Dear Parents

Once again thank you for your warm hospitality over the last week. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of the children who are both friendly and polite. Children, I thank you for displaying these outstanding qualities.

Last Monday it was my pleasure to welcome our new Kindergarten children and their families to St Patrick’s school. I believe they did remarkably well and by the third day seemed to be already keen to line up like the older children.

During the week it has been so satisfying to see how gentle and attentive to the young ones the Year 6 buddies have been. They have had the opportunity to experience combined play times so that they could spend a little time together. The buddies program is a very positive way for the older children to act as role models for other children in the school. For some boys and girls who do not have siblings it is a chance to practice nurturing, compassion and patience. I know for many Year 6 students this program is one of the highlights of their final year of Primary School and the bond they often make with their buddies is remembered for a long time to come.

I would like to say thank you to the following mothers who helped serve refreshments to the Kindy parents after dropping the children off at the classrooms on the first day of school. Thank you to Mrs Gereige, Mrs Moussa, Mrs Romanos and Miss Mendoza. This simple welcome was so successful that we will continue it next year and I will be asking for volunteers from the current Kindergarten parent body to assist in the same way.

May I also take this opportunity to welcome to the staff two new members Mrs Juanita Gray, whom some of you have already met in the office, will be working on some Mondays and Tuesdays and our new school counsellor, Mrs Tracey Ricketts, will commence next Wednesday. I know you join me in wishing them all the very best as they join our school community.

Over the next few weeks the teachers will be conducting Parent/Teacher Information Nights. Involvement in school activities sends a clear message to your children that you are interested in what they do and learn at school. The teachers also appreciate your commitment to your child’s education. If at any time you have concerns or worries about what is happening at school, please make an appointment to speak to your child’s teacher/s.

Mrs Benkovich and I are always happy to meet with parents. As Assistant Principal, Mrs Benkovich is responsible for student management and is available to discuss any serious playground issues or concerns. We do ask however that you ring first and arrange a suitable time for the meeting.

God Bless you and your families

Bernadette Fabri
(Principal)
AFTERNOON PICK UP
With the school year well and truly underway many parents are once again opting to join the pick up routine on Villiers Street. Thank you to all the parents who have remembered to follow the guidelines below:
- Family names clearly displayed for teachers to read
- Driving up as far forward as possible to avoid creating unnecessary congestion.
- Not blocking the round about by being observant of the traffic flow ahead
- Not parking in the ‘no parking’ zone on Villiers St adjacent to the school.

Please remember parents that parking rangers regularly patrol this area and that fines will be issued to drivers not obeying road rules. Can I also ask you to take care when stopping for your children by ensuring their seat belt is done up before carefully leaving the curb after pick up. The safety of our children is always paramount followed by courtesy to other drivers. Please note that if you wish to park and enter the school the main gates will now be open at 2.50pm. Parents are more than welcome to come in and have a chat for 10mins but we ask that you do not take your child before the dismissal time of 3.00pm. Your cooperation is very much appreciated by others in our community and members of the general public.

2014 SCHOOL FEES
Term 1 School Fee accounts have been sent out by the Catholic Education office. The due date for payment is Friday 7th March, 2014. Arrangements made in 2013 are now finished and any family having difficulty completing term payments on time and wish to make payments by instalments using cash, Centrelink or Bpay etc please contact the School Office for an appointment with Mrs Nutter to set up a new arrangement. Catholic Education Office is also offering a Flexible Payment Plan (FPP) for your 2014 School Fee details are included with your school fee statement. Please ensure you return the included forms by the due date 21st February.

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. The Student of the Week will commence next week in conjunction with the 1st Assembly.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS
Due to unforeseen circumstances at the Cathedral the time and venue for the Opening School mass has been changed to Wednesday, 19th February at OLMC School Hall commencing at 9.30am. May I ask all parents to be seated by this time to avoid unnecessary distraction to the liturgy. We thank OLMC principal Mr Stephen Walsh and staff for allowing us to use this facility.

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.

Birthday Treats
After much thought regarding the safety of our precious children at St Patrick’s we ask that NO food treats including ice blocks, cupcakes, lollies etc are brought to the school. We will however be acknowledging students birthday’s by placing their name in the newsletter and at Friday’s assembly.


LIBRARY BORROWING DAYS
Monday  KM, 1C, 1S, 2Y, 3T
Tuesday  2M, 4B, 4G
Wednesday KA, 3L
Thursday  6P, 6W
Friday  5C, 5T

TERM 1 PE & Music Lessons
Wednesday 3L, 3T, 4B, 4G, 6P, 6W
Thursday KA, KM, 1C, 1S, 2M, 2Y, 5C, 5T

LETTERS HOME THIS WEEK
All Years - Information Nights
            Validation Forms
Yr 3 - Excursion to Featherdale Farm

CONGRATULATIONS to Makhoul family Justin (1C) the birth of their 3rd son Liam who was born on 23rd January.

SCHOOL TERMS FOR 2014
Term 1 Concludes:  Friday 11th April
Term 2 Commences: Monday, 28th April
            Concludes:  Friday, 27th June
Term 3 Commences: Monday, 14th July
            Concludes:  Friday, 19th Sept
Term 4 Commences: Tuesday, 7th Oct
            Concludes:  Friday, 19th Dec

Please note Staff Development Days may affect commencement and concluding dates. Please refer to our weekly Newsletter in 2014.

SCHOOL BANKING NEWS
School banking has commenced for the year and will take place every Tuesday. For new banking students I need either your Dollarmite deposit book or place the money in an envelope with your name, class, bsb/acct no and the amount. I will then issue you with a student number and issue you with a Dollarmite deposit book, should you need one. There are eight exciting new rewards this year!

BOOKCLUB ISSUE 1-2014
Due Friday 21st February, 2014
NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED
The preferred method of payment is to make the payment online directly to scholastic. If paying by cheque please make the CHEQUE out to Scholastic Australia.
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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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**

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<tr>
<th>Week Two</th>
<th>Friday 7th February</th>
<th>No Assembly</th>
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<td><strong>Week Three</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 11th February</strong></td>
<td>Yr 4 Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 14th February</strong></td>
<td>Assembly Yr 6 School Hall 2.20pm</td>
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<td><strong>Week Four</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday 17th February</strong></td>
<td>Yr 1 Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 18th February</strong></td>
<td>Yr 3 Parent / Teacher Information Night 8pm</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 19th February</strong></td>
<td>Yr 2 Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm</td>
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<td><strong>Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 20th February</strong></td>
<td>Opening School Mass 9.30am at OLMC Hall</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 21st February</strong></td>
<td>Yr 5 Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm</td>
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<td><strong>Kindy Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week Five</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 28th February</strong></td>
<td>Diocesan Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Assembly Yr 4 School Hall 2.20pm</td>
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<td><strong>Week Six</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 4th March</strong></td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday Pikelets</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 5th March</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mass 9.30am Yrs 3 -6</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Liturgy Kinder, Yr 1 and Yr 2 Time TBA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday 7th March</strong></td>
<td>Assembly Yr 3 School Hall 2.20pm</td>
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<td><strong>Week Seven</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 14th March</strong></td>
<td>Assembly Yr 2 School Hall 2.20pm</td>
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<td><strong>Week Eight</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 21st March</strong></td>
<td>Assembly Yr 1 School Hall 2.20pm</td>
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<td><strong>Yr 4 Excursion to Arabanoo</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week Nine</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 28th March</strong></td>
<td>Assembly Kinder School Hall 2.20pm</td>
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<td><strong>Week Ten</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 4th April</strong></td>
<td>NO Assembly</td>
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<td><strong>School Photos</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week Eleven</strong></td>
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<td>NO Assembly</td>
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<td><strong>Last Day of Term</strong></td>
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