Dear Parents and Friends of our School Community

Last weekend was the feast day of St Brigid on February 1st, traditionally the first day of Spring in Ireland.

Like our St Patrick, St Brigid is one of the patron saints of Ireland. Her name is a byword for Irish spirituality, for service to the poor and for care for all of creation. She is particularly remembered for her humility.

On the last page of the newsletter is the story of the Cross of St Brigid, which is a sign of simplicity and of faithful presence. In its unfinished state, it is a reminder that the work of Christ is not yet finished. As a Catholic school, we know that we, too, must pick up the cross and continue the work of Christ every single day.

Like St Brigid, may we be generous with our time, our presence and our love this year.

I continue to be impressed with the ease with which most students have settled into learning in every year group. Already, Kindergarten students are beginning to follow classroom routines. These are important for all students and they begin with good eating habits, good sleep patterns, appropriate amounts of exercise and activity, as well as having quiet settled times. Then they are well able to manage learning at school.

As I observe the traffic around the school, I feel compelled to remind parents about the 40 zone, the need to be very, very careful with the pedestrian crossings and to be watchful throughout the whole intersection. Our children are precious and deserve our vigilance.

We are currently exploring the possibility of emailing the link to the newsletter to all families, rather than printing hundreds of copies. This is a common practice in many schools. Its success is dependent upon each family returning the Medical Information forms with an email address included.

Cian came to my office and even took over the Principal's chair; he thought he would try it out for size. He skipped out, telling me that Kindergarten was better!

Kind regards

Mrs Frances Robertson
Principal
From the AP’s Desk

Dear students and parents

Welcome to the 2014 academic year. I trust that you all had a happy and safe holiday break.

As the Winter Olympics begin this weekend there will naturally be talk about Gold medals. For some athletes their success will be measured by whether they achieve Gold, Silver or Bronze. But for others success will be measured very differently. Remember the movie *Cool Runnings?* For the Jamaican bobsled team, success was always going to be measured differently to the Swiss or German teams. Goal setting and success are very individual.

My challenge to the students is to think of what you hope to achieve at school this year. For some, it will be high grades or academic recognition. For others, the goal may be to participate more in class, join in some school activities, play with new people or say hello to someone different each day. Whatever the goal I urge you to tell someone on the staff. That way we can remind you, support you, encourage you and check on your progress from time to time.

To transform a possibility into a reality often takes effort on our part to change our thinking, routines and responses to situations.

Or, as a great golfer once said, *"the harder we work the luckier we become"*. Maybe Steven Bradbury said this as well?

Have a great year.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

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SRC and House Captains for the Primary

Congratulations to the newly elected 2014 Primary Student Representative Council. We look forward to working with these students and throughout the year.

**Year 3** - Lilly Janota and Jack Buckley  
**Year 4** – Emily Smith and Lochlan Giuliani  
**Year 5** – Ivy McGufficke and Jorja White  
**Year 6** – Emmilee Reid and Joshua Sharkey

Last Friday the Year 1-6 students gathered together in their House teams in readiness for this Friday’s swimming carnival.

Congratulations to the following students who were voted in the 2014 House Captains and Vice Captains.

Caleum Captains: Sophie Janota, Colin Kingston  
Vice Captains: Lucy Thornton, Aidan Childs  
Ignis Captains: Leah Rogers, Connor Inskip  
Vice Captains: William Lehrmann, Aliah Bartlett  
Aqua Captains: Jake Quodling, Irelend Ward  
Vice Captains: James Dyball, Nowell Utrush  
Terra Captains: Nicholas Zusack Amber Martin-Smith  
Vice Captains: Poppy Sizmur, Lachlan McGufficke,
Secondary Sports Update

Last week the secondary campus voted for new House captains. Congratulations to the following students on being elected Secondary House Captains for 2014:

- **Aqua**: Olivia Knott and Jacob Wenban
- **Caelum**: Maegan McCraw and Damien Hayden
- **Ignis**: Caitlin Galwey and Mitchell Eager
- **Terra**: Nicola Pearce and Annika Rooney

A reminder that students earn House and individual points for all extra curricular activities that they participate in throughout the year, not just in sport.

Students are also reminded to listen out on assembly for notices about upcoming sporting events: Cooma Schools Netball Carnival, Catholic Schools Week Gala Day in Broulee, soccer trials, swimming carnivals and cross country carnivals.

** The secondary swimming carnival will be different this year. There will not be a separate carnival for long distance events. They will be held at the secondary swimming carnival on Friday 21 February. More information will be given to parents and students in the coming weeks about these changes.**
St Brigid’s Cross

The story is told that, one night, Brigid went to sit with a dying man. He was a chieftain, and members of his household hoped Brigid would speak to him of Christ, and perhaps convert him before he died. However, the man was very ill and couldn't listen to such talk. So Brigid prayed for him instead.

As she sat by his bedside, she picked up some of the rushes scattered on the floor. (This was typical of the time, as the rushes were warm and kept the floor clean). She began to weave rushes into a Cross, and as she did the Chieftain asked her about it. She wove and spoke of Jesus and prayed for the Chieftain.

He came to know Christ that night, was baptised and died in peace.

What can we learn from this story?

- That faithful prayer and action can convert a heart faster than long words
- That being present, and remaining present, with those in need allows healing to happen
- That God works through all things, even rushes
- That in each strand we are woven together with one another and into the work of Christ

Positions of responsibility at St Patrick’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARISH PRIEST</th>
<th>Fr Paul Huthnance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRINCIPAL</td>
<td>Mrs Frances Robertson</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR</td>
<td>Mr Paul Mackay</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-10 COORDINATOR</td>
<td>Mr Steven Joyce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFICE STAFF</td>
<td>Mrs Beverley Clarke, Mrs Debbie Moon, Mrs Sarah Hamilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Mrs Angie Intron/Mrs Stephanie Lovat/Mrs Emma Hill/Mrs Rebecca Nassar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Mrs Giovanna Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Mrs Belinda Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Mrs Mary-Ann Fraser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Mrs Bernadette Moser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Mr Mike Intron/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Mr Steven Joyce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Mrs Glencye Moxon, Mrs Tina Rooney, Mrs kellie Summerville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Support Teacher</td>
<td>Mrs Melinda Barrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Support Assistants</td>
<td>Mrs Margaret Field, Mrs Miesje Blumber, Mrs Tina Mayhew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary staff</td>
<td>Ms Luaun Edwards, Mr Kevin Dunn, Mrs Rashida Nuridin, Mrs Pam Fletcher, Mrs Alyson Hulley-Jeffries, Mrs Amanda Knott, Mr Tim Lawley, Mrs Lou Mackay, Mr Dan Marks, Mrs Suzanne Stacey, Mrs Sue Stubbs, Mr Steve Summerville, Mrs Sue Wallace, Mrs Tina Wawrzyniak, Mrs Kathryn Russell, Mrs Jenni Fraser, Mrs Carolyn Hely, Mrs Joyce Venables &amp; Mr Don Southwell (Maintenance)</td>
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Second hand uniform stall

A reminder that the second hand uniform stall will be open at the K-2 Campus on Friday 7 February 2014 from 3.30pm til 4.30pm.

and coming events....

Have you looked at the calendar on the school’s website?

School Opening Liturgy, Monday 10 February at the Church from 12pm - 1pm, …it’s all there! You should have received a few notes home relating to many of the events coming up on the school calendar. A medical form was sent home this week and needs to be completed and returned to the
Canteen News

· VOLUNTEERS: I would like to welcome back all my wonderful volunteers and look forward to seeing some new faces at the canteen. A letter was sent home yesterday explaining the canteen routine and included a volunteer request form. If you can help out, even if only for a short time once or twice a term, please complete the reply slip and return to me by next Tuesday 11 February. The Term 1 roster will then be drawn up and distributed in Week 3.

· HELP NEEDED THIS FRIDAY: The Primary Swimming Carnival will be held this Friday and I would appreciate some help making salad wraps. Lunches will also need to be delivered to the Pool. If you can help, please call me at the school on 6452 1721.

· MINI CANTEEN: The Mini Canteen will resume in Week 3 (on most Wednesdays) for both Primary and Infants.

· PRICE LIST: The canteen list will be reviewed and updated to include more healthy choices. Due to rising costs, there will be some slight price increases. An updated menu will be distributed in the near future.

If you have any questions, thoughts or feedback, please contact me through the school. Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

School hours and supervision
The whole ethos of St Patrick’s Parish School assumes a constant, friendly but vigilant presence of teachers among the students. Supervision at St Patrick’s varies according to the campus of the school.

PRIMARY CAMPUS (K-6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.57 am</td>
<td>First Bell</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 am -</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.20 – 2.00</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.20 pm</td>
<td>End of Day</td>
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</tbody>
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Students will be supervised from 8.45 am to 3.30 pm or until the last bus leaves. K-6 students catch buses at the Secondary campus.

SECONDARY CAMPUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.55 am</td>
<td>Start of Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.40 – 11.00</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00 - 11.10</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.50 - 1.35</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.25 pm</td>
<td>End of Day</td>
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Students will be supervised from 8.40 am to 3.45 pm or until the last bus leaves.

Please note that students should not be on the school premises outside the specified times of supervision.

And the journey to MacKillop begins

Congratulations to the 2013 St Patrick’s students who have continued their senior education in the Catholic system through St Mary MacKillop College. They caught their bus for the first time on Monday morning and, although some were naturally nervous, there was clearly an air of excitement as they ventured towards something very new.

St Patrick’s will continue to explore ways that we can support these students, and parents are encouraged to maintain communication with our school.