

# St Patrick's Primary School News

Week 1 Term 1



## Principal's News

Dear Parents,

**Welcome** back to all of our families, and a special St Patrick's welcome to all our new students and their families.

**Welcome** also to our new staff, we are blessed to continue to grow our team of education professionals. Our new staff are: Mrs Emma Short Kinder / REC, Mr Justin Short 45S, Mrs Marianne Kambouridis 34K, Mrs Rosemary McNoe K/34L and Mrs Linda Mallard who will undertake our Classroom Support Teacher role.

We thank Mr Phil Martin for his great work as our grounds and maintenance man and wish him well in his new endeavours. We will soon appoint a new person in the school maintenance role. We also thank Mrs Michelle Zuvela for her work as our school fee secretary and her role in communications and marketing in 2016 and wish her well in her new role at Lumen Christi. The new one day per week fee secretary role will be advertised this week through the Catholic Education website.

**Staff Commissioning Mass** Our staff will be commissioned for their work in 2017 during the 9.30am parish Mass at St Patrick's church on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February. All families are encouraged to come. We will have morning tea after Mass.

**Sporting Schools** We have been successful again in obtaining sporting school funding to support physical activity and sport at St Pat's in term 1. We look forward to applying for funding for 2 further terms this year where we may be able to provide an after school program for one term, and again subsidize K-2 swimming in term 4.



### Dates to Remember

**Family Mass this Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 5:30pm.**

**1,8,15 February Kinder Best Start Assessments - no school for Kinder students**

**10 February Opening School Mass 9:15am**

**14 February School Swimming Carnival Year 3-6**

**1 March Ash Wednesday Mass 12pm**

**17 March St Patrick's Day Mass 12.30**

**7 April Whole School Easter Liturgy 9.15am**

### The School Week

**School Canteen Monday**

**Uniform Shop Monday 2.30-3.00**

This Sunday our **Gospel** is from Matthew 5:13-16. It is a beautiful passage and I leave the full text here for you to reading and reflection.

### **Salt and Light**

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

**Prayers** Would you please keep the community of St Mary's War Memorial School, West Wyalong in your prayers. During the holidays they suffered the loss of one of their students, Isabella, a student entering Year 5. As a community who knows the keen loss of a precious child, and the power of prayer, please keep them in your hearts and prayers. Thank you.

Rich blessings for the year ahead.

Christ With Us.

Jo

## **AP News**

We have started the year fresh and ready to learn! Teachers are busy this term planning new units of work that meet the interests of the class as well as following the curriculum outcomes. This can sometimes be a tricky balance. Some classes will be having a 'Genius Hour' where students can work on a particular interest or wonder.

Across the school every class will be looking at 6 broad concepts. This is to help develop deep understanding of concepts whilst also allow classes that are cross-staged, such as K/1, 2/3 and 4/5 to meet and plan together. The six concepts are:

- Self and Others
- Journeys and Discoveries
- Our Creative World
- How the World Works
- Connections and Community
- Living Things and Change

Every class will have excursions throughout the year related to class learning. Sometimes excursions will be with their class only, and sometimes with their grade or stage. We are finalising excursions for the year now, so that all students get equal time out and about in the community.

## **Sport News**

This term, students in Year 2 – Year 6 will be doing swimming for sport on Tuesdays. We have a Sporting Schools grant that will pay for three coaches. These lesson will start in Week 4, as we have our whole school Swimming Carnival on Tuesday in Week 3.

Next week Mrs Harnett will take classes 5/6F, 5/6B, 4/5S, 3/4L and 3/4K down to the pool for a swim skill test to help organise groups for week 4. The Year 2 and 3 children in Mrs Carracher's and Mrs Banks' classes will not do the test swim but will participate in lessons from Week 4.

If you would like to come along to any of these swimming events or lesson, parents are welcome!

### **What day do you wear sports uniform?**

- Kinder Grant – Tuesdays
- K/1McPherson, 1/2Banks and 2/3 Carracher – Thursdays
- 3/4Lott, 3/4Kam, 4/5Short, 5/6Favaloro and 5/6Bateman – Tuesdays

## Religious Education News

Thank you to the St Patrick's community for your warm welcome. Jesus Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise of our school and this year my challenge is to relate the story of Jesus Christ to the children of St Patrick's to instill in them the three pillars, Look into the Thinking, Look Ahead to the Future and Look After Each Other.

Jesus often instructs his followers not to publicize the good they have done; it is better to keep such things in secret that their Father may reward them. We may do good but not become agents of light if we arrogate the glory. "The just man is a light in the darkness to the upright" (Ps112).

## School Fee Statements

School Fee statements will be sent home next week, please attend to these at your earliest convenience. Thank you to those families who make regular payments or pay their accounts on time. There are a number of options for paying your school fees. If you would like to set up Direct Debit or Centrepay payment (from your family allowance) please contact the school office and we will help you put this in place. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept Cash for payment of school fees. St Pat's is not-for-profit, the fees we receive go straight back into the school towards teacher salaries, employing a cleaner/maintenance person, stationary and general costs associated with running our school.

## P&F News

The first meeting of the Parents & Friends will be next Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm in the school library. All are welcome. New families are encouraged to come and participate! Meetings are generally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

## Parish News

**Family Mass this Sunday Night at 5:30pm.** Dates for term one Children's Liturgy Sundays are Feb and March 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>. Younger Children are invited to leave the Mass after the opening prayer for their own Liturgy of the Word and return to the congregation at the offertory.



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