



UPDATE

No. 10 Date: 12/10/2015 Week 2 Term 4

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta New School Attendance Guidelines – Every Day Counts

Recently Principals and Assistant Principals from all of our Diocesan's 56 primary and 22 secondary schools came together with our System leadership for a special meeting to discuss the new **CEDP Student Attendance Guidelines**. The Attendance Guidelines are based on current legislative requirements, research on attendance and best practice.

Most schools in our Diocese, including STA, now record school attendance digitally rather than by a paper roll. This enables each school to effectively and easily monitor student attendance including partial attendance and punctuality.

The key messages discussed at the meeting about consistent school attendance were:

- Attendance effects academic achievement.** There is **NO** safe threshold of absence – *every day counts*.
- The student's **attendance pattern in Year 1 is predictive** of their attendance pattern in subsequent years.
- Absence from school is related to academic achievement not only in the current year, but also for future years – it **accumulates over time**.
- Unauthorised absences** produce significantly **stronger effects on academic achievement** than authorised absences e.g. being away for trivial or non-justifiable reasons.
- Sporadic absences** can **affect academic achievement** as much as absences over consecutive days.
- Schools and families need to work together** to address student absenteeism and provide support when attendance is not satisfactory.

Below is a table showing the thresholds established across the Diocese for student attendance and the accumulated effects over 10 years of school time lost.

Attendance Rate	Student Absence	Educational Risk	Days absent per year	Cumulative Absence over 10 years of school
90% or more	<i>Regular</i>	Low or zero	20 days or less	Adds up to 1 year or less schooling missed
80%-89%	<i>Emerging</i>	Medium	Between 20-40 days	Adds up to 1-2 years schooling missed
70%-79%	<i>Chronic</i>	High	Between 40-60 days	Adds up to 2-3 years schooling missed
69% or lower	<i>Complex</i>	Severe	60 or more days	Adds up to 3 years plus schooling missed

The key messages are:

- Attendance affects a child's academic achievement** and their overall wellbeing.
- There is NO safe threshold of absence** – *every day counts*.
- School attendance patterns are established early in a child's schooling – **research shows Year 1 attendance is a predictor** of future attendance patterns.
- The effects of **school absenteeism accumulate over time** and affect children's development now and into the future.
- Daily punctuality is important. The early part of each day is critical. Important learning is scheduled during this time when children are rested and receptive. Key concepts are built up in the time.
- We **ALL need to work together** with our children's best interest in mind to ensure that students are at school every day that they are well enough to attend – they only get one go at this part of their education and **every day counts**.

Grandparents Day Raffle Results

Thank you to all those who supported our fundraising raffle on Grandparents' Day last term. Results are as follows: **1st Prize: Denise Ward; 2nd Prize: Jan McCormick; 3rd Prize: Max Carroll (KM)**

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**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**



Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at this week's School Assembly. Well done on your efforts everyone – keep up the good work!



Jordan Banks	Neive DeBono	Henry Hinchliff	Jacob Pospischil
Lukas Banks	Macauley Down	Jeremy Hodges	Ari-Kai Rawlings
Noah Barr	Marius Edmonds	Isaac Hutchinson	Archer Sproule
Alice Bauerhuit	Penelope Edmonds	Ava Huxley	Isabella Stewart
Cisco Borbely	Leonie Ellis	Ella Langan	Justin Sykes
Emma Brickwood	Gus Forbutt	Brianna Leehy	Libby Tabor
Kian Brown	Alexander Freer	Ryan May	Jorja Teuma
Shayla Coburn	Audrey Gauci	Ivan Mayorchak	Lilli Thompson
Christopher Collis	Xavier Gonzalez	Finn McCaffery	Nathan Treble
Ashley Crighton	Lillian Gosling	Brydan McLeod	Patrick Wakeling
Luke Crouch	Luke Harrison	Taya Moore	Grace Wardle
Aden Cullinane	Connor Harvey	Luca Penserini	Elanor Williams
Ella Danks	Mali Haynes	Orion Pick	Andrew Young
Rowan Davies	Bradley Hickey		

Cool Kids Anxiety Support Program at STA


Thank you to those who registered for this program commencing this week at our school. **The current program is now full**, but parents wishing to participate may register for the waiting list by contacting CatholicCare Social Services on 4751 4956 or emailing Springwood@ccss.org.au. With enough parent interest a future program will be considered. The FREE 8-week program will assist families of children experiencing high levels of anxiety. Please note; parents must attend the first week and two other sessions of the program. Bookings essential. For further details please refer to the recent ad on our Skoolbag app.

PARISH NEWS

"MOTHERS PRAYERS" National Day of Prayer - Sunday 25 October at 2.15pm

Inviting ALL MOTHERS to come along to a Liturgy to celebrate 20 years of "Mothers Prayers" throughout the world. The National Day of Prayer will be held **at St Thomas Aquinas Church**. Enquiries please phone **Margaret O'Connell on 4754 4468**. "United in Prayer we save our Children"

DIARY DATES

2015 TERM 4	Monday 19 October	Kanga Cricket Competition – selected students 12.30pm Assembly – 2D presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting	 <p>Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information. www.stspringwood.catholic.edu.au</p>	
	20	Year 3 Excursion to Taronga Zoo 3.40pm Staff Meeting		
	21	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 2 & K6A attending		
	Week 3	22		8.30am Staff Prayer 3.30-5.30pm Cool Kids Program
	23	School Band		
Week 4	Monday 26 October	12.30pm Assembly – KM presenting 3.40pm Leadership Meeting		
	27	3.40pm Staff Meeting		
	28	8.30am Staff Briefing 9.20am Parish Mass – Year 3 attending		
	29	8.30am Staff Prayer 3.30-5.30pm Cool Kids Program		
	30	Diocesan Gym Competition – selected students School Band		

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Fit-Lab Elite – Fitness and Fun with Friends: Fit-Lab Elite are very excited to be **coming to St Thomas Aquinas!** We will be conducting innovative, fun before school fitness sessions for students on a **Wednesday morning commencing 14 October**. Our programs are professionally designed group fitness sessions of **60 minutes duration** at your school prior to the start of the school day. Many studies have shown that 60 minutes of physical activity in the morning improves a child's cognitive function, concentration, mood and self-esteem. Each term has a specific fitness and skill focus and the sessions utilise state-of-the-art fitness equipment. We will develop your child's endurance, coordination, agility, speed, balance and strength in a fun, social and supportive environment. At the end of each school term you will receive a personalised report card of your child's achievements. **Cost: \$15 per session (\$150 for the term) with a family discount of third child at \$10 per session. Session time: 7.50am – 8.50am.** Register now at www.fitlabelite.com.au. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fitlabelite.com

'Strictly Parenting' – Special Parent Presentation: Hosted by Parents Representative Council Parramatta Diocese (PRC) the FREE presentation is for the benefit of Catholic school parents, friends and educators and will be held on **Saturday 17 October, 2.00pm to 5.00pm** at **St Andrew the Apostle Parish Centre, 40 Breakfast Road, Marayong**. **RSVP Thursday 15 October** to prcparraevents@hotmail.com

Springwood/Winmalee Girl Guides Car Boot Sale: To raise much needed funds to keep our Guides hall and programs going Springwood/Winmalee Girl Guides will be holding a car boot sale on **Sunday 18 October** at **Springwood/Winmalee Girl Guides Hall, 233-243 Singles Ridge Road, Yellow Rock**. **Gates open at 8am for 9am start; 2pm finish. Cost: \$10 per boot/table.** To register your car/table please **phone Kylie on 0410 593 959** or email to SWgirlguidessg@gmail.com

Sent Home Recently

- Year 1 Art Gallery of NSW Excursion Note
- Staff Leave note to KB (yellow)
- Year 3 Taronga Zoo Excursion Note

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