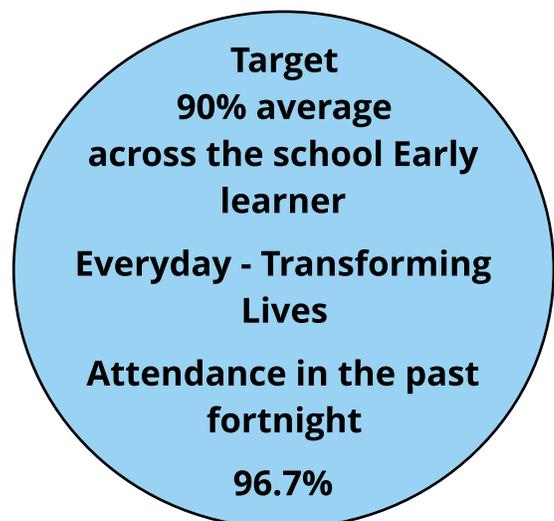
Japanese Mrs Lauren Athanasiou

PE Mrs. Karen Brand (Thurs,Fri)

Library Mrs. Alyssa Bennett(Thurs)

Grounds/Maintenance

Mr. Terry Munsey (Tues/Thurs mornings)



HOMEWORK POLICY

Some questions regarding the school's homework policy were raised by some parents during the Information Sessions last week. The following comes from our school's Homework Policy and gives clarity to the school's position.

Rationale

St Matthew's Homework Policy has been developed through consultation with parents, students and teachers. It takes into account the need for students and their families to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

In line with the Department of Education and Community it is important to note that homework is not a compulsory activity. Homework that is set is given to reinforce concepts being taught in class. The responsibility for overseeing homework lies essentially with the parents. Homework should not be a cause of stress or upset for children or parents. The emphasis should always be placed on the learning value.

Aims

St Matthew's places great focus and energy on literacy and numeracy skills. We desire that our students:

- cultivate a passion for reading, becoming highly effective readers and seeing reading as a foundational skill to powerful learning; and
- acquire a love of Mathematics, becoming numerate learners by developing the knowledge and skills to use mathematics confidently across all areas of their lives.

Implementation

Homework is seen as valuable when it is undertaken in partnership between home and school and when it provides parents with an opportunity to be part of their child's formal learning. Homework practices aim to take account of the variety of family circumstances and the diversity of parent beliefs about homework. Whilst the staff of *St Matthew's* School will set homework activities and check them on a weekly basis there will be no punitive consequence for not completing set tasks. The completion of homework is at the discretion of parents and dictated by family circumstance. We do ask that if tasks are not completed that parents notify the class teachers by a note on the homework sheet or through another means of communication.

Homework will be given on Friday and returned to school the following Friday.

The quantity of homework needs to be manageable and takes into consideration:

- The age appropriateness for students
- Student's commitments for out of school hours activities such as sport, cultural activities, tuition and home responsibilities,
- Access to resources and technology beyond school, and
- Clearly communicated to each student.

For further information included in our Homework Policy a copy can be provided on request.

Canteen Menu

All Sauce portions are 40c each

LUNCH MENU

Sausage rolls \$3.00
 Beef pie \$3.50
 Homemade Pizzas – Hawaiian, Cheese or BBQ Chicken \$4.00
 Hot dogs \$3.00 add cheese 40c sauce 40c
 Chicken burger – crumbed chicken, Lettuce, Cheese and Mayo \$4.50
 Cheeseburger – beef, cheese, tomato sauce \$4.50
 Aussie Beef – lettuce, tomato, beetroot, BBQ sauce \$4.50
 Aussie chicken burger – Grilled chicken, lettuce, BBQ sauce, cheese \$5.00
 6 Chicken Nuggets \$3.50
 Homemade Lasagne \$4.00
 GF \$4.50
 Penne Napolitano \$3.50
 GF \$4.00
 Homemade Mac and Cheese \$3.50
 GF \$4.00
 Frittata - veggie or cheese and ham \$3.50 GF
 Rice paper rolls (veggie, chicken or tuna) \$3.00 each
 Corn cob \$1.00

SALADS

Caesar Salad \$4.00 GF available
 Chicken Caesar Salad \$5.00 GF available
 Garden Salad \$4.00
 Ham and Garden salad \$5.00
 Chicken and Garden salad \$5.00
 Tuna and garden salad \$5.00

EXTRAS

Cheese, Egg, Chicken \$1.00

SANDWICHES

Toasted add 40c extra
 Wraps add 50c extra
 Rolls 50c extra
 Gluten Free \$1.00 extra
 Vegemite, honey or jam \$2.00
 Ham \$2.50
 Cheese \$2.00
 Salad – tomato, cucumber, carrot, beetroot, lettuce \$3.50
 Chicken, cheese, lettuce and mayo \$3.50
 Egg, lettuce and mayo \$3.50
 Tuna, lettuce and mayo \$3.50
 Chicken and salad \$4.50

Choose from white or wholemeal
 Add avocado, cheese or tomato 40c extra

SNACKS

Popcorn \$1.50
 Chips Assorted \$1.50 (Honey soy Chicken, Sea salt)
 Veggie Chips \$1.50 (Salt and Vinegar)
 Jelly cups 50c
 Vanilla Custard 60c
 Vanilla yoghurt 60c
 Bread sticks 10c each
 Freshly baked brownies \$1.00
 Carrot or cucumber sticks with cream cheese dip \$2.00
 Corn cob \$1.00
 Apple \$1.00
 Pear \$1.00
 Banana \$1.00
 Orange \$1.00



Canteen Menu

DRINKS

Water \$2.00
 Hot chocolates \$2.00
 Milk – Chocolate, Strawberry or Banana \$2.50 G
 Up and Go's – Vanilla or Chocolate \$2.50 G
 Poppers – Orange, Apple or Apple Blackcurrant \$1.50 G
 Glee's - Tropical, Raspberry, Grape \$2.20

ICE CREAMS

Berri Queich sticks (Apple, Blackcurrant, Tropical, Orange and mango) \$1.00
 Ice Many freeze pops - Chocolate \$1.20
 TNT blue raspberry \$1.20
 Frozen Juice cups – apple or Orange \$1.20
 Vanilla ice cream cup 99% fat free Gluten free \$1.50



We have partnered with Flexischools, to make school lunches even easier.

- Order online at anytime
- Easily monitor special dietary requirements
- Pay with Visa, Mastercard, Paypal or direct deposit



SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT

1 Download the Flexischools App

Note: for iPhone and iPad please select 'Allow' notifications.



2 Add your School and Group

Click on the search icon, enter your school name, select your school and year group, or groups relevant to you.

3 Login/Register

Click the 'Order now' button located in the bottom right-hand corner of the app, this will open a login screen.

- **Already a Flexischools user** - Enter your details and login. To save your login details select 'remember me'.
- **New Flexischools user** - Click 'Register', enter your email address and follow the instructions in the email to set up your account. Once your account is set up, add new student; search for their school, enter student details and select their class.

ORDER

1 Place your Order

Click the 'Order now' button located in the bottom right-hand corner of the app and select your student.

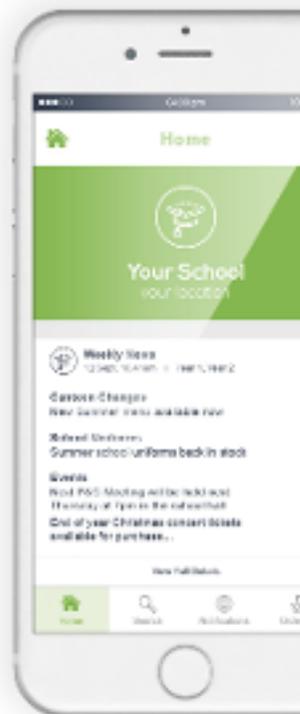
2 Make your Selection

Select the items you wish to order.

3 Make Payment

Select your payment option and complete payment to place your order.

Alternatively you can sign-up on flexischools.com.au





PBS4L Launch Day Picnic!

We warmly welcome our St Matthew's community to celebrate our PBS4L Launch Day with a picnic on the green.

Our Launch will follow the Opening School Mass.

Bring your rug and chairs, along with a picnic lunch to share together.

We are really looking forward to launching 'Matty' and to continue 'aiming high' at St Matthew's!

Friday 15th February

9:45am - Opening School Mass

11:00am - Picnic on The Green

12:00 - PBS4L Launch



Thank you for your support,
The PBS4L Team





Parent/Carer Volunteers

The participation of parent volunteers and helpers in school activities is greatly valued and appreciated at St Matthew's. We know that the school home relationship enhances and supports the learning for all of our children.

In order to volunteer in the classroom, at swimming or sports carnivals or on school excursions all parents/carers and grandparents are required to complete the Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking For Volunteers. Building Child Safe Communities' is a Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta requirement that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care.

The Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking For Volunteers form can be accessed via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>. Click on the Child Protection Training Forms – Volunteer Form.

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering.

Thank You In Advance For Your Ongoing Support

Janine Whiteman
Assistant Principal.

Greetings St Matthew's School Community! Welcome back to a new and inspiring 2019. Everyone has come back from our break ready to learn, accept new challenges and to aim high in everything we do. There will be many opportunities this year to come together as a school, class and parish community to be united in faith through prayer. As we walk on Holy Ground here at St Matthew's, we strive to glorify God in all things we do.

Welcoming School Mass

This Friday, 15th February, at 9.45 am, we are having our whole school Welcoming Mass. Everyone is welcome to join us in prayer to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. We welcome and bless our new families, Kindergarten, staff, Student Leaders and our whole school community and their families.

Plenary 2020 Meeting

Everyone is invited to join other Parishioners from St Matthew's to a meeting in the Parish Hall on Thursday, 21st of February, at 7.30 pm. This will be an opportunity to voice your ideas and thoughts on the future of our Catholic Church. Please come along and be part of shaping our Catholic Church so the Holy Spirit can flow through our whole community.

Parish Masses on Wednesday's at 9am.

Every Wednesday at 9:00 am, one class from St Matthew's goes to Mass with the Parish community. You are most welcome to come along when your child's class is rostered on.

Father goes into the classroom on the Tuesday before to speak to the students on what they are learning. This has been a very valuable opportunity for the students to ask questions and learn more about their faith.

Timetable for Term One

Wednesday- 13th Feb:	Year 3
Wednesday- 20th Feb:	Year 4
Wednesday- 27th Feb:	Stage Three
Wednesday- 6th of March:	Year 2 (Liturgy)/ Ash Wednesday
Wednesday- 13th of March:	Year 1
Wednesday- 20th of March:	Kindergarten
Wednesday- 27th of March:	Year 3
Wednesday- 3rd of April:	Year 4
Wednesday- 10th April:	Holy Week Liturgies

Children's Liturgy of the Word

St Matthew's Church will be holding Children's Liturgy every Sunday, during the 9:00 am Mass starting Sunday, 17th February 2019.

Parents, if you have children in Kindergarten through to Year 6, this brief liturgy is an excellent introduction to participation in the rituals of the Mass and understanding the Word of God. The scriptures of the day are presented in a simple and interactive way-g geared to meet the needs and understanding of the child. Parents are always welcome to accompany their child, check out what it's all about, and meet our wonderful team of volunteer prayer leaders.

Legion of Mary Children's Prayer Group

Every Wednesday at lunchtime, Mrs Watkins from the St Matthew's Parish will be holding a short prayer session in Year Four for any children who would like to learn more about Our Lady and the Rosary. I will be assisting with the group each week to give students an opportunity to come together and pray for their intentions.

Understanding Faith

Understanding Faith is an informative and interactive site that the teachers at St Matthew's use in their teaching and learning during Religious Education classes.

Please feel free to log onto this website and become familiar with the different Religious Education topics your children are learning about in their classes.

<https://primary.understandingfaith.edu.au>

Username: ceo.parra.1875

Password: ceo.2019.parra

May the Holy Spirit guide us here at St Matthew's and help us to be safe, respectful and responsible learners.

God Bless.

Ann Climpson



Important Dates for Term 1

Week 4

Monday February 18 - Hill's Zone Swimming Carnival at Oasis Swimming Pool, South Windsor

Friday February 22 - Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Week 6

Stage 3 Touch Football Trials

Week 7

Friday March 15 - Whole School Cross Country Carnival at Don't Worry Oval, Windsor

Week 10

Stage 3 Soccer Trials

Week 11

Wednesday April 10 - Wanderers Soccer Clinic - Years 2-6 TBC

Friday April 12 - Stage 3 Touch Gala Day

Hill's Zone Swimming Carnival

The **Hills Zone Swimming Carnival** will take place on **Monday February 18 2019** at the Hawkesbury Oasis, Windsor. Best of luck to all of our competitors!!!

St Matthew's Cross Country Carnival

Our Cross Country Carnival will be held on Friday March 15 from 9:00 am to approx 12 pm. All students will take part in this event, however, only 8-12 year olds will be eligible to move onto the Diocesan carnival in early Term 2. As usual we will need some parent helpers on the day marking the course, assisting in time keeping as well as record keeping and ribbons.

Kindergarten - approx 500 m

Year 1 & all 7 year olds in 2019 - 1 km

8, 9 & 10 year olds (turning in 2019) - 2 km

11 & 12 year olds (turning in 2019) - 3 km

I would advise all competitors (particularly 8+) to start training when possible. This will assist them with endurance for other activities such as soccer, netball, football, swimming, etc. We will start training at school in PE lessons on Thursdays.

Morning Tennis Lessons

Starting on Wednesday March 6 we will commence a 5 week Tennis Skill Program. This will be for students in years 2-6. If your child is not part of a sporting event give this a go. It is great for overall fitness, gross motor skill and endurance. Our coach Fiona Roseby has been teaching tennis to students in the Hawkesbury for a few years and is excited to be back doing morning lessons to get students moving.

BOOTCAMP is on again!! Every Thursday morning at 8:00 am students are invited to come along for some extra fitness. Students will meet at the front gate of the school each morning. If your child attends COSHC in the morning please speak to them regarding permission to attend. The focus this term is to build up strength and endurance for events such as Swimming, Cross Country and upcoming gala days.

Kind regards,

Mrs Brand



The simplest way

... to pack a healthy lunch box

The average school child will eat more than 2,500 lunches during their 13 years at school.



A one-stop-shop for everything you need to know about packing a lunch box, Cancer Council's [website](#) is now even easier to use and share with friends and family.

- **Search** – you can now search for recipes by name or ingredients and quickly find the information and tips you are looking for.
- **Print recipes** – it's now easier to print recipes for safe keeping.
- **Share recipes** – on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.
- **Videos** – some recipes now feature short videos showing the simple steps to making the meal.
- **Lunch Box Builder** – plan a healthy lunch box with your kids using the new builder items.
- **New Content** – check out our new recipes, sandwich filling ideas and packed healthy lunch box examples.

healthylunchbox.com.au



St Matthew Superstars



Max Turner

Here at St Matthew's we are really proud of Max in Year Six. Last weekend Max attended the Cole Classic Swim at Manly. This event is a Charity based event in which Max raised money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. He managed to raise \$1223.00!!!

To achieve this he also completed his first ocean swim which was a 1km swim from Shelly Beach to Manly Beach. An amazing achievement!

Max is also taking part in the Be Brave and Shave cause next month. His team name is "For Maddie". His sister Maddison is 8 years old and was diagnosed with Leukaemia in August last year.

Max will be shaving at Easy Lane (Windsor RSL) on the 17th of March from 12:00-1:00pm if anyone wanted to come along to support him.

You can sponsor Max and the 'For Maddie' team at:

Jacob Dessmann

Jacob has recently attended the Parramatta Rep Trials for our Diocese and successfully qualified on their team. We are very proud of Jacob!!

We wish him luck at the Mackillop Trials on Friday March 1!

Noah Beattie

Noah has been training and preparing for the Mackillop Basketball trials on Friday March 1. All the best on the day Noah!

Lily Roberts

We are proud to announce that Lily attended Regionals for Little Athletics. She did exceptionally well qualifying for the 60m Hurdles finals round. She also competed in the Long Jump at a Regional level. This a huge accomplishment getting to this level.

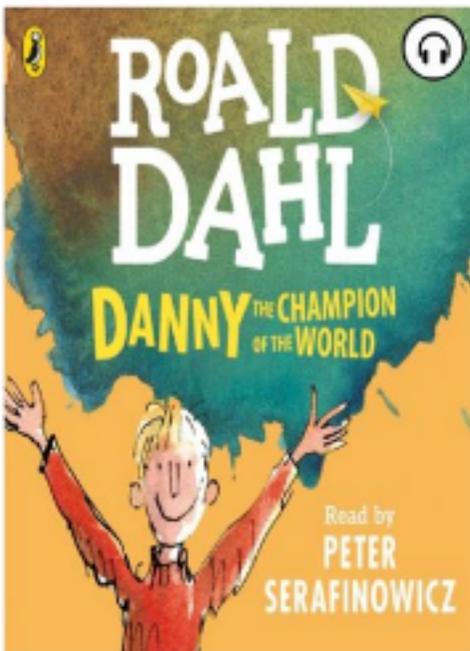
https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?Referrer=%26Referrer%3dhttps%253a%252f%252fworldsgreatestshave.com%252f%253fgclsrc%253daw.ds%2526%2526gclid%253dEA1aIQobChMI_KK6-oqr4AIVUgwrCh15zAvsEAYASAAEgLXNvD_BwE&TeamID=113458

Student eBook Of The Week



Primary Schools

Feb 11 2019



<https://goo.gl/wEnJDZ>

Danny thinks his dad is the most marvellous and exciting father any boy ever had - but Danny's dad has a very big secret. This secret leads them both into the strangest adventure of their lives, and a daring plot that makes Danny the champion of the world.

Years 2 - 4



Student eBook Of The Week



Secondary Schools

Feb 11 2019



<https://goo.gl/DW2LtG>

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer.

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice.

Years 9 - 12



2019 Diocesan School Fees

13 December 2018

Dear parents and carers

Please find below the Annual Diocesan fees schedule for 2019. The new schedule includes a very modest 2.7% increase on the fees from 2018.

School-based fees will also be limited to a 2.7% increase. School-based fees cover the costs of important 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 2019 are outlined below.

2019 Diocesan tuition fee schedule (per year)

	1 st child (100%)	2 nd child (75%)	3 rd child (50%)	4 th Child (0%)
Kindergarten	\$1,206	\$903	\$603	No fee
Years 1 – 6	\$1,557	\$1,167	\$780	No fee
Years 7 – 8	\$2,157	\$1,617	\$1,080	No fee
Years 9 – 10	\$2,394	\$1,794	\$1,197	No fee
Years 11 – 12	\$3,057	\$2,292	\$1,530	No fee

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 2019 is \$804. **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 50% is granted to families with children within the bordering Archdiocese of Sydney and Dioceses of Wollongong and Broken Bay.

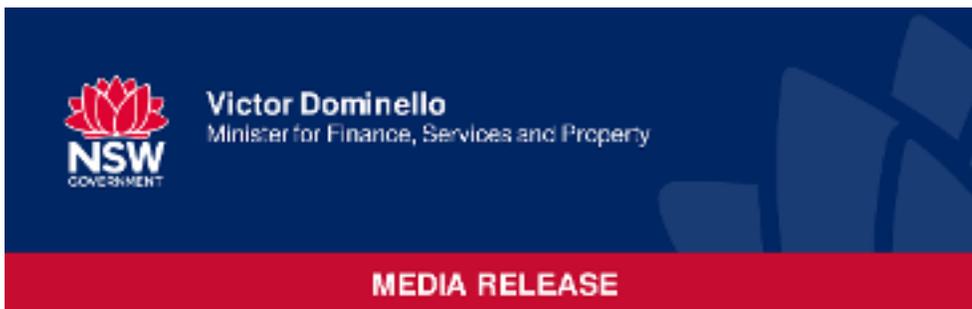
3. School-based fees

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.

Catholic Education Office

\$100 Creative Kids Vouchers Go Live

As parents begin planning for the year ahead, they can now access Creative Kids vouchers, providing them with \$100 for every school-age child to help cover the cost of enrolment for creative and cultural learning activities. Parents can use one voucher for every school-age child per year to help meet the cost of structured creative and cultural activities, such as music lessons, languages, coding, drama and theatre, photography and graphic design. Minister for Finance, Services and Property Victor Dominello said the NSW Government's Creative Kids program builds on the success of the Active Kids program, which is back this year, helping to reduce the cost of registration for sport and organised physical activity.



Thursday, 3 January 2019

\$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHERS GO LIVE

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Minister for Finance, Services and Property Victor Dominello said the NSW Government's Creative Kids program builds on the success of the Active Kids program, which is back this year, helping to reduce the cost of registration for sport and organised physical activity.

"The start of the school year is just around the corner and we are encouraging parents to get in early by jumping on the Service NSW website to register for their Creative Kids vouchers," Mr Dominello said.

"Involvement in creative and cultural learning activities is critical to a child's growth and development but the enrolment costs all add to the family budget and can be prohibitive.

"The NSW Government recognises that cost of living is a major issue for families and because of our strong budget position, we are proud to be providing this extra assistance for children to participate in these valuable creative and cultural programs.

"This program complements the hugely popular Active Kids voucher and for a family with two children, Creative and Active Kids combined will save you \$400 a year."

There are still thousands of providers out there which could be eligible to be part of the Creative Kids program throughout 2019. The Government is calling on them to register with Service NSW so that parents can claim their vouchers with them.

Creative Kids is one of a raft of NSW Government initiatives helping to ease cost of living pressure for households. Others include cheaper Green Slips and refunds, free car registration for regular toll users and the FuelCheck app. Further information on how to register as a provider and the program is at www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/creative-kids

MEDIA: William Sparling | Minister Dominello | 0408 576 636

Bishop Office

Position Vacant

- Head of Social Services Operations – CatholicCare Social Services

More details at: www.ccss.org.au

- Head Housekeeping and Casual Cleaner at Benedict XVI Retreat Centre (Richmond NSW)

Opportunities are available for a suitably qualified and experienced Head Housekeeping, and a Casual Cleaner. You can view these positions at catholicjobsonline.com.au - applications for both positions close on 1 February 2019.

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses

Enrolments close 4th February 2019 or until booked out. The Office For Worship is taking enrolments for the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for those who are interested in being Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Bringing Communion to the Sick and Dying, Senior Servers and Acolytes. Our Courses are offered at two locations: Institute for Mission, Blacktown and St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith. Please see your Parish office for an enrolment form or for more information contact ingrid.vergano@parracatholic.org or 8838-3456.

Time is running out for Plenary Council 2020

Submissions to Plenary Council 2020 close on Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019. YOUR voice matters! Make a personal submission now or join a small group. Our question is for everyone: "What you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" To make a submission or to find out more visit: parracatholic.org/haveyoursayplenary2020/

St Patrick's Gift Shop

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta is bringing Christmas cheer by opening an on-site gift shop. Opening hours will be 10am – 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. For more information visit: stpatscathedral.com.au

IFM Reflective Ministry Program

Are you serving in and through Catholic communities? The Reflective Ministry program offered by the Institute for Mission is a great opportunity to learn and explore ideas of pastoral theology to benefit you and those you serve - and it's now open for registration. Visit www.ifm.org.au/reflectiveministry for more information and to register online or call 9296 6369 to talk to our friendly team.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands of Jordan and Israel, escorted by Father Peter Blayney, Parish Priest, St Patrick's Guildford, 30 October – 13 November 2019. Organised by Olive Tree Travel (Melbourne). For details of itinerary, cost etc., please contact the Parish Secretary, Guildford, on 9632 2672 or patricksguilford@bigpond.com or Olive Tree Travel on 03 8488 9696.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Upper Blue Mountains: 10 February

We will be celebrating a special Mass on Sunday 10 February in Spanish. The Mass will take place at St Canice's Church, Katoomba at 12.00 pm, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

Red Mass: 13 February

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta will be hosting a Red Mass on Wednesday 13 February at 7:30pm. This Mass is held in thanksgiving for the work of those who serve the law and is also an opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to justice and faith. The colour red refers to the vestments worn by the celebrants to signify the Holy Spirit. All are welcome.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal: 15-17 February

Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Parramatta is holding a "Restoring Reverence" event. From Friday 15 – Sunday 17 February at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. Further information can be obtained on 0404 093 118 or 0425 607 227. Entry by donation, Children's Ministry available, coffee and tea provided, BYO lunch.

Bereavement Support Program: 21 February – 16 May

CatholicCare Solo Parent Services is commencing a Bereavement Support Program for men or women whose spouse or partner have died. The program will be run at Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair (5 Todd Row, St Clair) on Thursdays fortnightly from 10am to 12 midday in the Pioneers Room of the Parish, commencing 21 February to 16 May. To secure a place on this program please ring the Parish on 02 9670 8222 or email to stclair@parracatholic.org

Ordination to the Diaconate: 22 February

Most Rev Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, will be the principal celebrant for the Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate of Roque Dias, John Cinya, Thong Nguyen and Roderick Pirotta on Friday 22 February at 7.30pm. The ordination will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Refreshments to follow.

National Church Architecture Symposium: 6-8 February

The National Liturgical Architecture and Art Council and Australian Catholic University Centre for Liturgy are hosting a symposium on Catholic liturgical cultural heritage. It will provide you with an opportunity to consider the history, heritage value, liturgical suitability and merit of Australian Church architecture and art. Keynote addresses will be presented by British architecture historian, author and heritage expert, Sophie Andreae and leading American liturgical design consultant Richard S. Vosko. Details at acu.edu.au

Holy Hour for Vocations: 7 February

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth cordially invite youth (ages 18-35) to join us for Holy Hour for Vocations. Thursday 7 February from 7:00pm. Join us also for a meal at 8:00pm. Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton. RSVP to Sr Paula via vocationscsfn@gmail.com or 0449 656 406.

Council for Australian Catholic Women: 22-24 February

The Council for Australian Catholic Women warmly invite you to join us on 22-24 February in Adelaide for our 2019 Colloquium. Everyone is welcome to attend the Colloquium and we hope women from across Australia will attend this important event. Details at cacwcolloquium.org.au.

NAPPA Conference 2019: 26 February

The NAPPA Conference will be held on Tuesday 26 February 2019. You can register via this link: www.nappa2019.wixsite.com/conference or contact Tanya Quinn on 02 8838 3441.

Walk the Camino Portugués

Walk the Camino Portugués. Catholic Mission are holding 17-day Pilgrimages: Lisbon, Fatima, Porto, Santiago de Compostela. Two pilgrimages: May 2019 and June 2019. Small group led by Sr Veronica OP, (0451 387 906). See www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions/camino-portugues

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress 2019: Thirsting for Justice

A wonderful opportunity for a faith formation experience for parishioners, leaders, teachers, catechists and all people in ministry and all people who would like to enrich their faith! Join this pilgrimage group to attend the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress 18-30 March 2019. Cost of pilgrimage \$4350 for 12 days with some additional expenses. Please contact Lisa Bright on 9622 1125 or lbright@mqofblacktown.org.au for an information pack.

Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse

This is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held May 26 – 31 2019. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griegtograceaus.org.au or phone 0478599241. For more information visit www.griegtograce.org

For more events please go to: parracatholic.org/events



Tools for Parents

Richmond Community Services Inc. is pleased to be able to offer a **FREE** group with **FREE** childcare For parents/primary carers of children 0-12years

Supporting Your Kids Through Loss & Grief

Children's loss can be associated with a range of experiences such as from the death of a family member or friend or even someone they admire on TV - to separation of parents, death of a pet, moving schools, losing a relationship of close friend, even losing their security blanket! We will look at how you can help your child manage their feelings and reactions now - while also teaching them skills they can use into the future.

Wednesday 27th February 2019
10am - 12.30pm

BOOKING ESSENTIAL! 02 4588 3502

Email: admin@rcsl.ngo.org.au

At: Richmond Neighbourhood Centre
20 West Market Street, Richmond, NSW 2753
...making a difference...



This activity is funded by the New South Wales Government under the auspices of the 'Tools for Parents' program, which provides parenting support to eligible parents. This activity is available to eligible parents only. There are no charges for this activity. The program is subject to funding availability. Please contact the program coordinator for further information.



Tools for Parents

Richmond Community Services Inc. is pleased to be able to offer a **FREE** 3 week group with **FREE** childcare For parents/primary carers of children 0-12years

Conflict Resolution for Couples

In this ongoing group couples will learn how to approach conflict in a constructive way, how to negotiate mutually acceptable solutions, break communication blocks and negative patterns of relating, recognise unhelpful learned behaviours from family of origin and develop healthy ways forward.

We strongly encourage both partners to attend.

This is an ongoing 3 week group and participants must be able to attend all 3 dates.

3 x Saturdays - 10am - 12.30pm

2nd, 9th & 16th March 2019

BOOKING ESSENTIAL! 02 4588 3502

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...making a difference...
Richmond Community Services Inc. is pleased to offer



GUTS

Growing Up Through Separation*

A **FREE** 6 week ongoing group for kids aged 7-12 years who have experienced the breakdown of the parental relationship.

This 6 week group is for children aged 7-12 years at primary school who are needing support with adjusting to parental separation. Through activities and games in a supportive environment the children will build resilience as they learn how to:

- Identify and use personal strengths to cope with change
- Maintain self-esteem through change
- Express grief and strong emotion in healthy ways
- Communicate their needs effectively
- Navigate realities of new homes and step parents/siblings
- Identify support networks

After school drinks and snacks included.

TUESDAYS for 6 weeks - , 3.30pm-5pm

5th, 12th, 19th & 26th March, 2nd April & 9th April 2019

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL Call 02 4588 3502

or email: admin@rcsl.ngo.org.au

will be held at:

Richmond Community Services Inc.
The Neighbourhood Centre,
20 West Market St, Richmond, NSW 2753



Tools for Parents

Richmond Community Services Inc. is pleased to be able to offer a **FREE** group with **FREE** childcare For parents/primary carers of children 0-12years

Be A Great Dad!

In this workshop Dads will gain skills in connecting effectively with their children, gain understanding of the importance of their role as fathers, knowledge about the importance of developing a joint parenting approach with their partner, skills on how to communicate effectively with their kids and age appropriate activities for Dads and kids.

Wednesday 27th March 2019

6.30-9pm

BOOKING ESSENTIAL! 02 4588 3502

Email: admin@rcsl.ngo.org.au

At: Richmond Neighbourhood Centre
20 West Market Street, Richmond, NSW 2753

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