Dear Parents

Next week, our school will join more than 615 Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The theme for Catholic Schools Week is ‘More than a Great Education’ which encourages schools to showcase for their local community the opportunities available to students, raise awareness and celebrate the distinctiveness of Catholic schools.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests and members of our wider community.

We have a number of activities planned for Catholic Schools Week:
- All week: students will start our school day with a presentation about Catholic schools at each morning assembly.
- Wednesday: Year 5 students will travel to Bathurst to seek their fortune on the ‘goldfields’.
- Thursday: Cupcakes for sale at Morning Tea (organised by Year 6).
- Thursday: Open Classes (11.45am to 12.45pm). Everyone welcome.
- Friday: St Patrick’s Disco (to celebrate St Patrick’s Day)

Our school has a supportive community of teachers and parents who work together to focus on giving the students the best education possible, encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling the values that Jesus taught us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of St Patrick’s school and I look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you.

Kind regards

Jenny Webb
Principal

WEEKLY VALUE
Always respect the rights of others.
Launch of Faith in Our Future

It is an exciting time for the Diocese of Parramatta with the launch of our Pastoral Plan, Faith in Our Future, on the weekend of 22-23 February. The culmination of two years of conversation and discernment about the future of the Diocese, Faith in Our Future contains announcements about future directions and provides a vision and practical ideas to assist in the renewal of our Catholic life as schools and parishes. Copies of the summary plan are available in parishes this weekend. Watch a pastoral message from Bishop Anthony Fisher OP and download a copy of the complete plan at: www.faithinourfuture.org.au

OPEN DAY

Everyone is warmly invited to come to St Patrick’s on Thursday 13 March from 11.45am to 12.45pm to see education in action.

CHOCOLATE DRIVE

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who has sold their box of chocolates and returned the money. We encourage all families to support this fundraiser and to sell as many chocolates as possible. If parents would like more chocolates, please contact the school office. A reminder that all unsold chocolates and money must be returned to school by this Friday (tomorrow). All money raised will go towards purchasing Mathematics resources for all classes.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A student in our school community is currently receiving medical treatment.

This student participates actively in the normal school program without any major limitations. A major concern, however, is that if this student develops measles or chickenpox, she can become seriously ill.

I seek your cooperation in preventing this situation.

If your daughter/son has or may have measles or chickenpox, I request that you do not send them to school during this period and that you notify the

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

A Staff Development Day will be held on Monday 31 March. Teachers will work with a Teacher Educator from the Catholic Education Office on the new Mathematics curriculum. There will be no classes on this day.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS 2015

Applications for children wishing to enrol in Kindergarten in 2015 will be available from the school office from Monday 24 March until 2 May.
LENT
Yesterday, Ash Wednesday, many Christians received a cross of ashes on their foreheads. The cross is a powerful sign that has been used by God’s people for hundreds of years. The cross of ashes reminds us of many things. It reminds us of our faith as Christians. As we came forward to receive the mark of the ashes we also came forward and presented ourselves to God with all our impurities just as God asked us to do. We are asked that during this time of Lent we better ourselves and become more like Jesus in every way. To show forgiveness, to act with justice, help others and fast from all that turns us away from salvation.

So during the forty days of Lent, let us become better followers of Jesus by praying more often and listening to God’s word with special care. We also want to become more generous and thoughtful towards each other. Lent is a time when we remember those in need. We can use the boxes for Project Compassion that can be collected from each Parish or donations made to each child’s class box to convey this almsgiving or contribute to the Caritas Lenten Appeal.

There are many ways we can repent during the Lenten season, however, self-reflection is the key to make the most of the season and look forward to the joyful celebration of Easter.

ST PATRICK
St Patrick of Ireland is one of the world’s most popular saints. He was born around 385 in Scotland. His parents were Romans living in Britain.

When Patrick was 14, he was captured during a raid and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. While in Ireland, he learnt how to speak the language and customs of the people. During his captivity, he turned to God in prayer.

Patrick’s escaped captivity when he was about 34 after having a dream from God. He was reunited with his family in Britain. He later had another dream in which he dreamt the people of Ireland calling him to walk among them again.

Patrick joined the priesthood and later he also became a bishop. Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity when hearing Patrick’s message. He preached for 40 years before.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us, especially as we enter the season of Lent. He feared nothing, not even death, so complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission. As a St Patrick’s community, may we too pray to have unwavering faith and love of God as modeled by St Patrick.

Yours in Christ,
Mrs W Khoury

MASSES
Parents and friends are welcome to celebrate mass with the parish and children.

Wednesday 12th March
9am Year 4 Mass
Lent 1

Monday 17th March
9am Whole School Mass
St Patrick

FEAST DAYS
17th March St Patrick
19th March St Joseph

ST PATRICK’S CELEBRATIONS
The students will start St Patrick’s Day celebrations o Friday 14th March. The students will come dressed in casual clothing for the day (no midriff tops, short shorts or thongs). They will participate in a disco during the day. The permission note and cost for this needs to be returned by 12th March.

On the 17th March, St Patrick’s Day, the students come to school dress in green for the day (no green hair). We will celebrate Mass with the parish at 9am. Parents and friends are welcome to attend this Mass.
FROM THE OFFICE
Term 1 school fees are now due and payable
Please call the Cathy at the office if you have any queries regarding the fees.

YEAR 6 FUNDRAISING
CUPCAKE STALL

From .50c each, to be sold at recess and lunch.
THURSDAY 13TH MARCH

SCHOOL BANKING

Get involved in the School Banking program.

Applications are available from the school banking ladies on a Tuesday or the school office.

You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book that your child will use to participate in the program.

When your child makes their first deposit at school they will earn their first Dollarmites token and our school will also receive $5 commission. Thank you for supporting our school and helping teach your child the benefits of saving regularly.

FROM THE PARENTS’ GROUP COMMITTEE

The great success of our first chocolate drive has validated the innovation of starting the year on a ‘sweet’ note.

The timing couldn’t have been better, with money and any unsold chocolates due to be returned this Friday – just in time for Lent!

Thanks to everyone who suspended their diets for the past few weeks to contribute to St Patrick’s 2014 fundraising project of buying new mathematics resources.

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Now our attention turns to the Mother’s Day stall early in Term 2.

As usual, the first step is to collect donations for the stall. Traditionally most of the goods on sale come from the school community, and we look forward to another generous response.

There’ll be a Mufti Day on Friday, March 28 for all children who bring an item for the stall. Local businesses are also invited to donate suitable goods.

Sorting and wrapping will take place on April 8 and 9. Parents/carers are welcome to help on these days, and at the stall which is scheduled for Thursday, May 1.

Remember that you must have attended the school’s 2013 or 2014 child protection meetings to participate in activities that involve the children.

MIKE JACOBSON
Secretary