Dear St Patrick’s Community

“Education is an act of hope”. These are the words of Pope Francis. It is hope that helps us to rise each morning; it is hope that sees the potential in every child in every class; it is hope that shapes our year and it is hope that is the foundation of our Lenten time. The hope of the Easter resurrection is such a short time away. Let us use Lent to breathe hope into our lives.

The Term 1 school fees will be sent out shortly. As promised, we have maintained the school fees at the 2015 rate for this year. We do take into account people’s circumstances and families are able to meet with me to discuss options. (or call Deb Moon, our finance officer, Debbie.Moon@cg.catholic.edu.au)

Thank you to Schoo’s Studio for such a smooth school photos session. Families who missed out on family photos or who have questions are welcome to contact Schoo’s studio directly on 64521282.

Teachers are preparing interim reports. These are the foundation of the conversation at the Parent/Teacher/Student conferences coming up. They are intended to indicate the approach to learning, rather than provide results from any assessment tasks.

K-6 conferences are on Monday 29 February and the Years 7-10 conferences are on Monday 7 March. There is more information coming about the booking online procedure.

It was very pleasing to pick up a magazine called Healthy Kids and read an article about St Patrick’s school canteen and the case study done for catering for the Primary Athletics Carnival last year. This is real feather in the cap for our canteen manager, Caroline Blyton. A copy of the article is inside this newsletter.

With kind regards

Frances Robertson
Principal
From the AP’s Desk...

This last weekend we remember the anniversary of the Federal Government’s 2008 apology to the Stolen Generation and the recognition that families who were separated were greatly affected. At St Patrick’s, we are very mindful of the continuous link to the land and lore between the first custodians, the current elders and us. For this reason we started the school year with a smoking ceremony to cleanse and renew our focus.

Lent has the same purpose of cleansing and renewing. This week’s Year 7 Welcome Retreat at Kianinny is also a time for looking at new beginnings and charting the high school journey together. Mrs Stacey, Ms Knott and I are looking forward to watching this develop during the retreat and in the coming four years.

Mark van Ommen

Some important dates for the St Patrick’s Parish

4/5 March:     Pope Francis’ 24 hours of Mercy
16 April:          Regional Assembly– Mercy in Marriage and Family Life

During Lent: Wed 12 noon, Friday 7pm: Stations of the Cross
Monday evenings 7pm: Lenten prayer and discussion groups (ph Denise 6452 2807)

Year 1F remember St Valentine’s Day in their own special way... “I love you BEARY much”.
BYOD and Edmodo

As you are all aware St Patrick’s has implemented a BYOD program for students in Year 6 to Year 10. All students have responded positively to the change and have been very patient with the process of connecting all devices to the BYOD network.

To facilitate the usage of devices, we ask that the students know how to use their device efficiently, have the correct software on the device such as Office 365 from Catholic Education and also have a second web browser such Google Chrome on their device. This is because some web applications work better with one browser than another.

Edmodo is web based application that has been used at St Patrick’s for 5 years. Edmodo is a secure, social learning platform for teachers, students and parents. They provide a safe and easy way for a class to connect and collaborate, share content and access homework, grades and school notices. The goal is to help educators harness the power of social media to customize the classroom for each and every learner.

After a student has logged into their account, the following page will be shown. From this page you can navigate to all parts of the Edmodo application. The screenshot is of Year 9 Science page.

As you can see, an assignment has been placed onto the page which allows the students to see the assignment file. This function also allows them to submit as many drafts as they want as well as the final copy. It dates when all submissions have been submitted. The teacher can annotate the work and send back to the students.

You can also see that a post has been sent to the students asking them to watch a video about Edward Jenner and Smallpox.

Last year information was placed into a newsletter outlining instructions how a parent account can be created with Edmodo that allows you to be a part of your child’s learning. One of the functions of this account allows for you to see what assignments your child has with an alert being sent to you two weeks before it is due to be submitted. Attached are links that can be followed outlining how you can set up a parent account on Edmodo on the web, with an iPhone app or with an Android app.

https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us/articles/205340630-Parent-Sign-Up-Web-
https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us/articles/205008664-Parent-Sign-Up-iPhone-app-
https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us/articles/205008654-Parent-Sign-Up-Android-app-
https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us/articles/205008654-Parent-Sign-Up-Android-app-
Commemorating Ash Wednesday  "Now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart." —Joel 2:12
St Patrick's was well represented at the Southern Region Swimming Carnival in Narooma on Tuesday with some great results achieved. Congratulations to all competitors for your enthusiasm and good sportsmanship and good luck to those who are continuing on to the Southern Region CPS at the Archdiocesan Swimming Carnival in Queanbeyan on Tuesday 1 March. Thank you to Mrs Moxon and the parents who transported the children and assisted on the day!
THE PRIMARY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL AT:
St Patrick's Parish School
Cooma

As this case study shows, it's definitely possible to clear a profit of over $500 at an athletics carnival with a little forward planning – and no RED foods!

Canteen manager Caroline Blyton says that there were a few things that led to the success of the day, even though the carnival itself was held on a Monday which meant all the preparation had to be completed on Sunday.

"The carnival was held at an off-site oval and canteen, so we decided the best way to approach catering was to allow pre-orders of items that could be easily transported, along with the usual items we would sell in the school canteen," Caroline says.

"For the first time, we included pre-order options on the excursion note sent to parents, and I was very pleased to see nine orders for wraps and 20 'all day sports' boxes." Students could pre-order ham or chicken rainbow wraps with lettuce, grated carrot and cucumber for $4.50, or the all day sports box for $11. This included a ham or chicken rainbow wrap, banana or apple, juice or water, a St Pat’s apple muffin and a green dipper (capers and hummus).

The carnival's staff and parent helpers were also offered a morning tea including homemade pumpkin or hearty vegetable soup, a roll, fruit platter or cheese and biscuit platter, banana and coconut cake or St Pat’s apple muffin and tea or coffee – all for $7.

Planning ahead works!
Caroline said the morning rush was hectic because she had to pack, transport, unpack into the oval's canteen and do a volunteer handover by 9:30am.

"Heating soup is hard in that particular canteen because there's only one small microwave, but once heated it was kept warm in two slow cookers I provided," she says.

"It highlighted the challenges of managing a canteen for K-10 students, the difference between their eating likes/dislikes, the weather in Cooma in May which is either hot or cold with no in-between, and not a huge number of volunteers."

Caroline says the volunteers on hand during the day were amazing, with two mothers staying all day, one for most of the day and one who opted for a two-hour shift.

"There were also two year 10 girls helping to fill and deliver the carnival staff and helper orders who were invaluable," she says.

"After catering for approximately 200 student and 24 staff and parent customers, I cleared $500 without selling any RED items such as lollies, chocolates, soft drinks or hot dogs."

SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY
Caroline regularly uses the school's Facebook page to post specials, thank volunteers and share any other canteen news. Try piggybacking off your school's Facebook page and see if it has any effect on profit.
9 February 2016

A LENTEN MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

Dear Friends,

At the commencement of Lent 2016, may I humbly ask your prayer support for the following four intercessions.

1. **MAJOR ECUMENICAL ENCOUNTER**

   Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill of Moscow will meet next Friday, 12th February. This is truly an historic ecumenical encounter! It marks the first ever such meeting between a Roman Pontiff and the head of the Russian Orthodox Church. We pray it will be a significant step towards healing the 1,000 year old divisions between East and West Christianity.

2. **24 HOURS FOR THE LORD**

   In the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has requested every Diocese in the world to implement "24 Hours for the Lord" prayer vigils in the churches of the world. The request is that for 24 hours, between 4th and 5th March 2016, the churches be left open for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer vigils and confessions. If at all possible, please see if this can occur throughout the Archdiocese. I am sure various groups in parishes would assist.

3. **TWO NEW SEMINARIANS**

   Two young men have recently joined our other seminarians on a pathway, please God, to the priesthood in our Archdiocese. Please pray for Eden Langlands and Adrian Chan.

4. **R.C.I.A.**

   Let us encourage adults to join, or return to the Catholic Church at this time via the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

God bless you always as our pilgrimage to Easter begins,

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
Favier House, 51 Cooyong Street, Braddon, ACT 2612  P (02) 6201 9811  F (02) 6248 0287  www.cg.catholic.org.au
Photographic and Digital Media

The students who elected to study the new Photographic and Digital Media course have embraced it with gusto and have produced some exciting photographs. We are having a lot of fun while learning new skills and wanted to share some of our latest photographs with you.
Frances Robertson
Principal
St Patrick’s Parish School
P.O. Box 870
Cooma 2630

Dear Frances,

Happy Year 11 Students from the Monaro!

Just a quick letter to wish you and your community a happy New Year and to let you know that 21 Year 11 Students climbed off the Cooma Bus to join us at MacKillop for 2016-17.

They were bursting with enthusiasm, anticipation and good will!

This is the third group of students we have welcomed from the Monaro – almost all of them from St Pat’s. It gives me much pleasure to see this relationship develop. Last year’s Year 12 performed most creditably; 92% of our ATAR candidate students achieved a higher result than expected, MacKillop was the second highest Catholic College in ATAR medium and our graduating class was awarded the second highest number of VET Certificates of any school in the ACT. Graduates of St Patrick’s were a significant force in these results. I hope you and your teachers feel part of this success.

All the best for a splendid year for you and your community, Cooma and the district are fortunate to have such a fine school as St Pat’s to attend.

Yours sincerely in St Mary MacKillop,

Michael Lee
College Principal

February 4, 2016
Dear Parent:

This is the letter I wish I could write.

This fight we are in right now. I need it. I need this fight. I can’t tell you this because I don’t have the language for it and it wouldn’t make sense anyway. But I need this fight. Badly. I need to hate you right now and I need you to survive it. I need you to survive my hating you and you hating me. I need this fight even though I hate it too. It doesn’t matter what this fight is even about: curfew, homework, laundry, my messy room, going out, staying in, leaving, not leaving, boyfriend, girlfriend, no friends, bad friends. It doesn’t matter. I need to fight you on it and I need you to fight me back.

I desperately need you to hold the other end of the rope. To hang on tightly while I thrash on the other end—while I find the handholds and footholds in this new world I feel like I am in. I used to know who I was, who you were, who we were. But right now I don’t. Right now I am looking for my edges and I can sometimes only find them when I am pulling on you. When I push everything I used to know to its edge. Then I feel like I exist and for a minute I can breathe. I know you long for the sweeter kid that I was. I know this because I long for that kid too, and some of that longing is what is so painful for me right now.

I need this fight and I need to see that no matter how bad or big my feelings are—they won’t destroy you or me. I need you to love me even at my worst, even when it looks like I don’t love you. I need you to love yourself and me for the both of us right now. I know it sucks to be disliked and labelled the bad guy. I feel the same way on the inside, but I need you to tolerate it and get other grownups to help you. Because I can’t right now. If you want to get all of your grown up friends together and have a ‘surviving-your-teenager-support-group-rage-fest’ that’s fine with me. Or talk about me behind my back—I don’t care. Just don’t give up on me. Don’t give up on this fight. I need it.

This is the fight that will teach me that my shadow is not bigger than my light. This is the fight that will teach me that bad feelings don’t mean the end of a relationship. This is the fight that will teach me how to listen to myself, even when it might disappoint others.

And this particular fight will end. Like any storm, it will blow over. And I will forget and you will forget. And then it will come back. And I will need you to hang on to the rope again. I will need this over and over for years.

I know there is nothing inherently satisfying in this job for you. I know I will likely never thank you for it or even acknowledge your side of it. In fact I will probably criticize you for all this hard work. It will seem like nothing you do will be enough. And yet, I am relying entirely on your ability to stay in this fight. No matter how much I argue. No matter how much I sulk. No matter how silent I get.

Please hang on to the other end of the rope. And know that you are doing the most important job that anyone could possibly be doing for me right now.

Love, Your Teenager

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Assessment K-6

Assessment and its negative impact on young students has been recently debated in the news and featured again only last week on talkback radio. While NAPLAN and other standardised assessment were the topic of discussion, some people are not often aware of the variety of positive assessment experiences that occur for K-6 students, which in turn help teachers tailor their teaching and learning practices to suit those within their care.

"Assessment is the broad name for the collection and evaluation of evidence of a student’s learning. It is integral to teaching and learning and has multiple purposes. Assessment can enhance student engagement and motivation, particularly when it incorporates interaction with teachers, other students and a range of resources.” Advice on Assessment Guide, Board of Studies NSW, 2015.

At St Patrick's, assessment adopts these forms:

**Formative assessment** – is assessment *for* learning. It is used at the beginning of an instructional period such as the beginning of the school year, term or at the commencement of a new concept. During the process of instruction, teachers are checking for student understanding. Diagnostic tools determine what students already know and where there are gaps and misconceptions. Formative assessment also includes assessment *as* learning, where students reflect on and monitor their own progress. Self-assessment in the K-6 classroom is a valuable tool to direct student learning and takes many forms depending on the age of the students. The information gained guides teachers’ decisions in how to enhance teaching and learning. Formative assessment enables students to learn through the process of feedback and opportunities to practise and improve. As students reflect on and monitor their progress, this process effectively becomes assessment as learning and contributes to students planning future learning goals.

**Summative assessment** – is assessment *of* learning. It is used towards and at the end of the instruction period such as a topic test. Teachers document the culmination of students’ learning achievements through tasks that invite students to demonstrate their mastery and knowledge of the course content. Summative assessment data provides teachers with information about how effective teaching strategies have been, time needed for instruction and how to improve teaching for future students.

**Diagnostic assessment** - is any form of assessment that gives direction to teacher planning. Diagnostic assessment provides teachers with a baseline against which to assess progress. In some cases the indicators to be assessed may require modification for certain students. This may be done in consultation with the Learning Support Team.

No one form of assessment is greater or more important than the other but together they combine to provide appropriate future direction for the classroom teacher.

Stephanie Lovat
Curriculum Coordinator

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**Homework Group**

The homework support group provides opportunities for students to complete homework and assessment work in a quiet uninterrupted environment. Afternoon tea is provided as well as access to computers, reference materials and required support in completing tasks.

**Venue:** St Patrick’s Secondary library  
**Time:** Thursdays after school until 4.30pm.  
**Supervising teacher:** Mrs Mackay

Following **Homework Group**, students are expected to make their own way home or to have pre-arranged their pick up by a parent or carer.
Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave

In the spirit of the Year of Mercy, Ms Edwards and Ms Nuridin are participating in the World’s Greatest Shave to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation and help people with blood cancer. Today, 34 Australians will be given the devastating news that they have leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma, and they’ll turn to the Leukaemia Foundation for help.

Our goal is to fundraise $500 through the support of the St Patrick’s Parish family. You can help by either donating cash to the front office or follow this link to make an online donation. Ms Edwards and Ms Nuridin are shaving their heads on 14 March 2016 as part of a commemorative event celebrating the memory of the former art teacher Sabina Kovats and to support those in our community affected by cancer.

http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/luaunedwards1

DONATIONS OF BALLS OF WOOL

NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The theme of this year’s celebration is ‘Songlines: The Living Narrative of our Nation’.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the Dreamtime describes a time when the earth, people and animals were created by our ancestral spiritual beings. They created the rivers, lakes, plants, land formations and living creatures.

Dreaming tracks crisscross Australia and trace the journeys of our ancestral spirits as they created the land, animals and lore’s. These dreaming tracks are sometimes called ‘Songlines’ as they record the travels of these ancestral spirits who ‘sung’ the land into life.

These Songlines are recorded in traditional songs, stories, dance and art. They carry significant spiritual and cultural connection to knowledge, customs, ceremony and Lore of many Aboriginal nations and Torres Strait Islander language groups.’ (Excerpt from www.naidoc.org.au)

As part of this celebration, our Indigenous students will be working on a ‘latchkey’ wall hanging depicting a magnificent outback scene. We have purchased most of the necessary materials but require more wool to help make this an outstanding project. If you are able to donate any 6 ply or 8 ply wool, preferably in earthy or sky colours, we would be very grateful. Any donation may be brought to the School Office or left in the basket just inside the front door of St. Patrick’s Church.

Thank you for any assistance you may give ………

Miesje Blumer
Learning the Trading Game with our Practicum Teacher, Ms Buchanan is fun! Team work is an important part of life in 4M

Canteen News

Mini-Canteen will be happening again this year. During the second break on a Wednesday afternoon, items are available for the students to purchase on the Infants and Primary campuses. Prices range from 50c to $2.

This week’s volunteers are (thank you):

Friday 19/2, 10am Sara Souter
Wednesday 24/2, 10am Kim Kleven,
1.15pm Marjorie Revelant
Thursday 25/2, 10am Brett Dawson
Friday 26/2, 10am Keira Lennon

Friday Special: Add the code word GREEN to your lunch order this Friday to receive a surprise from the canteen!

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

Hotmail email addresses

We have been advised that there is an issue with email addresses associated with Hotmail resulting in failure to successfully transmit messages. The matter is currently being investigated by the Catholic Education Information Technology department. If you have an alternative email address that could be used, please let us know and we will add it to our database to ensure you receive correspondence until the matter is resolved.

Email office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au
**PE Report**

This term in PE students in Years 8, 9 and 10 have been completing nine fitness tests, each aimed at measuring a different component of fitness. Students complete these tests at the start of each year, which allows them to see improvements in their fitness, as they get older. The results can vary between the sexes. Your child will be able to explain how each test is conducted.

Congratulations to all students who improved on their previous results. The following students recorded the best results in each test for their year group.

### Year 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sit and Reach (flexibility)</td>
<td>Alanah Hain – 21cm</td>
<td>Hamish Bottom – 9cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sit Ups (muscular endurance)</td>
<td>To be completed</td>
<td>To be completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Long Jump (power)</td>
<td>Julia Davies – 1.91m</td>
<td>Nicholas Zusak – 2.10m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grip Dynamometer (strength)</td>
<td>To be completed</td>
<td>To be completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50m Sprint (speed)</td>
<td>Julia Davies – 7.49sec</td>
<td>Nicholas Zusak – 7.42sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agility Run (agility)</td>
<td>To be completed</td>
<td>To be completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Handball Toss (coordination)</td>
<td>Sophie Janota – 27</td>
<td>Kiah Joyce – 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beep Test (cardiovascular endurance)</td>
<td>Anna Brayshaw – 8.12</td>
<td>Eli Wilkinson – 9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stork Stand (balance)</td>
<td>Anna Brayshaw – 30sec</td>
<td>Eli Wilkinson – 15sec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sit and Reach (flexibility)</td>
<td>Sara Knott – 17cm</td>
<td>Sam Sergo – 7cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sit Ups (muscular endurance)</td>
<td>Maria Tarasyuk, Sarah Hartley – 60</td>
<td>Darnel Bartlett, Jeremy Campbell, Sean Dixon, Damon Fanning, Bailey Rogers, Jake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Long Jump (power)</td>
<td>Maria Tarasyuk – 1.98m</td>
<td>Jake Barron – 2.16m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grip Dynamometer (strength)</td>
<td>Emily Pearce – 43kg</td>
<td>David Constance – 50kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50m Sprint (speed)</td>
<td>Maria Tarasyuk – 7.73sec</td>
<td>Bailey Rogers – 6.39sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agility Run (agility)</td>
<td>Maria Tarasyuk - 17.45sec</td>
<td>Bailey Rogers – 15.40sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Handball Toss (coordination)</td>
<td>Maria Tarasyuk – 30</td>
<td>Sam Sergo – 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beep Test (cardiovascular endurance)</td>
<td>Taylor Healy, Caitlyn Pratt - 7.7</td>
<td>Sam Sergo – 12.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stork Stand (balance)</td>
<td>Erin Dodd – 9sec</td>
<td>Andrew Pearce – 22sec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Year 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sit and Reach (flexibility)</td>
<td>Charlotte Mitchie, Jasmin Sta-tham-Smith, Matilda Thomas – 26cm</td>
<td>Chris McDonald – 15cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sit Ups (muscular endurance)</td>
<td>Charlotte Mitchie, Keisha Nunn, Zoe Carlson, Caitlin Hain, Kadee Laird, Matilda Thomas – 60</td>
<td>Justin Manning, Chris McDonald, Harrison Chong, Bas de Ruijter, Thomas Hain, Thomas Robertson – 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Long Jump (power)</td>
<td>Jasmin Statham-Smith - 1.84m</td>
<td>Dominic Holgate – 2.39m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grip Dynamometer (strength)</td>
<td>Luci Clarke – 37kg</td>
<td>Joel Saville – 61kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50m Sprint (speed)</td>
<td>Zoe Carlson – 8.07 sec</td>
<td>Thomas Robertson – 6.52sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agility Run (agility)</td>
<td>Zoe Carlson – 17.13sec</td>
<td>Chris McDonald – 15.43sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Handball Toss (coordination)</td>
<td>Brittney Wilkinson – 28</td>
<td>James Hayden, Bas de Ruijter, Dominic Holgate – 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beep Test (cardiovascular endurance)</td>
<td>Anna Behr – 7.10</td>
<td>Bas de Ruijter – 10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stork Stand (balance)</td>
<td>Kadee Laird – 30sec</td>
<td>Bas de Ruijter – 30sec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Seasons for Growth : A grief education program

Loss and grief are issues which affect all of us at some stage in our lives. Learning to deal effectively with these issues is central to personal wellbeing and happiness. Unresolved grief can also affect a student’s learning.

*Seasons for Growth* is an Australian education program which supports participants who have experienced change in their family because of a significant loss such as death, separation or divorce. It explores issues such as change, loss, managing feelings, coping strategies and support networks.

Our school will be offering *Seasons for Growth* this year. It will run for 8 weekly sessions of about 50-60 minutes and conclude with a celebration session. Later on, two further sessions will build on earlier learning.

If you think your son or daughter could benefit from *Seasons for Growth* we encourage you to talk to your child about this. We are confident that *Seasons for Growth* will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved.

If you are interested in your child participating in this program, please email the school with the following details:

Your name:
Contact email:
Contact phone:
Your child’s name:

I have discussed this with my child ( YES | NO )
Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student conferences will be held at 4.00pm – 7.00pm on Monday 29th February for Primary and at 4.00pm – 7.00pm on Monday 7th March for Secondary.

You can now book interviews at times that suit YOUR FAMILY BEST. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

BOOKINGS CLOSE Monday 29th February at 12pm for Primary and Monday 7th March at 12pm for Secondary.

(Secondary code) Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au Enter the school event code. Then follow the 3 simple steps.

(Primary code)

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately. You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

For parents that don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones the school office can be contacted on 64521721 for your child’s interviews to be placed within the online booking system. Interviews are 10 mins in Primary and 5 mins in Secondary and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 64521721

We would love to hear what you think about online booking. If you get time, click on the “contact us” button on the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school’s name and suburb.
About Mission Australia

Mission Australia is a Christian community service organisation that helps people regain their independence through early learning and youth services, family support and homelessness initiatives, employment and skills development, and affordable housing.

Together we stand with Australians in need, until they can stand for themselves.

Who is EarlyLinks for?

EarlyLinks is for families with children aged 0-8yrs old, who have just been diagnosed, or is in the process of being diagnosed with a disability, disorder or developmental delay.

Families can refer themselves to the program or be referred through their doctor, school, or community service.

Mission Australia NSW/ACT Community Services provides the EarlyLinks Program in the Shoalhaven, South coast, Illawarra and Tablelands.

EarlyLinks Strengthening families

EarlyLinks is specifically aimed at parents with children aged 0-8 years who have recently been diagnosed with a disability, disorder or developmental delay. This is an innovative program providing time limited intervention and support to families in the diagnosis period, until ongoing support is provided by specialist and mainstream children's services.

Family-centred support

EarlyLinks supports the child, their family and carers, and relevant professionals, to jointly develop and implement family specific Action Plans. The plans reflect the family's needs, the range of responses required and the relative duration and intensity required to meet these needs.

Outcomes:

EarlyLinks measures outcomes for children, families and the community. These include:

- Families experience improved well being and capacity to manage;
- Children with disabilities have regular opportunities for social interaction with other children;
- Families are supported to build formal and informal networks with other families;
- Children and their families develop and improve communication skills that enhance positive relationships within the family;
- Families are supported to greater access to mainstream services, available specialist supports and the broader age appropriate children's services.

Contact us

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