Dear Parents

Thank you to all our families who were able to share in our Catholic Schools Week celebrations. As the Principal of such a wonderful school as St Patrick’s, it made me very proud to listen to the children share their poems, prayers, and reflections about why our school is such a great school. Some of these have been included in this newsletter for you all to read.

At our open day, we had a large number of families come along to see education in action. We also had a number of prospective new families who came along to see if St Patrick’s was the school they wanted to enrol their Kindergarten child for 2016.

On Tuesday we had a wonderful day celebrating our Patron Saint, St Patrick. It is important that we live out the values taught to us by St Patrick but also follow the examples of those modern saints who touch our lives daily.

Tomorrow we will continue to strengthen our values of how we treat each other with respect and equality with Harmony Day. Don’t forget to wear orange tomorrow. On Monday it is a Mufti Day. Please bring in your Easter Eggs for our P & F Easter Raffle.

On a personal note, can I sincerely thank the whole community for your condolences and prayers on the death of my father. It is a great comfort to know you have the support and prayers of so many people. Special thanks to Fr Peter who celebrated my father’s funeral Mass and to Mr Stephen Lee who maintained the running of school over the past fortnight.

Warm regards

Phil Mahony
Principal
**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

There are only 22 weeks to go to complete the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Please ensure your child:

1. Has returned their signed permission form to their class teacher to comply with Privacy issues.
2. Is reading PRC books
   - K-2 red stickers on the spine
   - 3 & 4 green stickers on the spine
   - 5 & 6 purple stickers on the spine
3. Is recording the author’s name and the title of the books they have read on their Reading Record Sheet.

The website for the Premier’s Reading Challenge is https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc

Years 2 – 6 will be given their log-in details this week.

Any new students to the school, Kindergarten and Year 1 will have to wait for their Usernames and Passwords as there is a technical issue that is affecting everyone and we are unable to upload these students. Please be patient. We have to wait until they fix this issue. We will keep trying.

Enjoy your reading!

Joanna Gladwell and Meg Owens.

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**FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERS**

We had a wonderful day full of fun on St Patrick’s Day. We had so much fun with slides, jumping castles and much, much more, thanks to the best principal, Mr Mahony. Also thanks to the parents, who came along and helped. We couldn’t have these special actives without you. We can’t wait for Harmony Day on Friday, we bet it will be just as fun.

Kind regards

Charlie-Rose el Riachi, Julian Barakat
Josephine Moujaes, Tony Ashkar,
**Madison Yagki**, George Alam, Teresa Akkari,
Isaac Halloun, Mikayla Issa

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**SKOOLBAG APP**

The St Patrick’s Skoolbag app is available for download. This is a useful resource as it informs families about events happening at St Patrick’s, as well as links to the school newsletter.

When you download the app you will need to turn on the notifications so you receive push notifications when something new has been uploaded onto the app. To do this:

- open the app
- select **more** button on the right of bottom toolbar
- select **set up push notifications**
- turn on the grades you wish to receive the notifications.

Parents who have downloaded this app are commenting on how great it is. It is free just go to your app store on your phone and search for St Patrick's Guildford and then the Skoolbag will appear. You can now download the app.

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**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK PICNIC LUNCH**

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It has been a very eventful fortnight at St Patrick’s! Many wonderful events and opportunities to build community enforce respectful relationships and share our God given gifts with everyone.

During Catholic School’s Week last week, we began each day in prayer and celebrated the wonderful opportunities our Catholic School offers. Parents enjoyed browsing through the classrooms last Friday and then sharing a picnic lunch with their children in the hall.

On Tuesday, we celebrated St Patrick’s Day with the Parish. As always, everyone looked vibrant in their various shades of green. The children learnt about St Patrick’s life and then in the spirit of joy spent the rest of the day involved in various activities.

The day was a great success thanks to the Teachers’ St Patrick’s Day Committee and the wonderful parents who gave up their time and playful talent to supervise and guide each activity, as well as selling the yummy treats to the children.

Thankyou to all who were involved in the preparation for the day and to the teachers and students for participating with great enthusiasm.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL’S WEEK AND ST PATRICK’S DAY**

**RELIGIOUS TRIVIA**

- In what country did St Patrick spread the Good News?
- What did St Patrick use the Shamrock for?
- What are the names of the three persons of the Trinity?
- True or False- 17th March is St Patrick’s Day.

**FROM THE R/E COORDINATOR**

**MASSES**

Parents and friends are welcome to celebrate the Mass with the parish and students on:

- Week 9 – Wednesday 25th March
  - 9am Years 4 Mass
  - **Annunciation of the Lord**

**FEAST DAYS**

- 19th March: St Joseph
- 25th March- Annunciation of the Lord
- 29th March – Palm Sunday

**RELIGIOUS TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. Ireland
2. To teach about the Holy Trinity
3. Father, Son and Holy Spirit
4. True

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Yours in Christ
Wardeh Khoury
SCHOOL BANKING

Our students have shown that they really enjoy participating in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program; we have received quite a few new applications this term and ordered lots of DVDs and handballs.

Just a reminder the ET DVD and Planet Handball are the only rewards available in term 1. The Invisible Ink Martian Pen and Intergalactic Rocket will be available in term 2.

Thank you to everyone participating in School Banking for supporting our school and helping to teach your child the benefits of saving regularly.

If anyone is interested in School Banking you can get involved by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at any Commonwealth Bank branch, over the phone on 13 2221, or via NetBank if you are an existing customer with NetBank access. Remember to take in identification for you and your child (driver’s license and birth certificate). You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book that your child will use to participate in the program.

Our school receives $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

Saving regularly is an important habit to get into, whether you're saving a little or a lot. Keep up the great work and remember to bring in your School Banking deposit each Tuesday.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program.

NEW BABY

Congratulations to the Tatiah family on the birth of a daughter, Allegra Faith born 24/3/15. She is a sister for George 3V and Isabella 1C

FROM THE OFFICE

Term One school fees are now overdue. Please pay your account as soon as possible. Thank you.

Enrolment Applications for Kindergarten 2016 are available from the office from March 23rd.

2015 STATE ELECTION

DID YOU KNOW? The Federal Government contributes 57.5% of the cost of educating a child in a NSW Catholic school, and the NSW Government contributes 19.7%. The remaining 22.8% comes from parents and the parish community through school fees and private fundraising. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

CANTEEN ROSTER - APRIL

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A LIMERICK
St Patrick’s School is such a great school.
The Teachers cab be strict, but their way too cool.
The opportunity is there for a marvellous education
We learn and have fun, it’s a wonderful sensation.
If you don’t choose this school, then your life's not full.
Monique 5M

Today, I am writing from the perspective of the teachers staples. You know the staples, in a stapler! Ouch, I just got pinched through two pieces of paper again, but I don’t mind because I get to see what the children learn everyday. I have been lucky enough to see the children grow as learners, from Kindergarten to Year Six. Trust me when I say, I’ve spoken to many other fellow staples and they have never seen any other children learn as much as the children at St Patrick’s do.
The teachers teach the Kindergartens what to do for the next year and the teachers teach Year Six what to do to get ready for high school and even the rest of their lives. They are forever challenging them and engaging the students in their lessons.
Oh, the wonderful things I am lucky enough to be a part of. I bet no other staple in the world has the privilege of witnessing all the learning I hear and see at St Patrick’s.
Charlie-Rose El-Riachi 6B

When I joined this school in 2010, I was scared and nervous. I was scared not knowing what was in store for me. But since my first week here, I know that it is full of friends that care for one another, teachers that prepare us, staff that look out for us and other people who are just here for support. You can’t get that at all schools. I really wouldn’t ever go to any other school even if it was my choice! Let’s make memories last at St Patricks School.
Antonia Harb 5M

I like coming to St Patrick’s School because all the fantastic teachers are so nice to us, especially Miss Harkin. In our classroom, George from Georges Marvellous Medicine came and made us a magic letter box. Our school is as cool as Mr Mahony wearing sunglasses.
Chelsea Olguin 1H

I like coming to St Patrick’s School because it is the best school in the world. I like coming because I have great teachers and I also have nice, caring friends. I like the people at St Patrick’s because they are loving.
Andrew Scaltrito 1H

Today I will be talking from the perspective of a book in St Patrick’s school library.
Can you hear that? That’s right, you can’t hear anything in here because it’s so quiet. I love it when children pull me out gently from the shelf to borrow, so that they can build up their vocabulary and learn new things. I love the way the kids respect me like I’m a precious gem.
‘Beep, beep’. I love the sound that fills the library, as I know that one of you will be borrowing me. You will be entertaining or informing yourself with me or a member of my book family. I especially love the way that the children of St Patrick’s love to read.
Always remember, you are educated today and for tomorrow by picking me up or one of my fellow books from the St Patrick’s Library.
Madison Yagki 6B
WHY I LIKE ST PATRICK’S SCHOOL

I like St Patrick’s School because the teachers help me to read, spell and learn. They teach me good manners and values.

When we achieve the values, we earn the Principal’s Award. These values that we learn at St Patrick’s make us better people when we grow up.

St Patrick’s is a great school because the teachers help us in the best way they can. They really do care for us.

I think St Patrick’s is a GREAT school.

Tracey Rodricks 2F

WHY I THINK ST PATRICK’S IS A GREAT SCHOOL

St Patrick’s is a great school. I think it is pretty cool. We laugh, pray, learn and have fun all day. The teachers are awesome and very friendly too, but when it comes to learning, learning what we do.

The St Patrick’s crew always helps you. Respect is what the teachers teach you. We stand with pride and lift our heads up high because we are part of the St Patrick’s crew.

We welcome our new Principal Mr Mahony who is now part of our Catholic school.

The best part of all is having teachers who teach you in a fun way. They make us laugh and sometimes sad, but at the end of the day we say “Yippy, Yippy Yay” because our teachers are here to stay.

Malake Moubarak 2F

I love going to St Patrick’s because I can go to the library.

Sayed Bou Merhi KR

I love going to St Patrick’s because there is a canteen.

Antonio Isaac KR

I love going to st Patrick’s because I like to learn and do homework. I like to do fun things.

Annabel Nemeh

I like to go to the library because it is quiet

Charlotte Boutros KP

Catholic Schools are the best schools to go to. All Catholic schools are fun. There are lots of Catholic Schools that you can go to. Hope 2015 is another great year for everyone. Our school is not a good school it’s a great school.

Lots of children love Catholic Schools. In Catholic Schools, everyone is happy. Catholic Schools week is the best week of the year.

Mia Younan 3R

I believe St Patrick school is the best because of the fun opportunities that we get from the teachers. I enjoy coming to this school because we have awards that encourage our learning to be good at all times.

I think that St Patrick's School is the BEST. I love the smiles on peoples faces as well. We co-operate with the teachers and each other. I also feel safe at St Patrick’s school. We love St Patrick’s.

Hannah Habib 3B
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
PICNIC LUNCH

ST PATRICK’S DAY