Dear Parents,

On Tuesday the 27th March the school will be involved in a School Compliance Audit.

This audit takes place every five years and is a process that involves a team of six external auditors coming into the school. The auditors review all school policies and procedures to ensure that the school is meeting Federal, State and Diocesan legislated requirements. These requirements involve Occupational Health and Safety, Administrative procedures, Student Welfare, Financial and Educational reporting and legislated Curriculum implementation.

After visiting the school the auditors will then draft a report that is issued to both the Principal and Catholic Schools Office. It is then the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that any recommendations made by the auditors are addressed.

At the completion of this compliance audit the school will then commence a process called School Review and Development, which will culminate in a 5 year Strategic Plan.

Information outlining the process of developing our 5 year Strategic Plan will be shared at a later date.

Can I also remind families of:

Skill-a-Thon: this is one of two major fundraising activities held in the year. Your support of this enables the school to purchase student resources. Remember, “What is raised this year, is spent this year!”

Bush Dance: I have it on good authority that the weather will be fine (contrary to popular opinion!!). Look forward to seeing lots of families for what will be a fabulous night.

Have a great week, Brian Laybutt (Principal)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:
Monday 30th April – Friday 4th May

MONDAY 30th –  Student School Leadership Conference
Parent Forum Meeting – 7.00p.m. School Library

WEDNESDAY 2nd – Book Parade – Kinder, Yr. 1 &2 students

THURSDAY 3rd –  Mother’s Day Stall

FRIDAY 4th – SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Important Reminder: our Book Fair is held during Catholic Schools Week
Service is giving to others and wanting to make a difference in the lives of others. Helping other people is one of the best ways to serve God. Having an attitude of service means looking for ways to be of help rather than waiting to be asked. You do things for other people just to be helpful, not because you hope they will pay you or reward you. You do things just because you care. When you work with a spirit of service, you give a job your best effort. You don’t just do the least amount possible. You make a real contribution.

**Altar Service Program**
Altar Service is a special ministry within the Church and will require children to attend a training sessions. If your child is interested in this please contact Mrs Dixon.

The children are now busy preparing for the Sacrament of Penance. Please keep these children in your prayers.

Please note the Stage 2 mass that was scheduled for 30th March has had to be postponed to next term.

**VIRTUE OF THE WEEK- SERVICE**

Service is giving to others and wanting to make a difference in the lives of others. Helping other people is one of the best ways to serve God. Having an attitude of service means looking for ways to be of help rather than waiting to be asked. You do things for other people just to be helpful, not because you hope they will pay you or reward you. You do things just because you care. When you work with a spirit of service, you give a job your best effort. You don’t just do the least amount possible. You make a real contribution.

**Bibles**
The Bible is an important book that is used within our Religion lessons and prayer times. If you are able to assist in repairing and re-covering our school bibles please notify Michelle Mackney as soon as possible via the school office.

**Mini-Vinnies**
We have already done such a lot in our Mini-Vinnies group this year. However as yet we have not commissioned the year five part of the conference. On Friday 30th of March at the parish Mass at noon the new recruits will receive their badges and make the pledge for the first time. In part, the pledge states that the members will try to make a difference in their world by thinking of others, caring for the environment and strengthening their relationship with Jesus by praying each day and talking to others about Him. Come along to witness these young people taking up the challenge to be a follower of Christ in a practical way. 

**Project Compassion**
So far we have raised over $150. This money helps Caritas Australia to continue its work supporting long term partnerships for justice and transformation in more than 35 countries around the world. Each class has a Project Compassion collection box in their room so please encourage your child to forego a ‘treat’ or luxury and donate that money saved. Thank you for supporting this appeal.

**ST PATRICK’S DAY CONCERT - THANK YOU**
Thank you to those Stage 2 students who formed our school choir to perform at the St Patrick’s Day Concert on Thursday 15th March. The students are to be commended on their commitment and support for the evening. The overall event was a very successful night raising over $2 000. Thank you also to Mrs. Beth Brooks for her conducting of the school choir and Mrs. Carolyn Waugh for her supervision of the students during the evening.
SKILL A THON
As this is our major fundraiser for the year, your enthusiastic support would be appreciated.

The Skill A Thon will be held on Monday 2nd April.

The Skill A Thon involves all students participating in fun ‘sporting tabloid’ activities in the afternoon. Sponsorship cards will be distributed to all students shortly. Sponsorship cards are filled out prior to the Skill A Thon day. All money is collected after the child completes the Skill A Thon course. Donations are gratefully accepted. All money raised will be spent on the students this year. By raising money for the school you are assisting your child’s education.

PRIZES
Major Prize ~ ACER NETBOOK:
The family who raise the most amount of money receive a ACER netbook

Individual Class Prizes ~ Sporting Goods:
the child who raises the most amount in each class will receive a sporting good

Class Prize ~ Pizza Party:
the class that raises the most overall will have a pizza party

School Prize ~ Apple iPod Touch 8gb:
For every $20 raised by a family, a raffle ticket will be received (i.e. $80 raised = 4 raffle tickets). First prize an apple iPod Touch.

Parent reps from MS M & ST 2H will be responsible for assisting the coordination of this event.

LEGISLATION REGARDING STUDENT ATTENDENCE
What if my child has to stay away from school?
If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may send a note, fax or email to the school, or telephone the school, or visit the school. A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child has to go to a special religious ceremony, is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral), is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

What are school Principals responsible for?
Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences. Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent’s explanations for their child’s absences. Principals can request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences even where they are explained by parents as being due to illness. When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the principal, schools work together with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help.

Extended Absence From School Procedures:
If families are intending to have their child take extended absence from school they must make contact with the Principal. The Principal and Catholic Schools Office Director can issue an Exemption from Attendance of up to 50 days in a 12 month period. More than 50 days (100 days) approval must be sought from the State Education Minister via the School Principal.

EASTER BONNET PARADE
On Wednesday 4th April we will be holding our annual Easter Bonnet Parade for our infant students. This will held on the school Hardcourt Area at 9:00am. The whole school will be invited to watch the infants ‘show off’ their Easter Bonnets. All school parents, family and friends are welcome to attend. The infants (Kinder – Year 2) children will need to design and make their own Easter hat/bonnet at home to ‘show off’ in front of the other classes on this day.

NAPLAN – NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM - LITERACY & NUMERACY 2012
In May 2012 the National Assessment Program – Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 in all government & non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all Sate & Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement.

Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background & Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia on the same days for all students according to the following timetable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15th May</td>
<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation &amp; Grammar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16th May</td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17th May</td>
<td>Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function &amp; pattern, Measurement, Chance &amp; Data and Space)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with language background other than English, or if they have a significant intellectual and/or functional disability. All other students are expected to participate in the tests.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at:

# WEEK 7 AWARDS

## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINDER M</td>
<td>Lilly Wolfe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINDER P</td>
<td>Abbie Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 1 D</td>
<td>Sienna Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 1 T</td>
<td>Blake Cracknell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 2 D</td>
<td>Layla Falkner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 2 P</td>
<td>Abbey Bevan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 2C</td>
<td>Kobe Spry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 2H</td>
<td>Darcy Hannah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 2M</td>
<td>Zachary Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS F</td>
<td>Cooper Hardy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS S</td>
<td>Isobela Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS W</td>
<td>Yasmin Charilaou</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## MOST IMPROVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINDER M</td>
<td>Finlay Purnell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINDER P</td>
<td>Bailey Kirby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 1 D</td>
<td>Kyan Rech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 1 T</td>
<td>Jarrah Fitzpatrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 2 D</td>
<td>Cormack Flannery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 2 P</td>
<td>Charles Warren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 2C</td>
<td>Zoe Gatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 2H</td>
<td>Elise Lack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 2M</td>
<td>Layla Anning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS F</td>
<td>Zali Zuschke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS M</td>
<td>Charlie Eady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS S</td>
<td>Harrison Myler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS W</td>
<td>David Macartney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## GOOD SPORTS AWARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFANTS</td>
<td>Sophie Buchanan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 2</td>
<td>Wraith Dare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Brodie Palmer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CREATIVE ARTS AWARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFANTS</td>
<td>Charles Warren, Tabitha Stratton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 2</td>
<td>Vance Madden, Corey Grossman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Lewis Hancock,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sean McCaughey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PRINCIPAL AWARD

Amber Charilaou
WEEK 8 AWARDS

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KINDER M - Morgan Berger
KINDER P – Yvette Lapworth
YEAR 1 D – Joseph Colnan
YEAR 1 T – Kendall Wells
YEAR 2 D – Olivia Graham
YEAR 2 P – Lincoln Taylor
STAGE2C – Zoe Gatt
STAGE2H- Jye Kane
STAGE2M- Connor Pearson
MS F- Montana Taylor
MS M- Luke Bagnall
MS S- Angus Stratton
MS W- Emerald Haglund

MOST IMPROVED

KINDER M - Olivia Adams
KINDER P – Lucca Williams
YEAR 1 D – Shana Kussrow
YEAR 1 T – Danny Madden
YEAR 2 D - Isabella Sutton
YEAR 2 P – Charli Miller-Smylie
STAGE2C – Grace Eady
STAGE2H- Ailish Eppelstun
STAGE2M- Patrick Gray
MS F- Tom van den Broek
MS M- Kiara Woodward
MS S- Zane Zuschke
MS W- Mark Jackson

GOOD SPORTS AWARD

INFANTS- Cormack Flannery
STAGE 2 – Lara Lewis
MIDDLE SCHOOL- Tom Snellgrove

CREATIVE ARTS AWARD

INFANTS – Angus Ward, Sophie Buchanan
STAGE 2 – Ailish Eppelstun, Indiana Nuspan
MIDDLE SCHOOL – Keeley-Louise Dickinson, Leila Parnaby

PRINCIPAL’S AWARD

St2 C: Olivia Flannery
MS-F: Jada Langan Keyte
MS-W: Katie McCarthy
SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP
Advertising local businesses within the school newsletter has been successfully operating over the past 4 years. Ideally, its aim is to promote the businesses of families within the school and those associated with the school. Thank you to those businesses that have advertised and supported our school over the past 12 months. New advertising spaces will commence at the beginning of Term 2, 2012 and run up to the last week of Term 1, 2013.

How does it work?
- Each fortnight an insert is included within the newsletter that will advertise your business.
- The school will invoice the business allowing for taxation concessions.
- Your business will receive great advertising and exposure within the school community, it is tax deductible, you will help raise money for the school and your business will be marketed as:
  SUPPORT THE BUSINESS THAT SUPPORTS OUR SCHOOL

If you are interested in promoting your business/or would like to renew your 2011/2012 sponsorship arrangements could you please contact the School Office.
- Submit a business card/business details or word your own ad.
- The ad will run for one full year at a cost of $220 per year.

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SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN

SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

NAME ______________________________________________ (Contact Phone Number)

BUSINESS DETAILS (Please attach a Business Card)
The school will contact you as to determine exactly what you would like to have on your ad/set up etc.

Invoice will be sent to you on final approval of the ad

Authorisation by: ______________________________ Signature: ______________________________

Position within the business: ______________________________

Mt St Patrick College Enrolment 2013
Parents wishing to enrol their son or daughter in Year 7 in 2013 at Mt St Patrick College are asked to submit an Enrolment Application Form to the College by Friday 11th May, 2012. Please contact the College on 66722340 for further details, if necessary.

Week commencing 5th March – 11th March
SILVER CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO
Ben Champley, Jack Prichard, Angus Macfarlane, Cooper Leslight
BRONZE CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO
Teleah Leslighter, Charlie Browning, Hope Andrew, Lewis Hancock, Milyka Sharp, Nicholas Bergamin, Sarah Guinea, Zane Zuschke, Harrison Myler, Cecilia Ryan, Bailey Engler, Ashley Hazzard, Jayden Woodward, Nicholas Buchanan, Matthew Colman, Ena Mitchel, Montana Taylor, Zane Burke, Brooke Saddler, Sarah Littlewood, Taleigha Garbett, Skye Engler, Yasmin Charilaou, Cassidy Baker, Ben Snellgrove, Sarah Hill, Tiffany New, Alexandra Braun, Codie Chung, Elise Lack, Madeline Hill, Wraith Dare, Matilda Jones, Joseph Warne

Week commencing 12th March – 18th March
GOLD CERTIFICATES
Clara Withers, Mark Jackson
BRONZE CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO
Brodie Palmer, Joel Antonelli, Annalise Mackie, Charlie Priest, Elise Lack

‘Mathletes’ of the Week
Week 6
Matthew Colnan
Amelie McInerney
Elise Lack
Isobelle Woodford
Week 7
Zane Zuschke
Clayton Porter
Taleigha Garbutt

SILVER CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO
Brodie Palmer, Joel Antonelli, Annalise Mackie, Charlie Priest, Elise Lack

Mt St Patrick College Enrolment 2013
Parents wishing to enrol their son or daughter in Year 7 in 2013 at Mt St Patrick College are asked to submit an Enrolment Application Form to the College by Friday 11th May, 2012. Please contact the College on 66722340 for further details, if necessary.
The Primary Athletics Carnival has been changed to Monday 4th June at Murwillumbah High School.

NETBALL GALA DAY: Unfortunately due to the wet conditions tomorrow’s netball Gala Day has been cancelled. Next week 3 teams will participate in the Group 18 Rugby League Competition (Tuesday) as well as the Hockey Gala Day on Friday. We wish all the teams well and hope they enjoy the experience.

WINTER SPORTS TRIALS: On Friday 12 students will participate in the Diocesan Winter Sport Trials in Grafton vying for selection in the Diocesan teams. We wish Erin Van Amstel, Clara Withers, Brodie Palmer, Fianna Wilkinson, Fynn Campbell (hockey), Zayne Stewart, Brock Youngblutt (Football), Drew Clark, Aidan McDonald, Jack Prichard, Brandon Ewing (Rugby League) and Webb Lillis (Rugby union) all the best.

POLDING TRIALS SWIMMING: Congratulations to Anthea and Joseph Warne, Cecilia Ryan, Angus Stratton and Nicholas Ratcliffe for qualifying for the Diocesan Swimming Team and all the best in Sydney at the Polding Trials on Monday!

CROSS COUNTRY: The primary classes will have a cross country trial on Monday 26th at the showground before the cross country on Monday 2nd April. It is important that they have their water bottles and puffers. As there is a big chance that the grounds may be wet or muddy the students should run in an old pair of runners, navy blue or black shorts and a house coloured t shirt. They will then change into their sport uniform for the Skillathon.

We still require parents to assist with the cross country as course marshall or judges. Please complete the form if you can assist for a couple of hours. We do appreciate your valuable assistance!

CROSS COUNTRY – PARENT HELPER RETURN

Dear Agnes,

I am able to assist at the School Cross Country on 2nd April as

[ ] a judge
[ ] a course marshall

Signed __________________________

My child’s class is ___________

RUGBY UNION: Congratulations to the boys who participated in the Casuarina Rugby Carnival last week. The team won four of its six games! Many thanks to Mr Laybutt who coached the team and to the parents who supported and assisted on the day.

FREE TENNIS LESSONS come join the fun at Murwillumbah Tennis Club. TC Australia Qualified Coaches. 3 week programme starting Friday 16th March from 3.45-4.30pm. No equipment or experience needed. Ages 5-15 years to register or for more info contact Brandon Rowe 0400 403323 / bprowe68@yahoo.com

Murwillumbah Basketball Association is inviting all interested players aged 6 to 14 years to join this team sport that is played in a friendly, sportsman like and fun environment. Games will be played on Monday afternoons (ages 6-10 4:00-5:00pm, ages11-14 5:00-6:00pm) at the Seven Day Adventist stadium on Racecourse Road. Come and join us this Monday or call Catia McDermott on 66723631. See you there.

STS – STUDENT EXCHANGE: STS Student Exchange are seeking typical Aussie families who are busy, friendly, interested in other cultures and willing to welcome an STS exchange student into their family. Contact 1800 263 964 or www.sts-education.com.au

NETBALL: This week Murwillumbah Netball is asking all players to bring a friend to try out netball (coming on your own is good too). We will not be asking any new players to pay this week - just come and give the sport a go. It is a great team sport and it is on at the same time in the same place every week. If you are 12 or under, girls and boys are welcome to join. The courts are in Condong Street in Murwillumbah. Netta train from 9.30 and play at 10.11/12 players play at 9.30 and train with their team one afternoon a week (probably a Thursday). If you would like more information please email us on info@murwillumbahnetball.org.au or call Beth on 0408224057.

DOUGH RAISER

Purchase any traditional loaf of bread from Bakers Delight Murwillumbah, present the Dough Raiser Card, and 20c from each loaf purchased will be donated to the school. Cards were issued to families last week.