Dear Parents,

The release of the Gonski Review into Funding for Schooling on 20th February represents the first step in the Australian Government’s plan to introduce a new funding system for all Australian schools from 2014. There is no doubt that the review is significant and comprehensive, but it provides only a theoretical framework for a new funding model—key questions remain unanswered. Substantial analysis needs to be done to test the model and recommendations before a sound assessment can be made of what this means for our schools.

The government has announced a consultation phase, including analysis and testing of the proposed model, to commence immediately. This work will be used to help define a concrete funding model.

The government also acknowledged in their response to the review that families face financial pressures and do not wish to see school fees rise beyond their reach. The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) will be working hard during the consultation phase to ensure we do not end up with a model that has the potential to put pressure on school fees.

School funding reform of the magnitude suggested by the Gonski review cannot occur without adequate funding. The NCEC strongly backs the review’s call for an additional $5 billion in funding for all schools—this represents less than one half of 1% of Australia’s gross domestic product (GDP)—and has called on government’s to commit to increased funding sooner rather than later.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

KEY MESSAGES ON CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FROM 2014
1. The success of Australia’s education system relies on increased government support for schools in all education sectors—government and non-government.
2. One in five Australian children attends a Catholic school, and Catholic schools operate with an average of 10% less recurrent funding than government schools.
3. Government support for all Catholic school students guarantees real parental choice in education and delivers value for taxpayers.
4. It costs governments much less to educate a student in a Catholic school than it does to fund a student at a government school, because parents share the cost. This saves the Australian taxpayer $2.2 billion a year.

A full copy of the Gonski Report can be accessed from the Your School Our Future website www.schoolfunding.gov.au

I also invite you to visit www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au

Have a great week, Brian Laybutt (Principal)
SEASONS FOR GROWTH EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR 2012

Loss and grief are issues which affect all of us at some stage in our life. Learning to deal effectively with these issues is central to personal wellbeing and happiness. Unresolved grief can also affect a student’s learning. Mt St Patrick Primary is offering Seasons for Growth, which supports children who have experienced change in the family because of a death, separation or divorce. The program explores issues such as change, loss, managing feelings, coping strategies and support networks. Seasons is an eight session program which concludes with an additional “Celebration” session. (For more information the website is http://goodgrief.aust.com)

We would like to stress that personal information is not discussed during any of the sessions so please know that all is treated with respect and confidentiality. Seasons is facilitated by a companion who has received special training in the use of this program. If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons, please fill in the tear off section below and return it to the school.

Mt St Patrick Primary is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who are able to be involved. Philomena Zambelli, Seasons Co-ordinator

SEASONS FOR GROWTH EDUCATION PROGRAM 2012

I _______________ give consent for my son/daughter _______________ to attend the Seasons for Growth Education Program to be held within school hours. Following is a brief reason for this decision.

________________________________________________________

Name of Parent/Guardian: _______________________ Signed _______________________ Parent/Guardian
**CHANGE OF SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY**

At our most recent Parent Forum Meeting it was suggested by parents as to whether or not the school could re-consider its homework policy, with respect to giving and collecting student’s homework in the same week.

This was raised and discussed at the following staff meeting and was unanimously agreed upon.

Consequently:

**SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY**

Homework will be given out on Tuesday of each week and will be due on the following Monday.

This will allow all students (and Parents) the opportunity to complete homework over the weekend and will be implemented across all classes.

As per the existing policy, homework will not be given out in the first and last week of each term only.

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**KINDERGARTEN PARENTS SOCIAL EVENING**

Mt St Patrick Primary School in conjunction with the Parent Assembly would like to invite all parents of Kindergarten children to attend a social evening at the Balcony Restaurant, Murwillumbah.

The evening will provide an opportunity to mingle and socialise with other kinder parents from Mt St Patrick Primary School and in turn build and strengthen our sense of community.

**Date:** Wednesday 7th March  
**Time:** 6:30pm to approx. 8.30p.m.  
**Venue:** The Balcony Restaurant, Main St Murwillumbah  

Finger Food will be offered throughout the evening  
**RSVP:** Monday 5th March (important for catering purposes)  
**Contact:** School Office 66721821 for further details.

A donation of $5.00 pp to assist in covering costs would be appreciated

**WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE**

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**EASTER BONNET PARADE**

On Wednesday 4th April we will be holding our annual Easter Bonnet Parade for our infant students. This will be 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.

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**FAMILY BUSH DANCE NIGHT**

Our school family ‘Bush Dance’ evening will be held on:  
**FRIDAY 23rd MARCH**  
5:30 – 8:00pm  
located in School Basement & Hardcourt Area  
LIVE MUSIC – ‘Playing Possum’.  
Drinks & Barbeque available on the night  
Jumping Castle  
Dancing demonstrations by students

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**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 & STAGE 2H will be responsible for assisting the coordination of this fundraising event.
WEEK 4 AWARDS

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
KINDER M - Hannah Miller
KINDER P – Matthew Guinea
YEAR 1 D – Noah Carroll
YEAR 1 T – Tabitha Stratton
YEAR 2 D – Harry Willis
YEAR 2 P – Amber Charilaou
STAGE2C – Joseph Warne
STAGE2H- Jya Fing
STAGE2M- Sophie Bird
MS F- Madeleine Northeast
MS M- Lilli Oniper
MS S- Ena Mitchell
MS W- Katie McCarthy

MOST IMPROVED
KINDER M - Jessica Rees
KINDER P – Kaitlyn Antonelli
YEAR 1 D – Jamie Cotelli
YEAR 1 T – Renzo Walford
YEAR 2 D – Ruby Wilson
YEAR 2 P – Gabe Malcolm
STAGE2C – Hamish Purnell
STAGE2H- Clayton Porter
STAGE2M- Chloe Hillcoat
MS F- Callum Moss
MS M- Tayla Slater
MS S- Zane Zuschke
MS W- Zayne Stewart

GOOD SPORTS AWARD
INFANTS- Nara Colman
STAGE 2 - Elise Lack
MIDDLE SCHOOL- Charlie Priest

CREATIVE ARTS AWARD
INFANTS – Elizabeth Warne, Ava Price
STAGE 2 – Joseph Warne, Amelie McInerney
MIDDLE SCHOOL – Nicholas Bergamin, Tom Snellgrove
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KINDER M - Sienna Bull
KINDER P – Selam Dietrich
YEAR 1 D – Indigo Barter
YEAR 1 T – Bailee Pedlow
YEAR 2 D – Grace Wolfe
YEAR 2 P – Lucy Jones
STAGE2C – Chloe Brawley
STAGE2H- Georgia Felton
STAGE2M- Hayley Smith
MS F- Lewis Hancock
MS M- Ada Vobr
MS S- Brandon Ewing
MS W- Cooper Leslight

MOST IMPROVED

KINDER M - Ruby Trueman
KINDER P – Tynelah Alcorn-Partridge
YEAR 1 D – Wyatt Gradisnik
YEAR 1 T – Ayla Fing
YEAR 2 D – Lilly Charman
YEAR 2 P – Dempsey Hammond
STAGE2C – Jayden Woodward
STAGE2H- Cale McDonald
STAGE2M- Macauley Wells
MS F- James Houlahan
MS M- Sarah Guinea
MS S- Ashley Hazzard
MS W- Charlie Browning

GOOD SPORTS AWARD

INFANTS- James Nimmo
STAGE 2 - Corey Grossman
MIDDLE SCHOOL- Summer Clausen

CREATIVE ARTS AWARD

INFANTS – Abbie Thomas, Nicholas Shields
STAGE 2 – Matthew Colnan, Genevieve Spencer
MIDDLE SCHOOL – Abigail Stratton, Ben Champley
MATHLETICS NEWS

Each student has been given their Mathletics passwords in Stage 2 and Stage 3. Students are assigned weekly tasks by their maths teacher to complete as part of their weekly homework. Time is also allocated at school. Please let your child’s maths teacher know if you are having any difficulties accessing the site at home so we can cater for this.

WEEK COMMENCING 20th February and ending 26th February

SILVER CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO
Hayley Smith, Taleigha Garbett, Zayne Stewart, Sophie Stoneman, Montana Taylor, Sarah Guinea, Lewis Hancock

BRONZE CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO

WEEK COMMENCING 27th February and ending 5th March

SILVER CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO
Ellie Cunningham, Isabelle Woodford, Kalindi Lathouras

BRONZE CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO
Jacob Pedlow, Byron Browning, Caitlin Arthur, Felicity Guinea, Shenaii Matlock, Sylvia Mair, Teleah Lesleighter, Charlie Browning, Lewis Hancock, Milyka Sharp, Sarah Guinea, Tahlis Deale, Bailey Engler, Grace Eady, Nicholas Buchanan, Matthew Colman, Thomas Littlewood, Paris Ladlow, Areana Twohli, Aidan McDonald, Andrew Ridgway, Chandelle Nassner, Charlie Priest, Clara Withers, Montana Taylor, Zane Burke, Harrison Myler, Cecilia Ryan, Ben Champley, Katie McCarthy, Taleigha Garbett, Thomas Grinham, Zoe Gatt, Tiffany New, Alexandra Braun, Angus MacFarlane, Elise Lack, Lara Lewis, Joseph Warne, Lloyd McVeigh, Zackery Ryan

WORLD MATHS DAY WEDNESDAY 7th March

Go to www.worldmathsday.com for all the information.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS / TUTORING

On the 22nd Feb. students from Yr. 2 to Yr. 6. were given a demonstration of various instruments and a note outlining the schools Performing Arts Tuition Program (the note had instruments available, tutor contact details and costs). This program allows students to take lessons in a wide variety of instruments as well as Drama. Parents are reminded that lessons available are limited and that if you wish to pursue this opportunity you need to contact the tutor directly. If you require a note outlining the program please contact the school office.

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 will be issued to each family this week.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

A notification to all members of our school community that both Brian Laybutt and Judy Heath are registered as a Justice of the Peace and are more than willing to assist you in any matter that requires this service.
**SPORT NEWS**

**CHANGE OF DATE - Mt St Patrick Primary Classes – Athletics Carnival**

The Primary Athletics Carnival has been changed to Monday 4th June at Murwillumbah High School.

**CROSS COUNTRY:** The school Cross Country will be held on the morning of Monday 2nd April at the showgrounds. ES1 & S1 will run 400m, the primary 8yr – 10 yr 2000m and 11yr -13yr 3000m. It is important that while teachers endeavour to give opportunities for training, it is important that parents provide opportunities and incentives for their child to improve their running fitness, particularly if they are interested in qualifying for the school team to compete in the Zone Cross Country next term (primary only). Parents are most welcome to attend and if able to assist as judges, course marshalls or to provide first aide. Please complete the form if you are available to assist.

**SKILL A THON:** Sponsorship forms for the Skillathon, which will be held after the cross country, will be sent home soon. Parents are also welcome to join their child.

**NETBALL GALA DAY:** Mt St Patrick has 3 teams participating in the Netball Gala Day, and one team in the Rugby Union Challenge Day. We hope they enjoy the day, learn new skills and make new friends.

**ZONE WINTER SPORTS:** Many students trialled for the Zone Winter Sports teams last week. The convenors commented on their excellent behaviour and participation. Congratulations to the following students who qualified for the Zone teams. Drew Clark, Aidan McDonald, Jack Pritchard, Brandon Ewing, Erin Van Amstel, Clara Withers, Fianna Wilkinson, Brodie Palmer, Brock Youngblutt and Zane Stewart.

Results for the students who competed in the Diocesan Swimming Trials will be published next newsletter. Notes will be distributed for the Rugby League and Hockey Gala Days next week. It would be appreciated if notes are returned promptly to ensure all final arrangements are completed on time.

**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 ___________

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**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.

-----------------------------------------------------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: ___________________________