Dear Parents,

Thank you to those parents who have already made appointments and met with their child’s teacher. These interviews have been highly valued from the teachers as they have had an opportunity to listen to you about your child and build a partnership with you to ensure the best learning for your child. I have included an article from Michael Grose that may be useful in establishing this partnership.

If you have not made an appointment yet please do so ASAP.

Communication

Communication is very important and we want to make sure we use effective and efficient methods to ensure messages and information are received. Last year we moved towards a digital approach and we will be looking to continue this. Most families have indicated that this works for them, however there are some families where digital access is not an option for them and paper copies are given.

St Patrick’s have multiple communication methods which can be for various purposes. We communicate by:

- **Newsletter**: Whole School Community News. Distributed by email (and paper if requested) fortnightly.
- **Class News/Letters**: Information from class teacher regarding class events or information. Distributed by email (and paper if requested).
- **Phone**: Individual contact that requires an immediate response or discussion.
- **Facebook**: Notification of events or news.
- **School Website**: Communication about our school to the wider community.
- **School App**: Used to access information as well as communicating reminders of coming events etc.

Parents can communicate with us by:

- **Face to Face**: If it is a short message, on the spot is fine, however if it may require a longer time please make an appointment.
- **Phone**: Call 4163 1555 to inform of student absence, give a message etc.
- **Email**: Messages can be emailed to the school address of pnanango@bne.catholic.edu.au or directly to teachers. Emails are monitored throughout the day and will be responded to within the day if necessary. Email can be useful to notify student absence or bus activity. Emails sent directly to teachers may not be checked during the day as our teachers have limited or no time to check emails during class time.
- **Facebook**: Parents can comment about events etc., however please do not send messages through Facebook that require a response as the account is not monitored daily, email would be better in this situation.

We value positive and effective communication at St Patrick’s. To do this however we need to make sure your contact details are correct. Last week a blue sheet was issued to parents with the school fees with our current information on our system. I ask parents to check these details and return the form to the front office so we can make any changes.

Thanks, and have a great week,

Matt
One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child’s teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help. There’s no doubt that the best outcomes for kids happen when teachers and parents work together to support children’s learning. Here are 10 ways you can work with your child’s teacher to maximise your child’s chances of school success.

1. Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve
Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive
If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child’s school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. Support your teacher’s expectations & activities at home
One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time
Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It’s estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes
Life’s not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others
Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties
Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate fully in class & school activities
There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience
Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school
Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teachers.
APRE REFLECTIONS AND REVELATIONS

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful start to the year we’ve had. It was great to see so many of you at our Welcome Breakfast and our Beginning School Year Mass. It means a lot to the children to see you, the parents and grandparents, participating in our school events.

Lent

The season of LENT began last Wednesday on Ash Wednesday. The school community joined with the Parish community to celebrate this important occasion in the Church Calendar. Each person attending mass received a cross of ashes on their forehead. The ashes historically signify repentance and remind us that we are of the earth and not perfect, but also that we belong to a global Catholic community united by the story of one man, Jesus. Thank you to those who joined us at this mass.

Project Compassion

This year marks 50 years of Project Compassion, which thanks to supporters, schools and parishes across Australia raised a record-breaking $11.57 million last year.

Each year Project Compassion, which runs through the six weeks of Lent, brings hundreds of thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world’s poor, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Money raised goes towards Caritas Australia’s humanitarian and long-term development programs in more than 40 countries across Asia, Africa, the Pacific, Latin America and with First Australian communities.

“Lent is the time of year when we put our faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving,” said Caritas Australia CEO, Paul O’Callaghan.

“Project Compassion has transformed millions of lives and every year since 1965 we have demonstrated our faith, our compassion and our generosity towards the most vulnerable members of our global family.”

Pope Francis has said, “Education is an act of hope.” The theme for this year’s Project Compassion, “Learning more, creating change”, celebrates the power of learning, and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to those most marginalised.
APRE REFLECTIONS AND REVELATIONS

How can you help?
LG4 students have organized a fundraising activity to help us raise money for Caritas. Children are encouraged to complete small tasks around the house in order to earn some money, which they can then donate. For every $2 they bring in, they will receive a hand to place on the tree in the hall. LG4 will collect the money from classrooms each Wednesday. Donations will be accepted all throughout the six weeks of Lent. I thank you in advance for participating in this very worthy cause.

The Year of Mercy
How Can we Show Mercy? The Church gives us the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy to inspire us to action. The Corporal Works of mercy focus on physical needs:
* feed the hungry
* give drink to the thirsty
* clothe the naked
* shelter the homeless
* visit the sick
* visit those in prison
* bury the dead

Have a great fortnight.

Jen Cran
APRE

Dear Parents/Guardians

Principal Performance Review - Survey Closing Monday 22nd February

As announced previously, Mr Vine is currently undertaking a Principal Performance Review.
On Friday 12th February, families were emailed an invitation to participate in a confidential on-line survey conducted by Ardjuna, an independent survey company. This would have appeared as from “auto@ardjuna.com”. Please check your inbox and junk folders.
Community consultation is highly valued and I thank you for your participation.

Yours sincerely
Peter Stower
Area Supervisor
School Services North
Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane
At the beginning of 2015, St Patrick’s was invited to be part of a new initiative being implemented across a number of schools in the Archdiocese - The Delivering Excellent Learning and Teaching Strategy

Purpose:
The Delivering Excellent Learning and Teaching, 2014 -2016 Strategy seeks to inspire high expectations for learning that maximises engagement, progress and achievement for each student across our community of schools.

Alignment:
This strategy aligns perfectly with one of our school goals which is: Every student achieves progress against the Achievement Standard in the Australian Curriculum and Religious Education Curriculum.

Who is Involved?
We are now into our second year of implementing the strategy across our school. Throughout last year, the Principal, Mr Vine, the Literacy Lead Teacher, Mrs Cran and all classroom teachers were involved in Professional Development to help us understand the expectations of the strategy. We worked alongside some of the leading professionals in the business, such as, Professor Lynn Sharratt, and Mr Michael Fullan, authors of Putting Faces On the Data.
Professional Development will continue this year to ensure that high quality teaching and learning is evident in our classrooms. We are also very fortunate to be provided with great support from Brisbane Catholic Education Curriculum Officers who often travel out to the South Burnett to work with us.

What does it Look Like in our School?
Three high yield strategies were used including, data walls, Review and Response meetings and Learning Walks and Talks. All three strategies provide teachers with quality feedback which then informs the teachers on the direction they needed to take to move their students forward in their learning.

Can we see Progress?
Yes! Teachers are beginning to speak a common language, in regards to literacy and have developed a shared understanding of the high expectations we have for our learners. The majority of students’ literacy skills are continuing to improve, especially in the areas of reading and writing. We are looking forward to seeing our students’ results continue to improve this year.
This week in middle primary, students have been learning to:

⇒ State the meaning of the word “assumption.”
⇒ Identify assumptions that prevent them from befriending others.
⇒ Replace judgmental thoughts with non-judgmental thoughts about others.
⇒ State the relationship between the “being tolerant of others” way of thinking and their ability to get along with people who behave badly or who are from different backgrounds.
⇒ Identify judgemental thoughts that prevent them from making friends with certain people.

Next week the middle primary students will be learning to:

⇒ Define what a problem is.
⇒ Apply problem solving skills in new situations.
⇒ Identify personal problems.
⇒ Use problem solving skills to solve personal problems.
⇒ Explain how the “Acting Without Thinking” way of thinking can lead them to behave poorly and get into trouble.
⇒ State how the “Thinking First” way of thinking can help them behave appropriately when faced with difficult interpersonal situations.
⇒ Explain how the “Playing By the Rules” way of thinking helps everyone get along.

Regards
David Francis
Guidance Counsellor
St Patrick’s

This term we welcome back Mrs Lisa Perret as our H&PE Teacher. Mrs Perret will be taking each class for either a Health or Physical education lesson each Wednesday.

This term these lessons will focus on:

LG3 & LG4 Futsal ball skills and games

The classes will focus on teamwork

LG1 & LG2 Gross motor skills

Obstacle courses

Learning about our bodies through song and games
Each week we cordially invite you to attend our Assembly. Our Usual time is 2.20pm. Join us as we celebrate our Student of The Week for each class, and also celebrate our student’s Birthdays. Keep informed in school news at Assembly each Wednesday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT OF THE WEEK 3</th>
<th>STUDENT OF THE WEEK 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INDIANAH LG1</strong></td>
<td><strong>RUBY LG1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded for being caring and friendly to others.</td>
<td>Awarded for doing a great job at being focused on learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HANNAH LG1</strong></td>
<td><strong>EZRA LG1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded for an excellent retell of The 3 Little Pigs.</td>
<td>Awarded for getting along with his classmates by sharing and taking turns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAD LG2</strong></td>
<td><strong>HARRISON LG2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded for always trying his best and giving everything a go!</td>
<td>Awarded for being a superstar writer and sounding out all of his words!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INDIANA LG3</strong></td>
<td><strong>DONNA-LEE LG2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded for always being on task and following instructions. Fantastic start to the year.</td>
<td>Awarded for being an amazing helper in LG2!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SETH LG3</strong></td>
<td><strong>THURSTON LG3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded for having an ‘I can do it’ attitude, when participating in class discussions.</td>
<td>Awarded for showing a desire to improve the quality of his writing through the use of modal verbs and ‘strong’ words!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COREY LG4</strong></td>
<td><strong>JAYDEN LG3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded for the way he has shown persistence with working on task and trying his best!</td>
<td>Awarded for being a wonderful friend to others through his kind and respectful interactions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHAYNI LG4</strong></td>
<td><strong>JAYDEN LG4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded for how Shayni is always courteous and trying her best in class.</td>
<td>Awarded for your solid effort you are putting into completing work tasks. Well Done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHELSEA LG4</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Awarded for fitting in so well with your classmates in LG4. You are a good friend to others and are very respectful in class.

Pride and pleasure in learning...
What’s happening at St Pat’s ...

LG4 have begun reading the book ‘Boy Overboard’ by Morris Gleitzman. This story introduces students to the struggle of boys and girls of similar ages, growing up in Afghanistan. All students have been researching what life in Afghanistan is like and are reporting back to the class on Friday with their findings.

LG2 The Singing Angels. The choir, including 6 students from LG2 entertained the residents at Nanango nursing home. The residents were delighted and one resident said, “They sound like angels.”

Last Tuesday LG1 made pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.

What a great week we have had in LG2, learning and laughing! This week LG2 have been learning to count all the way to 100 and back in all sorts of ways. Year One’s have focused on learning to count to and from any number to one hundred, and Year Two’s on counting in tens.

LG2 have also been really excited about our new Science unit. We have been learning all about insects and small animals, and even went on a Schoolyard Safari in the school garden.

In LG3 we have been learning to tell the time. Year Three are working on reading clocks to the nearest minute while Year Fours are working on 24 hour time.

What’s happening at St Pat’s ...

LG3 we have been learning to tell the time. Year Three are working on reading clocks to the nearest minute while Year Fours are working on 24 hour time.

LG4 are preparing for Project Compassion. This year we are making a tree with hands, to support The Caritas organisation in their quest to “Learning More Creating Less”.

What’s happening at St Pat’s ...
FINANCE & FEE NEWS: Almost all statements have now been posted out. If you haven’t received your statement yet, it means I am still processing or awaiting your concession application.

Now is the time to set up regular direct debits or Centrelink deductions if this is your preferred payment method. Please see me at the office for paperwork to set these up. For those families who have an additional child in prep this year, your current deduction may need to be increased.

Once again, a 10% discount is available on base fees for those parents who would like to pay 2016 total fees in advance. Please note that concessions reduce base fees so if you are receiving a full concession, this discount will not apply to you. This discount will be available until 4th March when Term 1 fees are due.

BUS: Please be mindful of any changes to your child’s bus timetable. If they are not on the route for any reason in the afternoon please advise the office.

P&F: The Parents and Friends Committee would like to invite you to attend the AGM Wednesday 23rd March at 7pm.

TUTORING: Available from home by registered school teacher. All key learning areas as well as piano lessons are available. Encouraging your child to do their best and feel great about their learning. First session is complimentary.

Please Phone Chris Coleman on 0413 679 494 if you would like to find out more.

EVOLUTION: Hair Studio is offering our readers $10 off any colour service valid for 1 month (February) Show the Girls at Evolution this page on your device or online to receive your discount. Be sure to look out for a special deal exclusively for our St Patrick’s community coming from Evolution in March.
ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN
ages 6 and over
LEARN TO SEW
All materials supplied in cost
NEW CLASSES EVERY TERM
FIBRE EXPLORATIONS
Doll making
4 week and 8 week programs
Create unique works of art
Holiday workshops program coming soon
Classes START 23rd FEBRUARY
Limited places. Registration and upfront payment required
Email Kelly @ duggies@activ8.net.au for more information

The Committee of Nanango & District Kindergarten cordially invite you to celebrate 25 years of teaching with Julie Timms
Wednesday 2nd March, 2016
at 1:30 p.m.
at Nanango & District Kindergarten
54 Gipps Street, Nanango, 4615
RSVP by 22nd February, 2016
to Maxine 0410 156 015
or Gemma 0458 652 510

Pride and pleasure in learning...

too COOL for SCHOOL disco THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2016
5.30 - 7.00 PM   ST PATRICK’S SCHOOL HALL
$5.00 Entry includes Sausage Sizzle and Popper
Games and Dancing!
GLO STICKS AVAILABLE $1.00
Students to be signed in upon arrival at 5.30 and upon departure at 7.00 pm by parent / guardian.