A Prayer for teachers

Lord, give your strength to your people as they share your love with the students. May your spirit of wisdom and understanding be with them. Give them your joy and peace. Bless the students who are taught by them. Bless our school, our families and the community of our Parish. Amen.

Last weekend, our staff were blessed to be invited to a special commissioning ceremony at the Saturday and Sunday Parish Masses. This reinforces the fact that we are a Parish school and integral to the life of the Parish. We appreciate the support and prayers of the parishioners. Thank you to so many parents for supporting the Primary Swimming Carnival with your presence. It was a lovely event, with good sportsmanship. We appreciate the effective preparation of Mrs Moxon and Ms Wawrzyziak.

This Friday is the anniversary of the Apology that was offered to the Stolen Generation by the Federal Government. The Catholic Church in Australia welcomed and affirmed the apology made in the presence of so many of the Indigenous peoples of this land. This spirit of reconciliation, that begins with a simple acknowledgement that there has been hurt or a broken relationship, is the same model that we use at St Patrick’s. Restorative Practices takes incidents that might otherwise result in punishment and creates opportunities for students to:
1. become aware of the impact of their behaviour
2. understand the obligation to take responsibility for their actions &
3. take steps towards making things right.

Through this process, students learn how to interact and manage their relationships with adults and peers. They become better equipped to understand how their actions impact on others and how to monitor future behaviour. Restorative practices encourage accountability, improve school safety, help strengthen relationships and create more positive outcomes for students and the school community.

We need to be clear about our expectations for all students in all classrooms and these are printed in this newsletter and displayed around the school. Our classes are also preparing classroom agreements about how they will best operate to be busy, happy, productive places of learning.

Learning is our core purpose and we need to do all we can to establish good foundations for that.

Frances Robertson
Principal
The 2014 P&F executive... would like to welcome all families to become actively involved with the School Parents & Friends Association this year. It is a fantastic way to meet families within our school and assist at our various fundraising functions. Meetings are held once or twice a term and are a forum for you to find out more of what is going on in our school.

Term 1 fundraising kicks off with the BBQ at the Cooma Show on Saturday 14 March, we will be asking parents to donate a couple of hours of their time to help out. More information will be in next week’s newsletter.

The date for the Annual General Meeting will be Thursday 26 February at 7pm in the Primary Library. This is straight after the Kindergarten Support Evening. We encourage you to think about taking on an active role within the P&F executive. If you would like more information about the P&F, please feel free to contact Karen McGufficke on 0417 496708.

A message from the AP’s Desk...

Police talks

We are organising Senior Constable Rebecca Lanyon to come to St Patrick’s to talk to students about a range of topics. We invite Rebecca Lanyon each year to speak to each year group so they develop a better understanding of how the law protects their rights and dignity.

Rebecca Lanyon will speak to students about sexting, the risks involved in using social media, safe partying and assault. She has a lot of experience in dealing with these issues and provides real scenarios for students to consider.

Years 7-10 will have the opportunity to listen to Rebecca in the next few weeks. We will also arrange a follow up discussion early in Term 3. The extra session in Term 3 will be organised as a forum, allowing students to ask questions related to their particular concerns.

Rebecca can also present parent information sessions and has worked with primary aged students. These options will be considered in consultation with staff and students.

First Aid

We are currently developing the new procedures for students who have been identified with Anaphylaxis. A letter will come home shortly explaining the new procedures. Please note that St Patrick’s remains a Nut free school.

It is essential that parents update their child’s medical details if there is a change to medication or a new condition has been diagnosed. The biggest problem we find is that contact phone numbers are incorrect.

If you are not sure if your details are correct (address, email, phone number or student medical information) please contact the office.

Safety near the roads

It has been noticed that there are potential accidents waiting to happen near the school gates in the afternoon in Infants and Primary. Students are not waiting near the silver seats (as requested), they are swinging on trees and playing close to the road. We love seeing parents having a chat with other parents after school and this is a wonderful reflection of the family-like atmosphere at St Patrick’s. From now on, we will be encouraging you to move inside the gates and keep the little ones close by your side. Let’s keep the safety of children uppermost in what we do.
OUR MISSION through the School’s Expectations

At St Patrick's Parish School, we believe that **learning**:

- is founded on the Good News of Jesus Christ
- has purpose and meaning
- encourages and develops a broad range of communication skills
- develops independence and confidence
- is enriched as a result of team work
- is best supported when students feel safe to explore and take risks
- gives rise to creativity
- encourages awareness of global citizenship
- is life, and life is learning

At St Patrick’s Parish School, the **safety** and well-being of all members of the school community is important and everyone’s shared responsibility.

At St Patrick’s Parish School, we **belong** to a school and Parish community that is proud of its heritage and its reputation.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>This school is</th>
<th>Our community has the responsibility to:</th>
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| **A place of learning** | Come to class prepared to learn  
Recognise the right of others to learn  
Make a positive contribution in class and listen to all instructions  
Develop our skills and knowledge  
Choose appropriate times to speak and to listen attentively  
Bring all necessary equipment to school  
Be punctual to all classes and school activities  
Attend school regularly  
Complete all work on time and to the best of our ability  
Reflect on our learning, using effective feedback on our progress |
| **A place of safety** | Follow directions given by leaders  
Follow the ‘hands off’ policy  
Follow WHS requirements and teachers’ direction about use of equipment  
Respect the personal space and safety of others  
Keep the school grounds and classrooms clean and tidy  
Use personal electronic devices appropriately  
Create a culture where all we are encouraged to appropriately express an opinion and take sensible risks |
| **A place of belonging** | Actively participate in the prayer and contribute to the liturgical life of the school  
Always be honest and truthful  
Relate positively to others and if needed, to restore relationships  
Respect the personal space of others  
Respect the property of others  
Wear the uniform correctly  
Be polite and inclusive to all within the school community  
Speak to others with courtesy  
Actively participate and engage in all classes, school events and activities  
Make visitors welcome to our school |
Next Wednesday 18 February is Ash Wednesday. This day marks the beginning of Lent. It occurs 46 days (40 weekdays plus 6 Sundays) before Easter. According to Scripture Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he faced temptation. Lent began as a mirroring of this, fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter.

Ash Wednesday takes its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year Palm Sunday. The ashes are placed on the heads of participants to the praying of the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". This serves as reminder and challenge to live our lives well.

Ash Wednesday Mass will be held in our Parish at 7.30am 18 February.

The message of Lent is prayer, repentance or fasting and giving. Prayer is a blessing in our lives, an opening up to God. In many ways, all of us know we could live our lives in a different way. We could make small changes to greater love, forgiveness, healing and kindness. This is repentance. Fasting could mean so many different personal actions. Fasting may mean a form of abstinence from food. But it may also mean giving up something so that greater presence and time is given to others. From these actions grows the motivation to give to others.

Project Compassion is a means that we can give to others.

The theme of Project Compassion this year is “Food for Life.” This Project throws a spotlight on global food issues and how Caritas Australia is empowering the world’s poorest people to establish sustainable food sources. (http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)

This is the challenge of Lent, a period of discipline and personal change. The invitation of Lent begins next week. The invitation is to all in our Parish and School Community so that we can grow stronger in our faith, hope and love.
2015 sees an exciting development for the K-2 teachers of St Patrick’s. We have been invited to embark on a research-based journey, which will continue to develop and evolve over three years. This project comes under the umbrella of COSA+ which stands for Collaborating on Student Achievement.

While we intend to specifically focus on the impact and development of numeracy skill in the early years, the impact of this project will extend across all teachers in K-6 through specific professional development and numeracy skill focus.

We look forward to working with our school services officer, Shelley O’Brien from the Catholic Education Office and sharing our successes and findings with the wider school community throughout the year.

Stephanie Lovat
Curriculum Coordinator

Student Leadership Team for 2015

School Captains: Meg Pearce and Lachlan Marks

Secondary Leadership Team: Madeleine Rooney, Andreas Nassar, Matthew Robinson, Erin Pearce, Abby Macnab, Matthew Chelin

Our Primary School Leaders: Samuel Rumball and Lucy Thornton, supported by James Dyball and Ivy McGufficke

Secondary House Leaders:
Terra: Carson Barrett and Emily Mills
Caelum: Tim Sixt and Madeline Russell
Aqua: Olivia Barron and Andrew Devereux
Ignis: Jennifer Fraser and Jarrod Pratt

Primary House Leaders:
Aqua: Hudson Laird and Nowell Utrush
Caelum: Lisa Haylock and Aidan Childs
Ignis: Aliyah Bartlett and Jack Williams-Hartas
Terra: Sami Frazer and Lachlan McGufficke

Leadership Commitment Statement

In this Year as we are called to our faith, we will serve all students of our school community and represent them with care, kindness and thoughtfulness. With cooperation and support, we will help others to use and share their gifts and skills in our community. We will support our vision, A School with Altitude, and strive to live our school motto: Strength in Gentleness. In all we do, we will strive to build a school community that is open to the gift of being “Called to our Faith.” We make this commitment with the help of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.
Secondary House Leaders for 2015
Congratulations to all students receiving badges for leadership positions for 2015.
Primary Swimming Carnival

Thank you to all parents who came to watch or help with time-keeping.
St Patrick's has an ongoing event number to request that Police patrol the streets around the school each morning and afternoon. This is only for the safety of our children. Please obey all speed limits and parking signs, otherwise you could be booked.

Structure of the day

In 2015 we have altered the structure of the day.

Infants will still finish their day at 3.10am and these students can be collected from the Infants campus or they will be walked over to the bus lines with the supervising teacher.

Students can eat their lunch in whichever break they prefer. In Primary students will remain seated with a teacher to eat their food. The canteen will offer a variety of food in both breaks for the Secondary students.
STUDENT LEAVE

Secondary students who need to leave school during any part of the school day must bring a signed note from the parent/carer to the school office BEFORE morning Homeroom. A leave note will be signed by a member of the school Leadership Team. Students will collect their leave note and sign out and in at the office. If an appointment is made by parents during the school day, notify the office by telephoning 6452 1721.

Primary students requiring leave should bring a note into their child’s class teacher.

Canteen News

Mini-canteen will be back this week for Infants and Primary students. It will be offered in their second break on Wednesday afternoons. Items will be priced from 50c to $1.

Canteen volunteers for the next week are:

- Thursday 12 Feb, 10am: Lisa Walsh
- Friday 13 Feb, 10am: Chris Haylock
- Wednesday 17 Feb, 10am: Linda Quodling
- Wednesday 17 Feb, 1pm: Howard Brown

This Friday the meal deal will be: Chicken Burger + Organic or V8 Fusion juice + Apple for $7.

Put the code word "Green" on Friday's lunch order to receive a surprise from the canteen.

Each week I'll be trying out different muffins for the Secondary students to buy for $1 each. This week it’s been Mini Carrot Cake Muffins, here’s the link if you would like to try them at home: https://livelighter.com.au/Recipe/487/mini-carrot-cakes

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

Southern Region Swimming Carnival

Has been changed from Wednesday 18 February to Thursday 19 February