Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff I would like to welcome you all to the start of the school year. In particular to those students and families that are joining our school community for the first time, I trust that your association with Mt St Patrick Primary will be a long and rewarding one.

The beginning of every year is a wonderful time for dreaming and planning. The Catholic school – that educating community of children, pastor, parents and teachers – has such great promise. As we set future goals, directions and the school and home, work in partnership to provide a Catholic education of excellence that strives to meet the individual needs of all students, I am reminded of the words of Woodrow Wilson:

The flower does not bear the root,
but the root the flower ….
The rose is merely the evidence
of the vitality of the root.

I would ask all parents to reflect on, “How can you assist your child this year?” Consider not only their academic achievements but your hopes and dreams within the social, emotional and spiritual context of their lives as well.

I look forward to the opportunity of meeting with you in the near future.

Mr Brian Laybutt
Principal

Photographs of our school combating the recent flood!!

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
The newsletter is published FORTNIGHTLY. The newsletter is given to the youngest student in the family. Newsletters are distributed on TUESDAYS. The newsletter is also downloaded onto our school website.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

SACRED HEART PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

FIRST RECONCILIATION
Parent Meeting – Tuesday 28th February
Retreat Day – Thursday 29th March
II Rite of Reconciliation – Thursday 29th March

FIRST EUCHARIST
Parent Meeting – Tuesday 8th May
Inscription Ceremony – (all weekend Masses)
Sacrament of First Eucharist – Sunday 10th June

CONFIRMATION
Parent Meeting – Tuesday 31st July
Inscription Ceremony – TBA
Retreat Day – Tuesday 28th August
Sacrament of Confirmation – Tuesday 28th August

Parents of any new students who wish for their child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation please contact Mrs Dixon at the school.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

During Term 1 the classes will be studying these topics in Religion:

**Early Stage 1** – Kinder
K.1 Welcome K.2 Lent and Holy Week

**Stage 1** – Years 1 and 2
1.1- Baptism 1.2 Lent and Holy Week

**Stage 2** – Years 3 and 4
4.1- Living the Law of Love
Reconciliation 4.2 Lent: A time for making choices

**Stage 3** – Middle School
5.1- The Reign of God- Reaching out in Justice
5.2 Lent: A time for Growth

As part of the Religious Education Curriculum each of the stages will prepare and celebrate a mass this term as part of the units of work they are studying.

The dates for these special celebrations are-
February 17th- Stage 1 Mass
March 9th- MS Mass
March 30th- Stage 2

Please note that all parents and friends and parishioners are welcome to join us for these Masses which will be held in the Sacred Heart Church at 12pm.

There will be other liturgies and masses throughout the term that the whole school will attend. These will be advertised in the school newsletter as the time approaches.

This Friday 10th February the Beginning School Mass will be held at 12pm in the Sacred Heart Church. All are welcome to join us at this celebration where the school leaders will be inducted into the various leadership roles for 2012.

The virtues for the term are as follows- Courtesy, Forgiveness, Prayerfulness, Service and Faithfulness.

Our School Prayer
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the great gift of life.
We thank you for the opportunity to live and grow in a free country.
Thank you for the blessings that you give to Mt St Patrick Primary.
Help us to appreciate your love which is given freely to each one of us.
We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Our school prayer is read at Monday morning assembly & Friday afternoon assembly

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK – COURTESY
WHAT IS COURTESY?
Courtey is to be polite and to have good manners. It is to be considerate of others. It is a way of speaking and acting with people which gives them a feeling of being valued and respected. “Please”, “Thank you”, “Excuse me”, and “You’re welcome” are courteous expressions which let people know you appreciate them and care about their feelings. Being courteous to elders, parents and teachers is a good way to show respect.

NEW ARRIVALS
Congratulations to the following families who have new additions over the holidays:
Guinea family (Sophie), Berger (Joel) & Wolfe (Ethan)
We wish these families much joy and happiness.

MINI VINNIES
Welcome back to school. Our first meeting for 2012 will be held at lunchtime in Mrs Dixon’s classroom on 14th February. Any students from middle school who have a heart for justice are welcome to come along to see what we do.
Fredric Ozanam, the founder of the St Vincent de Paul society, realised that talk alone would never give full witness to the truth that Jesus taught. Our actions must mirror our words if we are able to be real. Jesus said to look after the poor and weak. The society of St. Vincent De Paul aims to do just that and we at Mini-Vinnies at Mt St Patrick Primary follow their footsteps. If you think you would be interested in getting together with others who feel like this come to our meeting on the 14th February.
Philomena Zambelli, Mini Vinnie’s Co-ordinator.
Over the next two weeks Stage Level Parent Information Nights will be held. These meetings will allow you the opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher and gain a greater understanding of the expectations and day to day running of the class. It can never be understated the importance of parents taking an active participation in your child’s education. If your son or daughter sees that you value their education and take an active role in it, it will reinforce the importance of education and inevitably have a positive effect.

The dates for these evenings are:

**TERM 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>TERM 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 7th</td>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Night: Stage 1 6pm</td>
<td>Wed 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Night: Middle School 7pm</td>
<td>ANZAC day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 9th</td>
<td>Thurs 26th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Night: Stage 2 6pm</td>
<td>First day Term 2 for students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10th</td>
<td><em>Thurs 30th</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning School Year Mass 12noon</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Week (Mon 30th April – Fri 4th May)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 13th</td>
<td>Mon 30th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tweed Zone Swimming</td>
<td>Tweed Zone Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 15th</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Parent Teacher Night 6pm</td>
<td>Wed 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Kinder Parent / Teacher Interviews during Weeks 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Book Week Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17th</td>
<td>Thurs 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 1 Mass 12 noon</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly – Year 2P Presentation</td>
<td>Fri 4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 22nd</td>
<td>School Open Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>Tues 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 24th</td>
<td>Sacrament of Eucharist Parent Meeting 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly – Year 2D Presentation</td>
<td>Wed 9th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 26th</td>
<td>School Photos (classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder Picnic Day</td>
<td>Tues 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 28th</td>
<td>Naplan (Years 3 &amp; 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation Parent Meeting 6pm</td>
<td>Wed 16th</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Naplan (Years 3 &amp; 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 2nd</td>
<td>Thurs 17th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly – Year 1D Presentation</td>
<td>Naplan (Years 3 &amp; 5)</td>
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<td>Sun 4th</td>
<td>Fri 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1 &amp; 2 Picnic Day</td>
<td>Infants (Years K -2) Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 7th</td>
<td>Mon 28th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder Parents Social Evening</td>
<td>Primary (Years 3 -6) Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 9th</td>
<td>June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle School Mass 12 noon</td>
<td>Thurs 7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly – Year 1T Presentation</td>
<td>Whole School Photo &amp; Family Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*MS &amp; Stage 2 Classes Parent Teacher Interviews 12-16th</td>
<td>Sun 10th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 16th</td>
<td>Sacrament of Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Patrick’s Day Mass 9am &amp; Mur’bah Pool Treat Afternoon</td>
<td>Fri 22nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Stage 1 Classes Parent Teacher Interviews 12-16th</td>
<td>Tweed Zone Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 23rd</td>
<td>Fri 29th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly – Year 2C Presentation</td>
<td>students last day Term 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Family Bush Dance Evening | **TERM 3**
| Thurs 29th | August |
| Sacrament of Reconciliation 7pm | Sat 18th |
| April | Banana Festival |
| Mon 2nd | Tues 28th |
| Cross Country & Skill a thon | Sacrament of Confirmation |
| Thurs 5th | Thurs 30th |
| Holy Thursday (students last day of Term) | Father’s Day Stall |

**PARENT FORUM MEETING MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY @ 7:00 pm in SCHOOL LIBRARY**

All Parents are welcome to attend our first Parent Forum meeting for the school year. The Parent Forum allows parents to be informed of school initiatives and have input into the role of the Parent Forum during the year. Election of Office Bearers will also take place at this meeting.

**PARENT REPS**

At the Parent Information Nights teachers will be asking for parents to become Class Reps. Role and expectations for Parent Reps will be outlined at these meetings. You may wish to consider becoming a parent Rep for your child’s class.

**PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS**

Over the next two weeks Stage Level Parent Information Nights will be held. These meetings will allow you the opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher and gain a greater understanding of the expectations and day to day running of the class. It can never be understated the importance of parents taking an active participation in your child’s education. If your son or daughter sees that you value their education and take an active role in it, it will reinforce the importance of education and inevitably have a positive effect.

The dates for these evenings are:

- **Tuesday 7th February**  
  Stage 1
  (Miss. Prichard, Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Dixon & Mrs. Trevithick)
  
- **Tuesday 7th February**  
  Middle School
  (Mrs. Waugh, Mrs. Markham, Mr. Forrester & Mr. Spiller)

- **Thursday 9th February**  
  Stage 2
  (Miss. Crouch, Mrs. Morosini & Mr. Houlanan)

- **Wednesday 15th February**  
  Kinder
  (Miss. Mackney & Miss. Powell)

Please note that these meetings are to provide parents with a general overview of the class and year. Individual one on one parent teacher interviews will be held later in Term 1. If you have any concerns or issues you would like to raise with your child’s teacher please make an appointment via our School Office.
Welcome to our new Kindergarten students

KINDER M

Olivia Adams Morgan Berger Sienna Bull
Sharde-Louise Darragh Summer Gibbons
Matilda Gray Amanita Hoffman-Barnaby
Jude Livermore Hannah Miller Jessica Minahan
Ava Price Jessica Rees Sienna Reid
Ruby Trueman
Lilly Wolfe Lincoln Newell Theodore Parsons
Finlay Purnell Emmett Stepto
Lachlan Van Amstel
Bryce Wilson

KINDER P

Tylenah Alcorn-Partridge Kaitlyn Antonelli
Cailey Baker Nara Coleman Lily Cronly
Hazel Cunningham Selam Dietrich
Alira Heterick Bailey Kirby Yvette Lapworth
Enya McCarthy Maya Sutton Abbie Thomas
Harrison Bugg Matthew Guinea Billy John
Logan McGilvery Kai Mumford Izaac O’Keefe
Ned Rogers Charlie Toms
Lucca Williams Robert Woods-Jones

‘BEST START’ KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENT

Last week our 2012 Kindergarten students took part in the ‘Best Start’ Literacy & Numeracy Assessment.

What is the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment?

Children come to school with different levels of literacy and numeracy. Some are familiar with books, can recognise some letters, even write their name or count to ten, while others have not yet learned these skills.

Kindergarten teachers have always observed their new students and used different methods to find out what each child knows and can do so that they can plan and teach what their students need to learn next.

Best Start was developed by early learning experts in the Department of Education and Training. The aim of Best Start is to give Kindergarten teachers a common set of high quality assessment tools and professional training.

Best Start will build on the strengths of our teachers and give your child an even better start to school.

How will the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment benefit my child?

It is very important to emphasise that the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is not a test. Its purpose is to help the teacher gather information to guide the teaching of each Kindergarten child.

The teacher will observe each child and use tasks, such as talking about a book that has been read, and record what their students know and can do. The teaching of your child will be based on the information gathered in these ways.

What is being assessed?

The teacher will look at each child’s early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others, and how they recognise and work with numbers, groups and patterns.
WELCOME NEW STUDENTS 2012

Year 1
Sophie Bruhn Kyan Rech Elizabeth Warne
James Nimmo April Parnaby Bailee Pedlow
Nathan Willis

Year 2
Darcy Toms Amber Charilaou Lucy Jones, Dempsey Hammond, Harrison Willis

Year 3
Chloe Hillcoat Leila Parnaby Lloyd McVeigh
Nicholas Ratcliff

Year 4
Matilda Jones Melia Loveridge Joseph Warne
Chloe Brawley Matilda Nimmo Caleb McDonald
Aidan Willis

Year 5
Cassidy Baker Cecilia Ryan Anthea Warne
Yasmin Charilaou Jacob Pedlow

Year 6
Ashley Hazzard

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to be members of the SRC:

SCHOOL CAPTAINS
Brodie Palmer
Max Bird

SCHOOL VICE-CAPTAINS
Clara Withers
Jackson Rohweder

SRC TERM 1 & 2
Stage 2C Indiana Nuspan
Stage 2H Georgia Felton
Stage 2M Codie Chung
MS F Tom Snellgrove
MS M Brooke Saddler
MS S Isaac Bergamin
MS W Mark Jackson

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as House Sport Captains for 2012

SPORT CAPTAINS
Dalton - GOLD
Isabelle Macfarlane & Web Lillis

Mackillop - RED
Summer Clausen & Lewis Hancock

Nagle - BLUE
Erin Van Amstel & Thaine Foreman-Keenan

Doyle - GREEN
Fianna Wilkinson & Nicholas Bergamin
STAFF SUPERVISION

School hours are 8:50am to 3:15pm. Children who live locally should not arrive before 8:20am. Staff are present at the school from 8:20am to 3:45 pm and no responsibility for the supervision of children is accepted outside these times. Children are not permitted to leave the school premises unless they have written permission from their parent/guardian. A direct phone call by a parent is not acceptable. It is not appropriate for parents to visit their children on the playground during breaks or to ‘hang around’ with children before school. Thank you for your support in this area.

PARKING

Parents are asked to please be mindful of parking restrictions around the school.

1. No Parking at the front of the school (Mooball St) is a “Kiss and Drop Area”. Parents may stop, let their children out and move on. The driver cannot leave the car. If you leave the car you face a fine of $238.
2. Students are NOT permitted to walk over to Queensland Rd and wait for parents. This area is unsupervised and the school has no knowledge as to whether or not students have actually been picked up. Parents need to walk over to the school to collect their children.
3. Please do not park in the Church car park or use this area as a drop off zone. The car parks under the College buildings are for staff parking and the others are used for Church and school deliveries only.

Thank you for your understanding!!

LEAVE EARLY & LATE TO SCHOOL

To ensure that the school complies with State Legislation the school has a Leave Early slip and a Late slip. The late slip must be filled in by either the parent/child if arriving late to school. Students who arrive late to school WILL NOT be allowed to enter the class unless they present the class teacher with a late slip. Students who arrive late to school must first report to the office and must not be taken straight to class. The leaving early slip must be completed by the parent/guardian before a student can be taken from the school. The parent/guardian will then proceed to their child’s classroom and present the class teacher with a leaving early slip. The forms are located in the office. Essentially these forms are kept as a record of when students arrive and leave the school outside normal hours.

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is available to parents. Please report to school Office for access to the Uniform Shop. Any school uniforms no longer needed could please be donated to the School Uniform Shop to be resold.

CANTEEN ROSTER

A copy of the new canteen price list was sent out last week. Carmel is also looking for volunteers to help in the canteen. If there are any parents willing— even for an hour — could you please complete the form below and return to school as soon as possible.

............................................................................................................PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN.............................................................................................................

CANTEEN

Dear Carmel,

I would like to volunteer to work in the canteen and am available on
Monday [ ] Tuesday [ ] Wednesday [ ] Thursday [ ] Friday [ ]
Name___________________________________________ Phone No:_____________________

.............................................................................................................
Welcome to 2012. The focus for sport this term is dance and cross country. Keen primary students can begin a simple cross country training program to improve their opportunity to qualify for the school team in week 10.

**TWEED ZONE SWIMMING TRIALS**
We wish 31 students all the best in the Tweed Zone Swimming Trials on Monday. Permission notes for Monday as well as the training day should be returned by tomorrow please.

**SUMMER SPORT TRIALS**
We also wish Anthea Warne (softball), Bailey Engler & Webb Lillis (cricket) all the best at the Summer Sport Trials next week.

**BIRTHDAYS**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**MURWILLUMBAH COLTS JRLFC**
Sign On Days: Saturday 11th February (11:00am – 1:30pm) Clubhouse – Dorothy St, Murwillumbah. All new players need to provide Birth Certificate and Medicare Number. Enquiries to Brendon Hill (President) 0409 611 580

**CUDGEN NETBALL CLUB**
Sign On Days: Saturday 11th February (1:00pm – 3:00pm) St Anthony’s Hall. All ages from 5 years. Enquiries to Kelly Patterson 0413 886 334 / Jo Jackson 0427 745 663

**MURWILLUMBAH FOOTBALL CLUB – WINTER SOCCER COMPETITION SIGN ON**
Thursday 9th & 16th February 4pm-6pm Main Clubhouse, Jim Devine Fields Mooball St
Mixed Teams ages U6 –U10 Girls Teams ages U11 –U17 Boys Teams ages U11 –U17 Senior Men’s & Women’s Divisions. Fees payable at registration. Passport sized photo required for U12 & older ID Cards. See our website for sign on and more details and updates www.murwillumbahfc.com Junior contact 0432 955 242

**CASUARINA BEACH RUGBY UNION** Sign On Days!
Saturday’s 29th Jan, 4th and 11th February, 2012 - 10.00am - 1.00pm. It is never too late to give Rugby a try! We cater for 7-17yr olds. We offer a fast track program to help new players learn the skills and rules. Trainings are Thursdays at Casuarina Fields. 4.30pm start. Socks, Shorts, Bags and playing shirts provided with Registration. Feel free to give us a call if you have any questions. Leanne Blyth - Secretary 0414 895121

**MURWILLUMBAH VULCANS AFL CLUB** are looking for players aged 7-13 yrs (boys & girls) in 2011.
Sign On Days: Saturday 11th February (11:00am – 1:00pm) Rabjones Oval, Cricket Clubhouse, Elizabeth St. (behind hockey fields) Enquiries to Judi Lee 02 6672 2930 Dom Trevaskis 0408 118 551

The Family Centre is pleased to invite all parents with a child under the age of 12 to come along to Triple P (Positive Parenting Program). This 8 week, evidence based program assists parents to build positive relationships with their children and create a stable, supportive and harmonious family. The course introduces proven methods to encourage behaviour you would like more of from your children and deal positively and consistently with problem behaviour. Triple P parenting seminars will also be available in the evening at a local school, location yet to be confirmed.

**When:** Thursdays February 23 – April 12, 10 – 12.30pm
**Where:** The Family Centre, Tweed Heads South. Please call (07) 55248711 between 9am and 12.30pm Mon – Fri for enquiries.
Bookings are essential. No cost to participants and workbooks included

**DOUBLE MASK DRAMA 2012**
Programs available in 2012 are: Individual & Duologue Programs (In School)
MiNiMASK Drama – Years 1-3 Thursdays 3:30 – 4:30pm MiNiMASK Drama – Years 4-6 Mondays 3:30 – 4:30pm. Classes held at Mt St Patrick College For more information contact Lachlan on 0432 387 691