Dear Parents

This is my last Newsletter as Principal of St Patrick’s school and one that I am struggling to write. There is so much that I want to say but only limited space to write down my heartfelt thanks to each one of you. Your kindness, the generosity and well-wishes as I move into retirement have been amazing. I have always known that the St Patrick’s community is blessed and these last weeks have shown, once again, just how blessed we are in this wonderful school.

I would like to thank you for all your support and trust over the past 13 years. You have always accepted my vision and direction for the school and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and your beautiful children. Leading such a dedicated and committed staff who are always prepared to ‘go the extra mile’ to give your children the best Catholic education in the best learning environment has been an absolute honour. I would formally like to acknowledge Fr Peter, Mr Lee and the Leadership Team, all the teachers, the teacher aides, the secretaries, our groundsman (Mr Gribble) and Margaret (our canteen manager). They have my heartfelt thanks and I truly believe they are the best of the best.

Finally, to the beautiful children of St Patrick’s – you speak with such pride when you talk about this school not being a ‘good school but a GREAT school’. You are the reason so many people work so hard and give so much of their time. Remember to keep trying to do your best and be the best person you can be. Don’t ever forget the values of St Patrick’s school, especially the ‘R’ value (Respect).

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a relaxing and safe holiday. Please remember me in your prayers as I will always remember you.

With warm regards

Jenny Webb
Principal
STAFF CHANGES
It is with sadness that we farewell the following teachers from St Patrick’s:
- Ms Kim Babington (KB), Miss Clarice Maatouk (1C) and Miss Mel McCauley (PE). These teachers leave to take up teaching positions in new schools and we wish them every success.
- Ms Kathryn Salkeld who has been on the Leadership Team for 6 years. Ms Salkeld has been appointed as Assistant Principal at Holy Trinity, Granville and is to be congratulated on achieving this next level of leadership. We know she will be an outstanding Assistant Principal and her new school is very excited about her appointment.
- Miss Gray (PDH) will be taking extended Long Service Leave in 2015. We wish her a well-deserved rest.
- Mrs Barber will be on leave in Term 1 while she completes her studies. She plans to return in Term 2.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION
This very important occasion commences in the school hall at 6.00pm tomorrow evening. Parents are reminded that this is the last formal St Patrick’s school event for the year 6 children and that courtesy and respect throughout the evening would be greatly appreciated.

IS YOUR CHILD LEAVING ST PATRICK’S SCHOOL?
Parents are asked to inform the school office if their child will be leaving St Patrick’s. It is a legal requirement that parents send a written note stating when their child is leaving and the name of the school their child will be attending.

LIBRARY NEWS
What a wonderful year we have had in the library. So many books have been borrowed and read by the children. We are finalising all the borrowing at the moment and some children still have books borrowed out under their name. Please return ALL books with a St. Patrick's barcode on them, to the library tomorrow. If you have lost books, a replacement fee to cover the cost of the book will be required. Thank you to all the families who have already returned their books.

Joanna Gladwell

FROM THE SPORT COORDINATOR

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The annual St Patrick's Swimming Carnival will take place on Monday 15th December for Years 3-6. Remember to wear your hat, coloured shirt, sport uniform and costume underneath. Bring a towel, lunch, water and sunscreen. Canteen will be open during the day to purchase food and drink. Parents are welcome to attend to cheer on the students.

Students will return to school at the conclusion of the carnival for the presentation. Parents who are present may take their children. If you are taking other students remember to return the blue permission slip sent out last week.

REMEMBER to return your walking to the oval note ASAP.

PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUMMER READING CHALLENGE
The Executive Director’s Summer Reading Challenge is back again this year! This challenge is open to all students enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta. Students need to independently read 10 or more age-appropriate books during the summer holidays to go in to the draw to win one of four iPad Minis.
There are two age categories, based on the age the student. The categories are:
- Ages 5 - 8
- Ages 9+

How to enter: parr.catholic.edu.au and click on the banner.
Download and complete the personal reading log to keep a record of all the books you read during the reading challenge.
Once your personal reading log is complete, enter this information online. You will need to use the login and password that you normally use at school. A parent or guardian must confirm books read prior to entry.
FROM THE R/E COORDINATOR

ROCK YOUR SOCKS OFF DISCO
Thank you for the overwhelming support of our Term 4 Missions fundraiser. The children (and the teachers supervising) have had a wonderful time dancing away at their discos.

We have sent a cheque for $1438.25 to Catholic Missions, being the total raised from the discos and class mission boxes.

MASS
Parents and friends are welcome to celebrate Mass and Penance with the Parish. Please see the attached sheet for times.

FEAST DAYS
13th December – St Lucy
25th December – Christmas
26th December – St Stephen
27th December – St John
28th December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

A Christmas Prayer
Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth . . .
may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us.

As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart.

May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen.

Wishing you and your family a joyous Christmas.

Many blessings for 2015,
Mrs W. Khoury

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY TWILIGHT

When: FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER
6.30 to 8.00pm

Where: SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

The Shamrock Youth Group is organising this evening. All parishioners are invited to come along and join in this feast of Christmas Carols. Bring your friends with you and bring a chair. It will be an evening to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

All welcome.