Dear Parents

For many years now, psychologists have been saying that the bonding of a baby with its mother in the first few minutes of life is vital for the stability of the newborn child. The mother-infant bond is an intense relationship of unparalleled human affection. It is the foundation of the child’s emotional and physical survival. No wonder we hear people say: ‘Mothers hold their children’s hands for a short time but their hearts forever.’

There are many ways to answer the question, “What is Motherhood?” and one of those ways might be that Motherhood means sharing in the creative power of God. Conceiving, carrying and giving birth to a human being, is as close as any person can get to the act of creation. This is the beginning of Motherhood but it is far from the end. Motherhood is also about nurturing, sacrificing, loving and, ultimately, letting go.

We wish all our mothers a very happy Mother’s Day. We know you will be smothered with beautiful gifts and hugs from your children on Sunday and we hope you are nourished with the love that you all deserve.

God bless

Jenny Webb
Principal
KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS 2015
Applications for children wishing to enrol in Kindergarten in 2015 close tomorrow. Any applications not received this week will be placed on a wait list.

NEW ADDITION TO THE FAMILY
Congratulations to the Portelli family (Stephanie 6RL, Matthew 4C, Jayden KB) on the birth of a little girl, Emma Rose.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS 2015
Applications for children wishing to enrol in Kindergarten in 2015 close tomorrow. Any applications not received this week will be placed on a wait list.

ACTIVE KIDS ARE HEALTHY KIDS
On Friday 23rd May 2014, children throughout Australia are being asked to walk to school with their parents or carers while learning to be safe, active and healthy. If you can’t walk all the way, combine a walk with public transport. If you must use the car, try leaving it a good distance from the school and walk the rest of the way. And try to do it every day.

FROM THE LEARNING SUPPORT TEAM
Just a reminder to parents that any time your child attends an outside agency e.g. Speech Pathologist, Paediatrician, Audiologist, Occupational Therapist, etc and receives a report or letter, a copy should be supplied to the school so that we are aware of any issues or needs which have arisen. It is also important to inform your child’s teacher if they are attending regular sessions outside school hours e.g. Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, where they may be required to complete additional work so that homework can be modified if required.

ANZAC – a poem by Lilyana Khumalo (6B)

The sun as bright as a lantern’s light.  
A hope kite flying with all its might
To fight.

To fight for friends, to fight for home.  
To fight for family, peace and everything I’ve ever known

To be free, as they remember me.  
My blood, like poppies; my dying being.

To fight for love and peace.  
Just make the war cease!  
Let us live a life, let me be me!
FROM THE R/E COORDINATOR

MOTHER’S DAY LITURGY
At St Patrick’s will be honouring the work mothers do and the life and wisdom they share with their families with a liturgy on the 9th of May at 11.15am in the Church. All Mother’s are welcome to attend.

OUTREACH
This term donations to the class mission box will continue and be supporting the work Caritas does around the world. Families and students are encouraged to think of the less fortunate and to contribute to this cause throughout the term. So far $361.00 has been raised. Every dollar counts and can go a long way.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
The Information and Registration Night for this was held on Tuesday 6th May. If your child is in Yrs 3-6 and has not received the Sacrament, please contact the school office and leave your child’s details to be forwarded to me so they can be included in the preparation and instruction for Penance. Parents that did not attend the Information Night will be still required to attend a meeting with the time and date still to be advised.

MASSES
Parents and friends are welcome to celebrate the last mass for this term with the parish and children.

Wednesday 21st May
9am Year 5 Mass
5th Week of Easter

FEAST DAYS
12th May – Sts Nereus and Achilleus, St Pancras (martyrs)
13th May – Our Lady of Fatima
14th May - St Matthias (apostle)
20th May – St Bernardine of Siena
21st May – St Christopher Magallanes and companions

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion. In May, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary in many cultures. May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. Here and elsewhere, both Mary and the month of May are greeted, welcomed and celebrated on specific days in May. On each day of this month, special devotions to Mary are organised. The rosary and crowning’s are traditions that continue within communities. We can devote our prayers to Our Lady and remember her “inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son”, her willingness to accepts God’s will and her model of grace and virtue in life.

Yours in Christ
Wardeh Khoury
FROM THE SPORT COORDINATOR

SUN SAFETY at ST PATRICKS
Sun safety in Australia is very important. St Patrick’s is a Sun Smart school and provides shaded areas in order to play. A ‘NO HAT NO Play’ policy is implemented, sunscreen in the classrooms is provided for students to use. Health lessons teach students about safety in the sun. Other ways we can continue to be sun safe is to wear sunglasses whilst in the sun, parents becoming role models for their children by also using hats, clothing that covers the skin, using sunscreen, wearing sunglasses that wrap around to cover as much of the eye area as possible.

SPORT
Congratulations to Ana Fainu who will trial on the 9th May in Canberra for Netball. Raymond Heikek, Thomas Maka, Dion Lenden Sleiman and Jerome Saba who will also trial this Friday for Rugby League in Canberra as well. We wish you all the best.

CROSS COUNTRY
Congratulations to Ben McGregor who came 7th in Under 11 age group, he will now move to the NSWCPSCC Cross Country on the 13th June competing against students from each diocese in NSW. Good luck Ben!

This week Mr Lee and I took a team of 46 students to represent St Patrick’s at the Diocesan Cross Country at Eastern Creek. With an early start the children were eager to run on the track. We would like to congratulate all the students on their efforts on the day, they were model representatives of our school. I do take this opportunity to also congratulate those students who continued to train over the past four weeks of school in order to prepare for the race. I also extend this to those students who were reserves and continued to train even though they were not part of the team to represent on the day. I thank you for your commitment and school spirit. Without parent helpers these events will not go ahead. Mrs Budini (Marshall), Mrs El Riahi and Mrs Moujaes (Age manager) as well as the parents who came to support and help out with supervision and toilet and canteen trips, a huge THANK YOU.

SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
Following numerous parent requests we are offering for the students to wear a plain coloured sport t-shirt at the Athletics Carnival this year. This initiative will build house and team spirit whilst competing on the day. The t-shirt should be plain coloured with no motifs and can be purchased from K-mart, Big W or Best and Less for a reasonable cost. Whilst we encourage this, it is not an expectation and children will continue to wear their sports uniform if they do not have a coloured shirt. Your child will be told the house colour throughout the week by their class teacher.

Mrs Chatten

Cross Country Team:
Latu Fainu
Dominic McGregor
Carlos El Khoury
Elie Bishara
Sebastian Daoud
Nicholas Azizi
Alicia Potts
Rachelle Elbazi
Angelina Antoun
Ashlee Dib
Olivia Budini
Ruve Somerfield
Andre Moussa
Anthony Khoury
Joseph Leatherby
Matthew Portelli
Patrick Sahyoun
Jayden Camilleri
Eliza Tannous
Christen Baltasar
Antonia Harb
Lola Kouzoukas
Daveda Jobour
Valentina Mansour
Benjamin McGregor
Jude Wall
Angus Wall
John Luke El Riahi
Patrick El Takchi
Kyle Schembri
Chanelle Bechara
Josephine Moujaes
Charlize Tartak
Emily Contreras
Chloe Issa
Sarah Hofman
Anthony Elbazi
Thomas Maka
Jacob Yagki
Johnny Estephan
Alfie Laguzza
Michael Khoury
Cynthia Al Hazouri
Bree Maguire
Ana Fainu
Melissa Nakyanzi
Getting to Know You-
Week 1 Peer Support Session

A big thank you to those parents who attended last term’s Parent Workshop about Speaking Up – Anti Bullying Module.

This was a great introduction and discussion of our Peer Support Sessions which commenced last week and a way of supporting your child in understanding what bullying is.

Last week, students met all their group members and found out a little more about each other. They also agreed upon ways of cooperating together as a team and began discussions about what bullying looks like.

There was a lot of positive feedback from the group members and supervising teachers. Particularly, in regards to: good communication of instructions by Peer Leaders, great organisation of equipment and encouraging participation of all group members. Some groups gave awards to enthusiastic and helpful team members. Most of all students had fun getting to know each other and now are looking forward to this week’s session – What is Bullying?

As a school working alongside parents and students we can make a difference in creating a safe and supportive school community which is pro-active in preventing the negative impact of bullying behaviours.

This week ask your child what they learnt from their peer support session and what bullying means.

Thank you for supporting our Peer Support Program.

Peer Support Co-ordinator
Terese Croan

FROM THE PARENTS’ GROUP COMMITTEE

As this item was being written (Wednesday night), the school hall was groaning under the weight of hundreds of beautiful gifts and spectacular raffle and guessing competition prizes.

All was in readiness for today’s Mother’s Day stall!

Now the hall is sighing with relief after those gifts and prizes found their way into the children’s schoolbags or carry bags, to be taken home and hidden until Sunday morning.

The Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls are perhaps the year’s biggest undertakings by the Parent’s Group, not only in terms of the funds raised to buy equipment for the school, but also the input across the St Patrick’s school community.

From the gift donations by families and businesses, to the many hours spent wrapping, pricing, sorting equally into class lots and finally selling them, it’s a huge effort by everyone involved – all made worthwhile by the excited looks on the children’s faces as they carry their gifts out of the hall.

Special thanks go to all the volunteers who helped to prepare and run the Mother’s Day stall.

Best wishes from the Parents’ Group Committee to all mothers for a very happy and restful Mother’s Day.

MIKE JACOBSON
Secretary