



90 Seconds with the Principal

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90 Seconds with the Principal - Genius Hour

Have you heard your child speak about genius hour this term? Would you like to learn more about this? Check out our 90 seconds with the Principal this week.

Genius Hour

So what is Genius Hour?

This is time set aside each week for students to explore an area of their own interest. It is an opportunity for students to create their own project where they develop a driving question, do some research and explore their interest and then finally share their new learning with others. As you know we are an Inquiry based school, this means that students inquire into their learning, they explore, question, sift and sort through information, they reflect on their insights and they share their learning with others. We use this model in all areas of the curriculum and for the first time at MTP students get to choose what it is they learn about.

We asked the students to complete a passion survey so that we as teachers could gauge the general topics our students wanted to explore and we have grouped them based on these results. There are 5 general areas: Technology, Science, Literacy, Creative Arts and Sports. Within these groups there are students from Kindergarten through to year 6. All staff participate during this time including Mrs Devlin and Mrs Stennett. Students are very excited about having choice in their learning and being given the chance to work with students from other grades.

Farewell Mrs Baird

As you know, Mrs Megan Baird has been appointed Principal of St Paul the Apostle, Winston Hills. Our students will be officially farewelling Mrs Baird with a short prayer liturgy on Thursday 29th November at 11.05am. All parents are warmly invited to join us for this liturgy as we wish Mrs Baird all the very best of luck in her new role.

Swimming Trials

Yesterday afternoon Mrs Thompson as well as MTP staff and parent volunteers ran the MTP swimming trials for those students in Years 2 to Year 5 for the 2019 Zone Swimming Carnival. Thank you to all those who participated and thank you to Mrs Rachael Thompson for your hard work and organisation.

Uniform - Blue socks and white socks

Recently we have had a focus on students wearing their uniform with pride. We ask that girls wear white socks and boys wear blue socks that rest above the ankle bone. On sports days all students are permitted to wear white sports socks for sweat absorption and extra cushioning for their growing feet. A reminder that girls hair needs to be tied back with an elastic and can have ribbons that are the school colours. In summer the top button on all shirts is to be left undone to help student's bodies regulate their body temperature particularly on hot days.

Welcome Kindergarten 2019

Over the past two weeks we have been involved in our Kindergarten Orientation program. It has been great to meet the many new families joining our community. Our current Year 5 students were very excited to meet the buddy they will be working with next year. Thank you to the generous parents who have hosted morning tea for the new families to our school whilst their child participates in the Orientation Workshops.

WHS - The ducks!

A friendly reminder from our resident ducks on site that you please be cautious when driving on the roads - children and ducks crossing!!



"Works of love are always works of peace."

St Mother Teresa of Kolkata

Important Dates:

- **Wednesday, 28th November**
Kindergarten 2019 Orientation Session—8:35am-10:30am
- **Thursday, 29th November**
Farewell morning tea for Mrs Baird
- **Monday, 3rd December**
MTP Colour Challenge Fun Day
- **Wednesday, 5th December**
Celebration of Learning
4:30pm—6:00pm
Parent University
6:00pm-7:00pm
- **Thursday, 6th December**
Year 6 Graduation—St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
- **Friday, 7th December**
2018 Parent Helpers Morning Tea

Save the Date:

- **Thursday, 13th December**
MTP Christmas Concert

Tuckshop-2-U

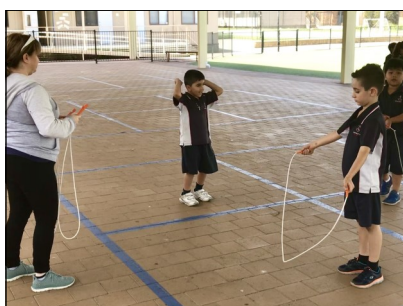
"In purchasing your child's tuckshop order online through Tuckshop2U, you are contracting directly with the supplier. You are responsible for checking that the ingredients of what you order are not incompatible with your child's sensitivities or health issues. Please ensure you check the disclaimers in the supplier's website. If in doubt you should contact the supplier."

Thank you parent volunteers

We would like to thank all of our amazing parents who help us out in so many ways - library assistants, reading helpers, hosting morning tea for our new parents to MTP and Kindergarten PE helpers. We appreciate your time and support. As a way of showing our appreciation we would like to invite any parents or carers who have helped out at our school in any capacity this year to join us for a parent helpers morning tea on **Friday 7th December at 10.15am**.

PRC News

A huge thank you to our two parent representatives who have attended meetings every term to represent our school at the Parramatta Diocesan Parent Representative Council. Each term Jodie Skinner and Anna Nicolas have been part of the discussion about priorities in our Diocese and the future of Catholic Education. Last week Anna and Jodie attended an evening at St Luke's at Marsden Park. Greg Miller, the Principal of St Luke's discussed ideas, some of which may be very familiar for members of our own community, about the future of Catholic Education. Greg discussed a 'new normal' for schooling; three foundational rules about respecting self, others and the environment, the importance of communication between home and school, learning through play and inquiry.



Important Dates:

- Year 6 Fun Day - Tuesday, 18th December
- Year 6 Reflection Day - Thursday, 6th December
- Year 6 Graduation Mass - Thursday, 6th December 6pm
- Christmas Concert - Kindergarten to Year 6 - Thursday, 13th December 6pm
- New Students to MTP 2019 Years 1-6 Orientation Afternoon Wednesday, 12th December 1.30pm
- Mother Teresa Colour Challenge Day (new date) - Monday, 3rd December
- Last day of the year for students in 2018 will be Wednesday, 19th December

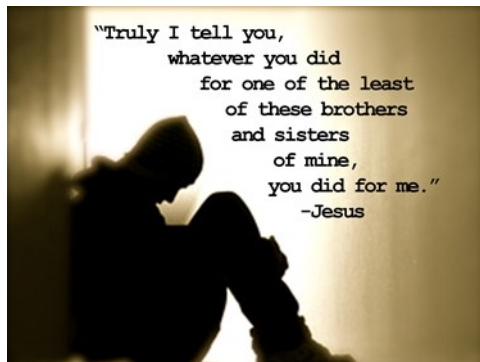
Second Hand Uniforms - Facebook Group

In response to parent requests for a communication channel for parents to sell or donate second hand uniforms, Jodie Skinner has volunteered to organise a closed Facebook group. Jodie and Mrs Devlin will be the regulators of the group with conditions of use detailed below:

- This is to assist parents in buying/swapping/selling second hand uniforms only. No school discussions.
- Uniforms must be clean, no stains, holes or fraying and in good condition. No socks, shoes, hats or hair items.
- MTP or Admin of this page are in no way responsible for purchases
- No money is to be transacted via children.
- Please arrange collection/payment from Parent to Parent. Suggest direct deposit.
- Please add a photo of uniform (no photos of children wearing), with size of item.
- Please keep prices realistic. No "make an offer" listings.
- Please comment sold if you would like to purchase. Please comment sold pending if you would like to ask a question.

This is a closed group and parents will need to request access to become a member. Search facebook MTP - Second Hand Uniforms. <https://m.facebook.com/groups/230475380863221>

I was hungry. And you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty. And you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger. And you invited me in. I needed clothes. Matt 25:35



This gospel story is often used for the Feast of Mother Teresa. St Teresa of Kolkata took these words of Jesus into the depths of her heart and they changed her forever. Jesus's parents were forced to flee their land in the middle of the night to escape persecution and violence. They lived in a strange land, reliant on the hospitality of strangers. We are called to live this in our own time and in our own local community. Families that have had to leave all behind to seek safety for their families.

We begin our Christmas Appeal by asking for donations of essential food and goods for the Jesuit Refugee Centre in Westmead. See the list below- **bold** items are in the most demand. We thank you for your amazing generosity, every donation makes a difference and spreads the Gospel to those longing to hear Good News.

Maria Boyd REC

Food items:

- Basmati Rice
- Pasta - Spaghetti or Penne
- Cooking Oil (Olive, Vegetable etc) - 500ml or 1L
- Instant Noodles
- Long life UHT milk (1L)
- **Tinned Tuna (smaller tins preferred)**
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Corn
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Chickpeas
- Red Kidney beans
- Dried lentils
- Black and green tea bags
- **Instant Coffee**
- Biscuits
- Curry powder and spices
- Salt
- Sugar
- Flour

Toiletries

- Toothpaste
 - Toothbrushes
 - Shampoo
 - Conditioner
 - Sanitary Pads or Napkins **NOT** tampons
 - Razors and Shaving Foam
 - Deodorant – Male & Female
 - Soap
- **Coles or Woolworths vouchers can also be donated - \$20 vouchers preferred**

News In Sport:

Congratulations to our Stage 3 Girls and Boys Basketball teams for their recent participation in the Diocesan Basketball gala day held at Cambridge Park Wednesday 7th of November. Both teams demonstrated school and team spirit throughout the day. Well done to all those who participated.



Caitlin (Year 3) and Jonathan (Year 4) competed in the Diocesan Gymnastics Competition at Sydney Gymnastics and Aquatics centre on 16th November. The students competed in a series of gymnastics events including floor routine, mini tramp, static and vault. Both students performed very well: Jonathon was awarded first place in the vault event, and Caitlin scored a judges score of silver in three events and gold in one event. A big thank you to Mr Ryan for taking the time to be acting Team Manager on the day.



2019 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sports Trials

Sport registrations will open in November for 2019 trials. Any primary students enrolled in Years 5 and 6 in 2019 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term One & Two in 2019. It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in Years 5 & 6 in 2019 be invited to attend. Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports: AFL (boys), Cricket (B&G), Diving (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Football (B&G), Golf (B&G), Netball (girls), Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union (boys), Softball (B&G), Touch (B&G). To be eligible for selection for these trials, an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au. This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2019 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria; therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed. Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST** be approved by the child's school. In order for the child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of the school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. All fields and especially 'Representative Experience' **MUST** be completed. Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date. Detailed information can be found on the website: www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au.

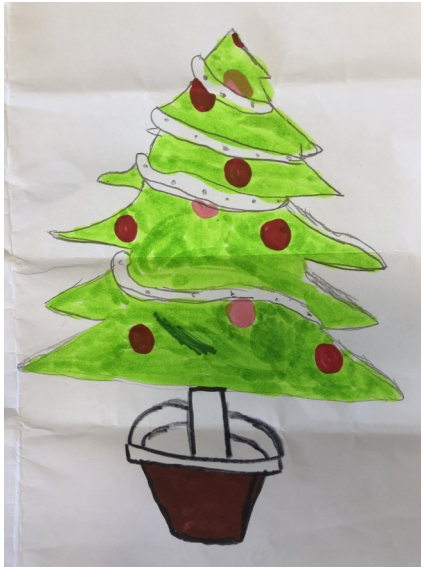
Celebrating more great writing!

Christmas Poem

Celine M - Year 4

(words and illustration)

Christmas is the time of year
Where people get together and cheer
This is Jesus' special day
Because of Mary's wonderful way
Christmas time makes me feel
I should do a Christmas time appeal



The Other Year 4 Poem

Christmas Tree

Matthew J - Year 4

The proud Christmas tree stands tall
when the wind comes blowing through the open window
it starts to wave and dance
the Christmas lights twinkle like the night sky stars
Under the Christmas tree lies beautiful presents
as the star shines to lead us to hope, joy and kindness.

Will you be here in 2019?

As we prepare to plan for 2019, we are asking parents that if their child is not returning to school next year, could you please inform the office in writing or via email as soon as possible. As per CEDP Policy, ***'If a student leaves the school during a term, no refund will be made in respect of the remaining portion of that term unless a full term's notice in writing is given to the principal before removal of the student from school.'***

COSHC Vacation Care

Information on 2019 Summer Vacation Care has been sent via the Skoolbag App. Please see the message on Skoolbag.

insights

Making a smooth transition to secondary school

by Michael Grose



Going to secondary school is both exciting and scary for many kids. There's excitement about new friends, teachers and ventures, but this can be overshadowed by anxiety and stress.

The sheer size of a high school building can be overwhelming to the uninitiated. The potential loss of status when moving from big fish in a small pond to tiny minnow in a large ocean can be hard to swallow for some. Add the increased number of teachers and the hormonal changes that accompany puberty and drive emotional and cognitive development and it is little wonder the first year of secondary school often sees a plateauing in learning. Most kids are flat out making new friends and getting used to how secondary school works, so learning takes a back seat for a time.

While it's easier for those who have a brother or sister already there who can pass on some tips about how to survive secondary school, many don't have that luxury. Fortunately, there are number of strategies parents can use to make the transition to secondary school easier.

1. Know the school space

Familiarity helps reduce anxiety. Most secondary schools have familiarisation programs for incoming students but it helps to reinforce with your young person where the key spaces are – such as administration, toilets, the tuck shop and drinking taps. A trip to the school during the holidays, if possible, can help reassure a nervous secondary school starter.

2. Make the leap with friends

Negotiating new friendships can be stressful so it helps to identify some friends from primary school or outside school that your child can travel with or meet up before school, at lunch breaks and during times when classes aren't scheduled. This will give them the opportunity to share and compare experiences, which is therapeutic for kids who are experiencing change.

3. Help with planning and organisation

Some students can be overwhelmed by the organisational demands of secondary school. If your child fits this category, be prepared to be on hand to coach your young person in the finer arts of being on time to class, organising work in folders, planning homework time, handing in multiple assignments and filling out forms.

4. Set up a designated study space in the home

Now that your young person has hit the big time it's important that they have a study space to call their own. Keep this outside the bedroom if possible – the bedroom is a space for sleeping and relaxing. Use any area that is reasonably quiet and well lit. Set up a desk with a computer, if possible, along with stationery items.

5. Establish a work schedule

If your child's primary school homework was given inconsistently then be prepared for a change. Most secondary schools try to coordinate homework between different teachers but there will be more times than not when your child will come home with multiple homework assignments to complete. Build the homework habit early and choose a regular time that allows for breaks. Encourage them to work quickly so that work does not drag on and become demotivating.

6. Stay patient and positive

The social and academic demands of going to secondary school can be mentally draining for young people. Some will miss old friends and the relative comfort of primary school. It's important for parents to be patient with their young person, to expect a few behaviour blowouts and to be prepared to listen and help them process their new experiences. If your young person has negative experiences, point them in the direction of the good things that may happen during the day.

Your young person's coping mechanisms are being tested during this time. They can change on a daily basis. If stress becomes overwhelming or persistent to the point that they don't want to go to school after the initial settling-in period, consider organising some extra assistance. A year-level coordinator, school counsellor or the local doctor can be good starting points should extra assistance be needed.

Starting secondary school is one of many transitions your young person will face in life. With planning and support, your child can make a positive start to secondary school and enjoy an amazing time at their new school.

[You can attend our upcoming webinar, Preparing for High School, at no cost!](#)

About the webinar

In this webinar popular parenting educator, author and secondary teacher Sharon Witt will share a bag full of practical strategies guaranteed to remove the stress and ensure a smooth transition to secondary school.

When

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM AEDT

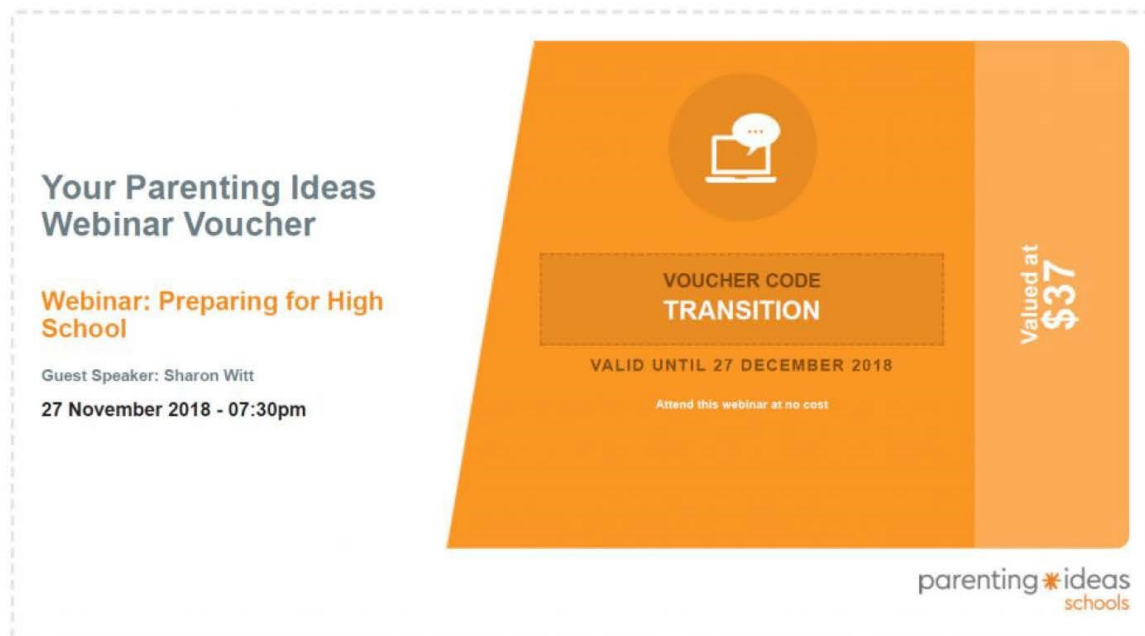
Price

This webinar is free of charge to families at schools that have a Parenting Ideas membership. Use the voucher code below to register for the webinar valued at \$37 per person.

How parents can use the voucher

1. Click this link <https://www.parentingideas.com.au/product/webinar-preparing-for-high-school/>
2. Click 'Add to cart'
3. Click 'View cart'
4. Enter the voucher code TRANSITION and click 'Apply'. Your discount of \$37 will be applied to the order. This voucher is valid until 27 December 2018.
5. Click 'Proceed to checkout'

6. Fill in your account details. These are the details you will use to login to your account and access your parenting material
7. Click 'Place Order'



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving!* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World* and *Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children*.



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA



Earth Ministry Parramatta

With **Catholic Earthcare Australia**

Invites you to a

'Laudato Si' in Action' Workshop for Parishes



Sowing the seeds of Earth Ministry in parishes, aiming to grow our green hearts!

A workshop for parishioners interested in linking, learning and sharing together, sowing the seeds for a green parish.

Saturday December 1 – get ready for Advent!!

Holy Family Parish, 254 Luford Rd, Emerton

Schoenstatt Sisters Room (within the Holy Family Parish Centre)

10:30 – 12:30 (then stay for lunch if you can)

- We hope to inspire participants by breaking open Laudato Si' with Bernard Holland, Director Catholic Earthcare Australia. We will hear from Anne Lanyon who has helped create a landcare group in her parish.
- We would like to show you the "green heart" of Holy Family parish. We will share the Emerton parish Environment Walk, and share tips for creating a walk in your parish.
- We aim to do some Action planning for your parish. We have lots of resources to share.

Cost: \$20 on the day, to assist with catering coming from Baabayn Aboriginal Corp.

To register visit the link below, or contact Sue Martin – Earth Ministry Project Officer Parramatta Diocese, Phone 0432-716-577 Email sue.martin@parracatholic.org

www.eventbrite.com.au/o/earth-ministry-office-parramatta-diocese-18062611364

"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." (LS 14)



Catherine McAuley Westmead Enrolments for Year 7 2020

Catherine McAuley Westmead is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2020.

The closing date for Year 7 2020 applications 1st round offers is

Friday, 22nd March 2019.

Parents and their daughters have the opportunity to tour the school campus at one of our upcoming school tours specifically for Year 7 2020 applicants, but open to any year group.

**Monday 26th November and Thursday 6th December 2018
9.15 – 11am**

These mornings will provide parents and students with the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day. Please note that following these tours there will be no other school tours held until our Open Afternoon.

Contact our School Reception on 9849 9100 to book a place on a school tour.

Save The Date – The Catherine McAuley Westmead School Open Afternoon will be held from 4.00pm – 7.00pm on Tuesday 12th March 2019.



Unleash your child's imagination. Learn to code these holidays!

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Build your own website at
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Why kids & parents love Code Camp!

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"Was tentative to do it at first, but after the first day was absolutely in love with code camp. Insisted on wearing hat and t-shirt for the next 2 days. Post-camp, he has continued to build on his game and now shares it with his school friends and family."

Stuart, Melbourne
★★★★★

"My daughter loved her code camp and will be back for more... The experience was great, teachers were fantastic and the follow up emails with more activities has been unbelievable..."

Katie, Sydney
★★★★★

"The end result is far and away the best programming teaching environment I have ever seen. Seriously now my primary school child can program in JavaScript."

Jeffrey, Melbourne
★★★★★



Book with confidence

We are so sure your kids will love Code Camp, if they don't want to come back after Day 1, we'll refund the remaining days!



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