



Dear Parents,

"St Raphael's Catholic School takes out the Royal prize" were the headlines last week when we received the brilliant news that we won the privilege of four days for forty of our people, behind the scenes experience of the Sydney Royal Easter Show. In our 150th year the Royal Agricultural Society has given a wonderful boost to expansion of the agriculture options at St Raphs. As the RAS Youth Group Deputy Chair, Jo Murphy said "the benefits of the program go beyond just the trip itself", it enables students to make the connections that will lead to future employment, work experience and education. It will broaden their perspective about possible careers and opportunities. As a solid launch pad for life in agriculture, this privilege should not be underestimated. Congratulations to Mrs Alex Makin for the fine submission prepared with staff and students last year.

Late last year, two St Raphael's students, Olivia McNamara and Tina Van Rheede competed in the National World Skills Competition in Commercial Cookery.



With all competitions now finalised across NSW, I am proud to advise that Olivia McNamara was placed 1st in the Macquarie & Far West Region and placed 3rd in NSW Zone 1.

NSW Zone 1 includes the following regions: Macquarie & Far West, Riverina / Murray, Illawarra & South Coast.

For third place in NSW Zone 1, Olivia will receive a Bronze Medal and a Certificate from Worldskills Australia. She will also be placed on the reserve list for the National Competition which will be held in Perth later this year. My congratulations to Olivia, Tina and teacher Mrs Peta Bischof.

Every one of us, parents, friends and staff members is officially a member of the P&F Association. Tonight at 7pm in the staffroom, the Association will meet for the first time this year. You are invited and strongly encouraged to be an active member of this dynamic part of our school.

On Thursday we host the Diocesan Eastern Region Swimming Competition at Cowra. We are grateful for the support received from our local Swimming Club and the Council and Pool Management. This is a wonderful chance to showcase Cowra hospitality and expertise at the same time as giving our elite swimmers a forum to test their prowess.

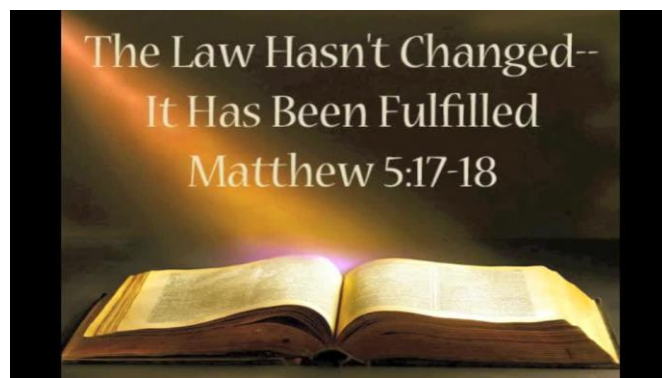
Bus Safety has been an important focus for our primary aged children, particularly the Infants. The work that Cowra Bus Service invests in this project is both vital and appreciated.

Last Tuesday Year 7 and their families had a great gathering in the Mother Scholastica Learning Centre (and beyond!) A very solid and social start for our fine young students new to secondary schooling.

The Rite Journey is a feature of the learning by Year 9 students each year. This week they and their families formally commence their journey to adulthood at a dawn gathering called "Calling and Departure", the first of seven stages.

Michael

Michael Gallagher
Principal



What's On This Week!!

Monday 17

St Raph's P&F Meeting @ 7pm. All Welcome!
Primary Bus Safety Presentations

Tuesday 18

The Rite Journey (Yr 9): The Calling @ 6:30am
Happy birthday to Stewart Overman

Wednesday 19

Primary Bus Safety Presentations

Thursday 20

Eastern Region Swimming Carnival @ Cowra

Friday 21

Risen @ Perthville

Happy birthday to Ayanna Goyal & Erin Rutledge

Happy birthday to Cameron McAlister & Max Myers
who celebrate their birthday's this weekend.

Faith & Life

Introducing our Family Educator, Nicole Twohill-Scott

Welcome to 2020 at St Raph's. For those who I haven't met with yet, I would like to introduce myself and the new role I have here at St Raph's. My name is Nicole Twohill-Scott and I have been a teacher here at St Raph's since 2014. This year along with a small teaching load, I have been appointed to the role of Family Educator. My role is to connect/reconnect and engage parents and families with our school and parish community. We have some fabulous projects planned for this 2020 and I would love to hear any ideas you may have too.

The first opportunity I would like to invite you to is the Cocktail Party to open our 150th celebrations. The party will take place on Tuesday 3rd March. A few questions we have been asked about the event are:

- Who is the event for?
All current parents and staff
- What is the cost?
Free!
- What is the dress code?
Smart casual

Please find attached at the end of the Newsletter, an invitation and rsvp slip. We have also created a Facebook event on the St Raphael's page too. If you require any more information, Kristy in the office is very happy to help out. Many blessings,
Mrs Nicole Twohill-Scott - Family Educator

Dates for Calendar

- Wednesday 25th February
- Ash Wednesday Mass
- Saturday 29th February
- Staff Commissioning Mass @ 6pm
- Friday 6th March
- Heritage Day Fete (with 150 years focus)

Upcoming Retreats

- Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th February (Week 5)
- Yr 11 Retreat

2020 Sacramental Dates

Confirmation Enrolment Masses - 23rd/24th May

Confirmation Celebration - Saturday 25th July

Eucharist Enrolment Masses - 1st/2nd August.

Eucharist Celebration - Saturday 19th September

Reconciliation Enrolment Masses - 17th/18th October

Reconciliation Celebration - Thursday 26th November

Parish Reconciliation Mass - Saturday 28th November

Heritage Day

Heritage Day is fast approaching! Mark your calendar for Friday 6th March for our whole of school Heritage Day Celebrations. This year as a part of our 150th Anniversary we are asking the students to dress in heritage themed 'old time' clothes (straw hats, big bows, aprons, suspenders, long socks etc.). Our day will once again conclude with lunch, stalls and heaps of fun. More information to come in the next two weeks.

Youth Minister

Last week our Youth Minister Caitlin Brand attended a Professional Development session about Liturgies and Social Media, during which she explored the meaning of Liturgies and how to deliver and promote them. We look forward to Caitlin sharing this learning with our school community.

Curriculum News

Sydney Royal Easter Show Opportunity

We are thrilled to announce that St Raphael's Catholic School has been selected to participate in the 2020 All Roads to the Royal program run by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. This is the second year of the program, which aims to provide regional students the opportunity to attend the Sydney Royal Easter Show and encourage their interest in the Australian agriculture industry.

This is a fully funded experience where students will be taken behind the scenes of various sections of the SRES, meet industry leaders and have the opportunity to be immersed in all things agriculture for four days.

We now have the very challenging task of selecting which 35 students from Year 7-12 will be attending. At this stage all we require is that interested students give their names to Mrs Makin. Once an application process has been finalised and we have more information from the organisers, students will be notified directly, via school social media and the newsletter.

We ask parents and guardians of students in Years 7-12 to encourage their children to submit an application if they have an interest in science and agriculture, want to challenge themselves in a dynamic setting or may be interested in becoming involved in their local agricultural show.

Mrs Alex Makin

'My Place. My Story'

Permission notes for the 'My Place. My Story' - Dr Anita Heiss Literacy workshop went home with applicable students on Friday afternoon. A reminder please that the permission slip is to be returned to the office by this Wednesday 19th February.

Swimming Carnival a Great Success!

On Thursday 6th February, St Raphael's held their annual Swimming Carnival. With beautiful weather, eager students and a whole lot of events to participate in, a great day was had by all!

A massive thank you goes out to all parents who helped with timekeeping, place judging, computer work, canteen duties and as enthusiastic cheer squads. Our carnival wouldn't have been the same without you!

Good luck to all the Primary students who have made it into the St Raphael's Swim Team that will participate in the Eastern Region Swimming Carnival this Thursday 20th February. The Secondary team will go straight to the Diocesan Carnival in Dubbo on 10th March.

The winning house at our 2020 Swimming Carnival is XAVIER!

1. **Xavier** - 468
(117 Primary - 261 Secondary - 90 Novelties/Cheer Off)
2. **Raphael** - 343 Points
(74 Primary - 187 Secondary - 82 Novelties/Cheer Off)
3. **Kilbreda** - 313
(53 Primary - 160 Secondary - 100 Novelties/Cheer Off)

Primary Swimming Age Champions

8-10 Girls Champion
Emma Tremble

8-10 Boys Champion
Finn Sheehy

11 Girls Champion
Georgie Pearce

11 Boys Champion
Jay Kennedy

12-13 Girls Champion
Pyper Muddle

12-13 Boys Champion
Hugh Williams

Secondary Swimming Age Champions

12 Girls Champion
Imogen Ousby

12 Boys Champion

13 Girls Champion
Kate Proctor

13 Boys Champion
Will Pearce

14 Girls Champion
Maddie Tremble

14 Boys Champion
Kyan Heidke

15 Girls Champion
Olivia Parrish

15 Boys Champion
Matthew Wales

16 Girls Champion

16 Boys Champion
Michael McNamara

17+ Girls Champion
Kate Price

17+ Boys Champion
Ky Thompson

Primary and Secondary Sporting Pathways

Sport is having a revamp at St Raphael's in 2020. We have reconstructed our sports shed with a variety of new and improved equipment. We are also extremely excited to offer to our students a diverse range of participatory and pathway sports in 2020. Attached to this newsletter is a comprehensive list of upcoming events.

Mr Luke O'Reilly – Sports Coordinator

Library News

Our term has started off with lots of great reading and borrowing. Please remember to keep your books in a Library Bag to protect them from damage. Our new monitors were introduced and assisted in giving out the Class Library merits at our first assembly; well done to all involved.



The Library Monitors for this year are:

Hannah Fahey, Peyton Hanley, Brianna Goricki, Maria Kollas, Charlotte Tindall, Cassandra Zarb, Mathew Graham and William Leatherland.

We will have an induction for these students at our next Assembly.

Mrs Kerri Skinner – Librarian

Wellbeing

SMS Attendance Notification

The NSW Education Act (1990) and CEDB Policies (2019), stipulates that it is a requirement that all **absences must be explained in writing within seven days of the absence.**

To facilitate this, St Raphael's is introducing an **SMS ATTENDANCE NOTIFICATION** whereby parents will receive an SMS if their child is marked absent from School at the beginning of the day (9.30am). Further information regarding this process is attached to this newsletter.

The easiest way to explain an absence is logging in to the **Compass Parent Portal** through the Compass App. Please contact the school office if you have not received your unique login details to Compass, or require any assistance accessing this system.

Mr Nick Dawes – Assistant Principal

Canteen Update


This week's roster is as follows:

Tues 18	Wed 19	Thurs 20	Fri 21	Mon 24
Fee Jennings	CLOSED	HELPERS REQUIRED	Sarah Delaney	Sally Bruncher

To all parents and family members. The number of canteen helpers volunteering their time to our roster has dropped significantly this year and we are eager to have more families put up their hands to help. The canteen

roster works best with at least 2 helpers each day (and 3 on Fridays) and at this stage, numbers are down to 1 on many days. A copy of the current roster is attached to this newsletter. Please consider where you may fill a gap and please call me on 0427 501 508 to confirm your help.
Mrs Donna Stokes – Canteen Manager

Community Connections



- ✓ Collaborative group of tutors sharing their knowledge and experience.
- ✓ Dedicated learning studio, complete with educational resources to help your child.
- ✓ Using a range of approaches including traditional and computer based methods.
- ✓ Inclusion of educational games to engage students in the learning process.
- ✓ Offering a variety of tutoring packages to cater for different needs and budgets based on student's needs.

Pricing

Prices are based on a 10 week term, 50 minute sessions

Individual Session	\$55 per week	(\$550 per term)
Three students, two tutors *	\$500 lump sum if term paid in advance	
Two students, one tutor *	\$330 lump sum if term paid in advance	
Three students, one tutor *	\$280 lump sum if term paid in advance	
Two students, one tutor *	\$250 lump sum if term paid in advance	


* Subject to availability.
Please note, group sessions are usually best suited for homework help rather than intensive assistance. Please discuss these options if needed.

So.....whether your child is in infants, primary or secondary school and:

- * needs help with literacy or numeracy;
- * would like to overcome a learning challenge;
- * wants to increase their knowledge in a certain area; or
- * is asking for homework help, speak to our friendly team!

Email: links2learning.cowra@gmail.com
 Message via Facebook: Links 2 Learning
 Website: www.links2learning.org

* In development


Links 2 Learning



150th Anniversary of Catholic Schooling in Cowra

During Catholic Schools Week in Week 6 we will be celebrating our usual Heritage Day (Friday 6th March). This year being our 150th anniversary we invite our entire school community (students, parents & staff) to dress-up "old timer". We will share some inspirational archive photos in the lead up. Please join in and help us celebrate the lives & work of those that came before us.



... and a reminder that our parents are invited to join us for a Cocktail party during our Catholic Schools Week celebrations. To assist with catering, please indicate your attendance by contacting Kristy in the school office or filling out the form below and returning it to school.

150th Anniversary Cocktail Party

Yes, we would love to attend to Cocktail Party on Tuesday 3rd March!

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____

School Contact:

11-15 Liverpool St Cowra 2794
 P.O. Box 7, Cowra 2794
 Tel: 6342.2940
 Email: straphaels@bth.catholic.edu.au
 Website: www.straphaelscowra.catholic.edu.au

**ST RAPH'S PARENTS
YOU ARE INVITED TO A**

Cocktail Party!!

**TUESDAY 3 MARCH
MSLC, 6.30 PM**





Secondary Sport Schedule 2020

Sport	Age and No.	Date
Term 1		
Swimming Carnival	ALL	6th February B/U - 11th February
CCC Girls Cricket trials	ALL	17th February
CCC Open Boys Cricket trials	ALL	18th & 19th February
Dio Girls Hockey Trials	U15s	25th February
All Schools Triathlon	ALL	26th & 27th February
CCC U15s boys cricket trials	U15s	9th March
Dio Swimming	Qualifying	10th March
Touch Football	4 x teams	18th March
Dio Sec Soccer Trials	Open Boys and Girls	23rd March
Dio Sec Basketball Gala Day	4 x teams	Thursday, 26 March 2020
CCC Boys Hockey Trials	15s and Opens	27th March
CCC WRL Trials	U15s and Opens	1st April
Schools Cup netball	2 x teams	2nd April TBC??
School Athletics Carnival	All	2nd April B/U 30th April and 7th May
Term 2		
Dio School Teams Tennis	ALL	29th April
CCC Boys Rugby Selections	16s and 18s	4th May
CCC Netball 15 Trials in Homebush	ALL	5th May
CCC Girls Rugby 7s	Open	5th May
Dio Sec Cross Country	ALL	7th May
Small Schools Rugby League	2 x team U13s and U16s	15th May
CCC Cross Country	Qualifying	12th June
Soccer Gala Day Opens	1 x Team	16th June
Secondary Netball Gala Day	3 x teams	19th June
CCC Western Rugby League Selections	ALL	
Bill Turner Trophy Soccer	2 x teams	TBC
Term 3		
Dio Athletics	ALL	21st August
Cowra Small Schools Rugby league and League Tag	3x teams	TBC
T20 Blast Cricket	3 x teams	TBC



Term 4		
Girls League Tag	1 x team	27th October
Touch association gala day	2 x teams	TBC

Primary Sport Schedule 2020

Sport	Age and No.	Date
Term 1		
School Swimming Carnival	ALL	6th Feb B/U - 11th Feb
Polding Tennis Trials	ALL	7th Feb
Eastern Region Swimming ER Carnival	Progression	20th Feb B/U 24th Feb
Dio AFL Trials	Selected students	17th March
Winter Sports Trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Netball Soccer Rugby League Hockey 	Selected Stage 3	20th March
David Peachey	Stage 2 & 3 Boys Teams	24th March
Netball Schools Cup	Stage 2 & 3 Girls Teams	7th April
School Athletics Carnival	All	26th March B/U 30th April & 7th May
Dio Swimming Carnival	Progression	11th March
Term 2		
Cross Country	All	5th May
Primary Rugby Union Gala Day	Stage 3	5th June
Todd Woodbridge Cup Tennis	Stage 2	TBC
Term 3		
NSWCPS Golf	Selected Students	27th July
Eastern Region Athletics Carnival	Progression	4th August
Dio Athletics Carnival	Progression	20th August
Stage 3 Tennis Comp	Stage 3	TBC`
T20 Blast Cricket Cup	All Stage 3	TBC
Term 4		
Summer Sports Trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Touch Football Cricket Softball, Basketball, Tennis 	Selected Stage 3	12th November





SMS Attendance Notification

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To facilitate this, St Raphael's is introducing an **SMS ATTENDANCE NOTIFICATION** whereby parents will receive an SMS if their child is marked absent from School at the beginning of the day (9.30am). The SMS will be sent to the *"primary parent all households"* and it will state the following:

"{student.name} is not present at School as of {calculationtime}. If you require more info, please contact the school or log into the parent portal."

The easiest way to explain an absence is logging in to the **Compass Parent Portal** through the Compass App. Please contact the school office if you have not received your unique login details to compass.

At St Raphael's we are striving to improve the attendance of our students. Each minute of the school day provides valuable opportunities for learning. Just one day's absence per term equates to 20 hours of learning that students are missing over a school year.

Studies have shown that:

- **The effects of absence accumulate over time**, affecting academic achievement in numeracy, reading and writing not only in the current year, but in future years as well.
- Every day of attendance in school contributes towards a child's learning, and **academic outcomes are enhanced by maximising attendance in school.**

(Zubrick, S. 2014. "School attendance: Equities and inequities in growth trajectories of academic performance")

Please contact the School if you have any questions about this new process. Thank you for your support of our School in ensuring your child's attendance is a priority.

Mr Nick Dawes
Assistant Principal



ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL CANTEEN ROSTER 2020

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday
1	Jan-27th AUSTRALIA DAY HOILDAY	Jan-28th PFD	Jan-30th Ammie Broad	Jan-31st Kylie Kollas Jessica Newcombe	
2	Feb-3rd Sally Bruncher Carol Lynch	Feb-4th Karen Campbell Lisa Mallon	Feb-6th Carrie Siminic	Feb-7th Leanne Twigg Jessica Newcombe	
3	Feb-10th Tammy Zarb Tracey Gunnyon	Feb-11th	Feb-13 Ammie Broad	Feb-14th Rachel Frazer Jessica Newcombe	
4	Feb-17th Briony Woodhouse	Feb-18th Fee Jennings	Feb-20th	Feb-21st Sarah Delaney	
5	Feb-24th Sally Bruncher	Feb-25th Jodie Toohey Charlene Williams	Feb-27th Kathryn Keefe Jennifer Kang	Feb-28th Jessica Newcombe Melissa Ousby Stefanie Bray	
6	March-2nd Emilee Johnstone	March-3rd Lisa Mallon	March-5th Tammy Zarb	March-6th Jainee Ryan Jessica Newcombe	
7	March-9th Trish Williams	March-10th Karen Campbell	March-12th Ammie Broad Kristy White	March-13th Kirsty Langfield Adilee Allan Jessica Newcombe	
8	March-16th Sally Bruncher	March-17th Lisa Mallon	March-19th Jennifer Kang	March-20th Sarah Delaney Jessica Newcombe	
9	March-23rd Briony Woodhouse	March-24th Charlene Williams	March-26th Jainee Ryan	March-27th Rachel Frazer Stefanie Bray Jessica Newcombe	
10	March-30th Jacque Perry	March-31st Karen Campbell	Apr-2nd Carrie Siminic	Apr-3rd Kylie Kollas Jessica Newcombe	
11	Apr-6th Sally Bruncher Carol Lynch	Apr-7th Lisa Mallon	Apr-9th Jennifer Kang Kristy White	Apr-10th GOOD FRIDAY	HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL.
If there is any problem with the day you have been rostered on please see attached list of names and numbers to organize a swap with them. Then please send me a text on 0427501508 so I can change the roster and newsletter, if you are having trouble please don't hesitate to contact me and I will try swap you. STARTING TIME IS 10 AM TO ABOUT 2.30PM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME DONNA XX					

