Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year! Amen

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year for 2014. A special welcome to all our new children and families. May I firstly begin by thanking you all for your warm hospitality. The staff and I have already started to get to know one another and I am sure that together we will work hard in partnership with you and your children to make this year of learning both fulfilling and exciting. I have many fond memories of the school and the St Patrick's community from when I was here as a beginning teacher and eventually as Religious Education Coordinator many years ago. I would like to welcome back all our staff especially new staff members in temporary positions Ms Sara Toman (Yr2 Young), Ms Nicole Dunseath (Yr2 Mackellar) and Mr David Younis (Physical Education Wed/Thurs) I am sure you join with me in wishing them all the best for this year. I am pleased to inform you that over the holidays Ms Viviana Bombardiere got married to her fiancé Adam. Her new married name is Williams. Another exciting event to relay is the engagement of Ms Sue Rhee to her fiancé Ravi. Once again I know you will join me in congratulating both these staff members. Congratulations are also extended to Mrs Felicity Wallace and her husband Chris on the birth of their new baby boy Michael on the 14th January and to Mrs Benkovich on the birth of baby granddaughter Evie. From all accounts both mothers and babies are doing fine. May I also ask you to keep Father John in your prayers. Father suffered a slight stroke last week but is doing quite well considering. He is now on the road to recovery and is following doctor's orders by getting as much rest as possible. I will keep you informed. Let me take the opportunity to publically thank Mrs Gloria Bryant (former Principal), for her relentless dedication to St Patrick’s School and wish her many years of good health and much happiness in her retirement. Over the next few days I will be visiting classrooms to get to know the children. I have heard that they are wonderful learners, display beautiful manners and have excellent behaviour. I look forward to catching up with all the families, those that I already know, and those that are new to me in the weeks to come.

God Bless you and your families

Bernadette Fabri
Principal
CONGRATULATIONS

2014 School Captains
James Maroun
Yvette Roque

Vice Captains
Hunter Munro
Josie Wehbe

Student Council
Oliver Wehbe, Emile Saab,
Miray Sakr, Olana Lal

House Captains
Boronia
Matthew Kassis & Antonia Khalil
Melaleuca
Jeremy Khoury & Narella Wakim
Waratah
Joseph Rahme & Rachel Touche
Wattle
Christian Tanna & Trinity Eltakchi

SYMPATHY & PRAYERS

to the Dagostino & Coles family
Francis (5C), Xavier (3L),
Dante (1C) and Elliana (2M) on the
recent death of their Grandfather.

HONOUR AWARDS

Acknowledging children's achievement,
efforts and positive work habits is critical
to the development and encouragement of
desirable behaviours and attitudes to
learning. Over this first term the staff will
be reviewing the award system currently
present in the school. Keeping this in mind
the St Patrick's Honour Award will be
awarded to the student of the week who
demonstrates outstanding application across
any Key Learning Area. Award recipients will be
given specific feedback regarding this
achievement. At this stage Honour Award
recipients will still be published in the
school newsletter. We look forward to
keeping you updated on any new awards
introduced.

FRIDAY ASSEMBLIES

Last year, a new time was trialled for Friday
Assemblies (Friday pm) This time seemed to
be favoured by the teaching staff as it
enabled the protection of prime teaching
time in the morning and allowed for the
continuation of literacy and numeracy
blocks. From all accounts this afternoon
timeslot seemed to suit many parents as well
who were then able to take the children
home at the end of the school day at
3.00pm. In light of this response School
Assemblies will now be held at 2.20pm in the
school hall. You are all very welcome. The
first school assembly will be on Friday 14th
February.

STAFF - 2014

Principal Miss Bernadette Fabri
Assistant Principal Mrs Elly Benkovich

6 P Mrs Graham & Mrs Bourne
6 W Mr Baird & Mrs Mannino
5C Mrs Fardell
5T Mrs Tondini
4B Miss Hagi
4G Mrs Pope
3L Mrs Carroll
3T Miss Rhee
2M Miss Dunseath
2Y Miss Toman
1C Mrs Masefield
1S Miss Bombardiere
KA Mrs Salame
KM Mrs Nubla

Learning Support Mrs Barclay
Mrs Flatley
Mrs Veljkovic

Reading Recovery Mrs Kerr
Teacher-Librarian Mrs O'Dwyer
Music Mrs Rodricks
PE Mr Younis
RFF Mrs Samaha
RFF Mrs Mannino

Office
Finance & Admin Mrs Nutter
Reception & Admin Mrs Jones
Library Assistant Mrs Attard
Teachers' Aide Mrs Yuen
**BOOKCLUB ISSUE 1 - 2014**

Due Friday 21st February, 2014

NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

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Remember to fill out Order Forms correctly and place in a sealed envelope clearly marked with: NAME - CLASS - BOOKCLUB

CORRECT MONEY (no change given)

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**KINDERGARTEN 2014**

Kindergarten children will commence schooling at St Patrick’s on Monday, 3rd February. There will be a little morning tea for parents to help ease the ‘separation pains’ and assist them to get to know each other. We look forward to welcoming these little ones into our community. Thank you to some Year One parents who stepped in at the last minute to help serve refreshments.

**FOOD ALLERGIES**

Several children at our school suffer from food allergies - some very severe. Action plans are currently in place to administer medication to these children if it is required. To assist the staff and to help safeguard the health of these children I ask that you impress upon your own children the dangers of sharing their lunches with other students. In line with this policy we ask that you do not send gift items such as lollies, Easter eggs, Christmas candy canes etc for your child to give to other students. We will continue to educate the children in the classroom about only eating their own lunches and I will keep you informed of any other protocols we may need to put in place.

Thank you for your co-operation.

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**Bus Passes**

Bus and Rail passes have been handed out to students today. The grace period for free travel is up to Friday 14th February. Should your child need a bus or rail pass please come to the office urgently to complete a form.

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**LETTERS HOME THIS WEEK**

*School Banking Program - Yr 5 & 6 should you require the banking packs please come and see the office.

*Acceptable use of Information Technology

* Class Lists

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

to Wakim family Narella (6P), Sara-Maree (3T) and Angelina (1S) on the birth of their 4th daughter Mariette who was born on 5th January.

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**ENewsletter available**

Read our newsletter online at: http://www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au

If you require a hard copy please let us know. Thank you to all the families who are reading the Newsletter on line.

**New developments:** School Notes & Forms have been added to our site under the heading on the left hand side PARENTS. This will allow parents to download required excursion notes or Administration Notes.
Our VISION is to –
be a child centred faith community within an innovative, interactive learning environment.

Our MISSION is to –
Live out the Gospel Values in a visibly Catholic tradition
Nurture students for Christian Leadership
Create a range of learning experiences which allow children to progress at their own level
Assist our students to develop into independent thinkers with a deep sense of responsibility and justice
Lead each individual towards reaching his/her potential
Generate a sense of community and compassion in which all experience belonging.

Opportunity for all

COMING EVENTS 2014
TERM ONE - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week One
Friday 31st January  No Assembly

Week Two
Monday 3rd February  First day for Kindergarten
   Welcome Morning Tea for Kindy Parents
Friday 7th February  No Assembly

Week Three
Tuesday 11th February  Yr 4 Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm
Friday 14th February  Opening School Mass
   Assembly Yr 6 School Hall 2.20pm

Week Four
Monday 17th February  Yr 1 Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm
   Yr 3 Parent / Teacher Information Night 8pm
Tuesday 18th February  Yr 2 Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm
   Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 19th February  Yr 5 Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm
   Yr 6 Parent / Teacher Information Night 8pm
Thursday 20th February  Kindy Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm
Friday 21st February  Assembly Yr 5 School Hall 2.20pm

Week Five
Friday 28th February  Diocesan Swimming Carnival
   Assembly Yr 4 School Hall 2.20pm

Week Six
Tuesday 4th March  Shrove Tuesday Pikelets
Wednesday 5th March  Ash Wednesday
   Mass 9.30am Yrs 3 -6
   Liturgy Kinder, Yr 1 and Yr 2 Time TBA
Friday 7th March  Assembly Yr 3 School Hall 2.20pm

Week Seven
Friday 14th March  Assembly Yr 2 School Hall 2.20pm

Week Eight
Friday 21st March  Assembly Yr 1 School Hall 2.20pm

Week Nine
Friday 28th March  Assembly Kinder School Hall 2.20pm

Week Ten
Friday 4th April  NO Assembly
   School Photos

Week Eleven
Friday 11th April  NO Assembly
   Last Day of Term