

St Patrick's Primary School News

Week 8 Term 2



Principal's News

Dear Parents,

This week the P&F AGM was held at which time the president gave a report on the year that has been, and I took the opportunity to give a short report of gratitude and support of the great work of the P&F at St Pat's. I would like to extend my thanks beyond that given to the P&F executive and those in attendance at the P&F meeting to each of you who make up the parent body of St Pat's. Thank you for your commitment to working in partnership with the school towards the education of your child/children. I would like to thank you for the way in which support is given from family to family across the school, and how the helping hand is extended, prayers offered, or meals cooked for those in need. At the enrolment interviews I always ask families why they seek enrolment for their child at our school, the answer always includes the knowledge of the community of care and family centric nature at St Pat's school, thank you for your contribution to this.

Thank you to Mrs Bateman, Miss Favaloro, Mrs Kite and Mr Bateman for taking our year 5 & 6 students on their Canberra trip this week. On the skoolbag app there have been some updates for us on their learning. Next week we will publish more about the trip.

Gospel: This week the Gospel is from Matthew. The second reading is from St Paul's letter to the community of Corinth. A short excerpt from that letter says *'So for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation: the old order is gone and a new being is there to see. It is all God's work; he reconciled us to himself through Christ and he gave us the ministry of reconciliation. I mean, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not holding anyone's faults against them, but entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.'* We are called to be people of hope, love, forgiveness and reconciliation.



This week please keep in your prayers Mrs McPherson and her family. Deb's mother Joan Turl, 94 years, passed away last weekend. Deb will be in Sydney on Monday for the funeral and gathering to honour her mother's life.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her, may she rest in peace. AMEN

Christ With Us,
Jo

Sometimes holding on makes you stronger, sometimes it is letting go.

Dates to Remember

18th June
Family Mass
5pm

21st June
Yr3/4 Potoroo
Palace
excursion

23rd June
Mass 9.15M

Assembly K/1M
2.30PM

SLSF Sausage
Sizzle

Noa Jessop
Wood Raffle

25th June
Family Mass
5pm

**The School
Week**
School
Canteen
Monday

Uniform Shop
By
appointment



Religious Education News

Religious Education in 1/2B

1/2B have been learning about the parables. This week they read The Good Samaritain. They dramatised the parable and retold it through illustrations.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2017

Family Masses

18th & 25th of June, 5pm St Patrick's Church

Retreat

Friday July 21st, St Patrick's Primary School

Confirmation Mass

Sunday July 23rd, 9:30am St Patrick's Church

P&F News

The AGM of St Patrick's Parents and Friends Association was held on Wednesday night. There was a large attendance and it was wonderful to see so many new faces. We congratulate and thank our 2017 office holders:

President: Kate Leiper.

Vice President: Wendy Deighton.

Secretary: Donna Salway.

Treasurer: Sarah Andrews.

Assistant Treasurer: Michelle Taylor.

Canteen Coordinator: Pip White.

Social Committee Coordinator: Katrina Hergenhan.

Uniform Shop Coordinators: Nicky Bateman and Katrina Johnston.

School Board Representative and Parish Council Representative: Antoinette Woods.

We also welcome and thank the following parents for joining the Social Committee: Anya Alcock, Pip White, Antoinette Woods, Roz Kennedy and Tammy Prime.

Uniform shop: Roz Kennedy and Nell Sunderland.

Unfortunately, the position of State Level Support Fund Coordinator was not filled. This group raises money within the broader community to support families with the cost of a child representing the school at State Level. The P&F is keen to see this group continue and would welcome any interest.

We wish to thank our retiring office holders: Kylie Hotson, Tanya Tomlinson, Alison Christenson and Tanya Smith and thank them for their valuable contribution.

The next P&F meeting will be 9th August at 6pm, everyone is welcome.

School Board Feedback

Members of the School Board met on Thursday 18th May to continue discussions on a range of policies including those relating to homework, parent engagement and behaviour management.

Ideas were brainstormed as to how to promote St Patrick's in the wider community such as radio advertising, building relationships with other local schools, opening up parent information workshops to the public and the process involved with revising our website. The effectiveness of one Open Day compared to various opportunities for prospective families to be invited to school activities was also considered.

The audit was signed with positive feedback from the auditor about the manner in which Elise and the team manage the finances. Congratulations to all involved.

In 2019, St Patrick's will celebrate its 150th anniversary - if you or someone you know are interested in assisting with organising celebratory activities, please let Jo know. An initial meeting is being planned for early August.

The Board meet once a term. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact any of the members: Jo Scott-Pegum, Julie Banks, Mary Kite, Fr Michael, Antoinette Woods, Nicky Bateman, Sharon Heffernan, Mel O'Reilly.

Antoinette Woods

Reminder

Families of Year 6 students attending Bega High in 2018 are asked to return their enrolment forms to Bega High School ASAP.

**Red Cross Tea Rooms Help Needed Urgently :-
Tuesday 20th June if you are able to donate
your time for an hour or two please contact
Jeanette 64925004.
Donations of cakes, slices and biscuits are
greatly appreciated.**

13 June 2017

Dear Principals, Parents and Carers,

Changes to the Commonwealth school funding arrangements

As Director of Catholic Education covering fifty-six schools across the ACT and parts of southern NSW I am deeply concerned about the impact of the Federal Government's funding plan on Catholic schools. The Turnbull Government has indicated it will put the funding proposal to the Senate in the coming weeks.

If the policy passes the parliament Catholic schools in Canberra will particularly suffer from a significant reduction to funding by the Turnbull Government – estimated to be a cut equal to a third of current funding. In NSW estimates of funding growth for Catholic schools published on a government website rely on funding cuts and fee increases in Catholic schools elsewhere in NSW.

In recent weeks the Government has suggested through the media that all schools will receive more funding and that additional funding has been provided to assist Catholic schools in the ACT. Unfortunately, under the plan according to the Government figures some Catholic schools in NSW will have funding reduced compared to current funding levels before future funding growth. The Government's plan will also reduce funding to Catholic schools in Canberra over time.

Overall the funding proposals are likely to put pressure on fees across Catholic education, particularly for schools in Canberra and metropolitan areas across Australia. I am concerned that the result will be that it will be harder for parents to access an affordable, holistic education in a Catholic school.

The funding reductions for Catholic schools arise for a number of reasons which Catholic education has questioned. Funding reductions are based on a Socio Economic Status (SES) measure determined from Australian Bureau of Statistics census data. This measure determines the allocation of government funding to children in Catholic schools. There are reasons to believe the measure is highly flawed.

The funding model proposed by Minister Birmingham will make it harder to provide an affordable, holistic education option in a Catholic school.

I do not think that the funding model is fair for parents in all schools. As an example students at Catholic schools in Canberra already receive the lowest level of government funding per student of any State/Territory Catholic System.

In 2015 a child attending an ACT public school received around \$14,000 per annum in government funding. This compared to government funding for a child at a Catholic school of around \$9,000.

Under the funding plan ACT Catholic schools will have funding decreased while commonwealth funding to ACT Government schools will increase. There are other flaws in the funding model that should be fixed before school funding is set for all schools for the next ten years.

Thank you to everyone who values Catholic schools who has already contacted local political leaders to express concern at the funding changes. I ask that if you are concerned about the future of Catholic schools that you contact your local member as soon as possible.

If you require any further information, please contact me at any time on ross.fox@cg.catholic.edu.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ross Fox', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Ross Fox

Director