Dear Parents

It was lovely to see all our children last week relaxed after their holiday and ready to start the final school term for 2014. Teachers are busy assessing children’s learning and soon will be writing reports to give parents an accurate summary of their child’s learning for the year. Reports will be sent home in week 10.

While 2015 is still more than 2 months away, preparation for the new school year has already begun. Soon, teachers will be meeting to organize classes for next year. Teachers spend a lot of time trying to give every child the best learning environment in which to learn. Consideration is given to balancing social, academic and behavioural needs so that all classes are equal. As is our policy, if you have any reason for your child not to be placed in the same class as another student I ask you to let me know, in writing, stating your reason. While every request will be given consideration, please understand that it may not be possible to accommodate all requests.

Finally, if your child will be leaving St Patrick’s school (other than our Year 6 children), please let the office know as soon as possible. We have a long list of families wanting to enrol their children in our school and, with very limited vacancies, it is not always possible to accept their enrolments.

I look forward to sharing this last school term with you.

With warm regards

Jenny Webb
Principal

SCHOOL CLOTHING POOL
HELD 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

If you have any St Patrick’s uniforms that are in good condition and you would like to donate, please send them into the school office.

We are short on larger sized girls summer uniforms.

Thank you.
EXTENDED LEAVE FROM SCHOOL
A reminder that parents must make an appointment with the Principal if they are planning to take their children on a holiday during the school term. It is a legal requirement that parents complete an Application for School Exemption before any leave is granted.

SCHOOL CONCERT
A reminder that the school concert will be held on Thursday 23 October at 1.00pm and 6.00pm. The two sessions have been provided to ensure that all parents and families can be seated. Families are not expected to attend both sessions. While this concert replaces the Christmas concert, all children will have an opportunity for a Christmas gathering with their Peer Support group later in the year where they will sing Christmas carols and wear Christmas mufti.

YEAR 6 EXCURSION TO CANBERRA
This morning, the children in year 6 headed off on their excursion to Canberra. This is always a highlight for the children who return tired but with wonderful memories of visiting Parliament House, Questacon, National Gallery and the Australian War Memorial.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

STAFF CHANGES
All schools are required to comply with the terms and conditions set out in the Teachers’ Enterprise Agreement. Under this Agreement, teachers who take Parental Leave are entitled to return to their school once their Parental Leave is completed. For this reason, teachers on Parental Leave are replaced by teachers on temporary contracts. These temporary teachers are only employed until the teacher on Parental Leave returns. While this may be unsettling for parents and children, it is important that parents understand that this is every teacher’s right of employment. At present we have 5 teachers on Parental Leave. This term, Mrs Walker has returned from her Parental Leave and will share the teaching of 6RL and KB.

FROM THE OFFICE
Any outstanding school fees are now due and payable. Please call Cathy at the office if you have any queries regarding the fees.

FROM THE SPORT COORDINATOR
Our Swimming Championships for Years Three to Six is on:
MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER AT GUILDFORD POOL.
Please discuss with your child/children the events the children are comfortable to compete in and return the form ASAP. We welcome parents to attend the Carnival.

SWIMMING PROGRAMME
Earlier this week we received an email from Tides Aquatic informing us that the pool we use for our annual Infants Swimming Programme has been closed for family reasons. Unfortunately this means that the programme may not be able to run for our Infants children as in previous years. We are currently contacting other swimming centres in our local area to see if they may be able to accommodate our needs at a reasonable cost. As we were given such short notice, this may be a difficult task. We will keep parents informed as further information comes to hand.
MISSIONS
Every year at the beginning of term 4, each grade studies a Religious Education Unit about Mission. Mission can be defined as our calling as Christians to go out and spread the good news and works that Jesus taught us. Our challenge is how do we do this? And how can we reach the less fortunate or the ignorant? Catholic Mission provides us with a focus every year to help our students to understand what it means to help and the different ways we can help others.

This year schools across Australia are invited to reach out and support the crucial work of the Jamaican Catholic Church in helping people turn away from violence and crime and seek a new future through the power of education and the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Each classroom has a mission box that students and families can make contributions to. We will be holding a Socktober Mission fundraiser later in the term called “Rock your Socks Off” where each stage will have an opportunity to participate in. Keep your eyes out for more information later in the term.

FEAST DAYS
28th October – Sts Simon and Jude
1st November – All Saints
2nd November – All Soul’s Day
4th November – St Charles Borromeo

RELIGIOUS TRIVIA
- In which part of the Bible would you find the birth of Jesus and visit of the shepherds?
- What do the bread and wine become at the Consecration during Mass?
- In the Mass, what is the response to “The Lord be with you?”
- What is Canonisation?
  **Answers below. (upside-down)**

O Lord, Bless our school;
That working together,
praying together,
and playing together,
we may learn to serve you
and to serve one another.

Yours in Christ
Wardeh Khoury

RELIGIOUS TRIVIA ANSWERS
- New Testament
- The body and blood of Christ
- Holy people are declared to be saints
- And with your spirit
- Feast of the Holy Mass in the Church
- 敬休教會
- 圣餐日