Dear Parents,

Last Friday you would have received some very alarming news regarding the proposed funding to Catholic Schools, by the State Government. These funding cuts, if they go ahead, will have a significant impact on your child’s education. I would like to refer you to an article received on Friday (13th September):

The funding cuts to Catholic schools outlined by Education Minister Adrian Piccoli this week appear to cut much deeper than was first thought — according to the Chairman of the Catholic Education Commission, Bishop Anthony Fisher. “On closer examination of the Government’s announcement on Tuesday, we are increasingly alarmed that the loss of revenue to non-government schools could be much greater than the $116million announced by the Government. We don’t know how the Government’s figures were arrived at but we do know that two thirds of those schools are Catholic schools,” Bishop Fisher said.

It has now become apparent that:
- There will be no allowance in State grants for inflation over the next four years, so that the value of the grants in real terms will decline each year
- There will be no allowance for increased enrolments, this means a drastic cut in State aid
- Commonwealth grants, upon which the Catholic and independent schools are even more reliant, could fall further because they are presently linked to State grants.

“While we recognize the tough financial circumstances for the State Government, we are mystified that schools have become the Government’s priority area for cuts. We also wonder where the ‘waste’ and mismanagement’ is that the State Government seems to think we can cut out of the school system.”

“The bottom line will be higher fee pressures on struggling families or staff and curriculum reductions or both. That spells real pain for families, for school communities and ultimately reduced opportunity for our children. Even after any freeze is over it will take years to restore the financial health of Catholic schools.”

In light of the recently released Gonski report that strongly recommended both Federal and State Governments drastically increase funding to schools within all sectors, this “freeze” of funds, which in reality is a reduction of funding, seems to show little regard or understanding of the complexities that schools are faced with in attempting to deliver an education that meets the demands and needs of students within the 21st century!!!

I strongly encourage all parents to contact your local member and express your concerns in relation to the education of YOUR child!! Geoff Provest—Tweed Heads (07 5523 4816), Thomas George—Lismore (6621 3624)

Many thanks,       Brian Laybutt (PRINCIPAL)
**VIRTUE OF THE WEEK – FLEXIBILITY**

**What is Flexibility?**

Flexibility is being open to the need for change. It means not always having to have your own way – you are open to the opinions and feelings of others. With flexibility you are willing to change your mind. If something doesn't work, you try a new way. Flexibility means getting rid of bad habits and learning new ones. Making changes doesn't mean you are losing yourself, only that you are becoming better.

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**PRAIRER SPONSORS FOR MT. ST. PATRICK HSC STUDENTS**

Prayer Sponsors have been proposed for the Year 12 students of Mt St Patrick College during their HSC exams. A prayer sponsor is someone who prays for another person at specific times with a specific intention in mind. Knowing that someone is praying for you at a difficult time is a source of great strength and consolation.

If you are interested in being a Prayer Sponsor for a Year 12 student from Mt St. Patrick College, please phone during office hours in the next few weeks (66722340), and leave your name and name of student (if specific student wanted) with Lisa or Jan at the office.

The following prayer may be of use.

Today I wish to remember _________________________ from Mount St. Patrick College.

During her/his HSC Exams, give them the strength to complete the exams to the best of her/his ability. Help them to remain calm and to think and write clearly so that they remember the things which they have learned and studied.

Give them the opportunity to show what they know and to have acceptance of her/his efforts after the exam. Fire up in them the determination of St. Paul who ran the good race till the end and who proclaimed 'If God is for us who can be against”.

We pray this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.
**SCHOOL NEWS**

**BPAY:** Earlier this year an option of BPAY was given to families for the easy payment of accounts. It has come to our attention that some families who have received invoices for other services e.g. advertising in the Newsletter as well as a separate invoice for school fees. Some people when making a payment by BPAY, have inadvertently used the wrong ‘reference number’ when making their payments. This causes quite a deal of confusion and long time to rectify. It would be appreciated if when making your payments by BPAY that you check the reference number you have in your system to make sure it is the correct one for the account you are paying.

**OUTSTANDING FEES:** Term 3 is drawing to a close and school fee accounts need to be finalised. If you have made arrangements with Admin Staff, to extend your payments until the end of the 2012 school year that arrangement is still in place. If however you have not made any arrangements to extend your fee payments, please contact us as soon as possible.

**MEDICATION:** Over the last few weeks there have been several students who have been found to have medication eg: cold and flu tablets, pain killers etc., in their pockets. Our School Policy on the administering of medication states that, ‘Medication needs to be delivered to the office together with a permission note from the parent, giving the Admin Staff permission to administer this on your behalf.’ If it is a prescribed medication, it will need to be in the prescription packet and a permission note, stating what the medication is, the amount you wish administered and the time to be administered.

*Under no circumstances is any student permitted to carry any medication on them, have it in their bag or desk.* This will avoid the risk of it getting lost and it falling into any smaller child’s hands. It would be appreciated if all parents/guardians could be diligent in this matter.

**FATHER / SON CAMP**

Earliest Term 4 we will be conducting our annual Father / Son overnight camp. The camp will be held on **Saturday 20th October** (Term 4—End of Week 2) at 2954 Kyogle Rd, Kunghur.

Although there is no restrictions as to the age of the boys attending they **must** however attend Mt St Patrick Primary School. The cost of the overnight camp will be $10 per person ($25 for three or more). Families will need to bring a tent, sleeping gear, food/drink, knives /forks etc. Basically enough to get you through two meals and one night!!!!

**MATHLETICS**

Week Commencing 3rd to 9th September

*Silver Certificates*
- Jai Kussrow, Coby Lewis, Lewis Hancock, Connor Pearson, Evie Falkner

*Bronze Certificates*

**ICAS - ENGLISH ASSESSMENT**

Congratulations to those students whose achievements were outstanding and were rewarded with Certificates of Credit, Distinction & High Distinction for the ICAS English assessment.

**HIGH DISTINCTION** (Top 1% of participants in NSW)
- Keeley Louise Dickinson

**DISTINCTION** (Top 10% of participants in NSW)
- Elanora Cunningham, Webb Lillis, David Macartney, Sylvia Mair, Lucas Pearson, Anthea Warne, Genevieve Spencer & Corey Grossman

**CREDIT** (Next 25% of participants in NSW)

**TERM 4 ASSEMBLIES**

- **Wk 1—12th Oct** NO ASSEMBLY
- **Wk 2—19th Oct** Yr 1 D
- **Wk 3—26th Oct** School Band
- **Wk 4—2nd Nov** GRANDPARENTS DAY
- **Wk 5—9th Nov **ST 2 M
- **Wk 6—16th Nov** Yr 2P
- **Wk 7—23rd Nov** Yr 2 D
- **Wk 8—30th Nov** School Band / Choir
WEEK 8 AWARDS

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KINDER M - Lilly Wolfe
KINDER P – Harrison Bugg
YEAR 1 D – Cooper Kennedy
YEAR 1 T – Ayla Fing
YEAR 2D - Harry Willis
YEAR 2 P – Angus Ward
STAGE 2C- Olivia Flannery
STAGE2H- Matilda Nimmo
STAGE2M- Connor Foreman-Keenan
MS F- Charlie Priest
MS S- Chandelle Nassner
MS W- Thomas Mumford

MOST IMPROVED

KINDER M - Lachlan van Amstel
KINDER P – Selam Dietrich
YEAR 1 D – Nathan Pryke
YEAR 1 T - Mason McInerney
YEAR 2 D – Ruby Wilson
YEAR 2 P – Christian Lollback
STAGE2C – Wraith Dare
STAGE2H- Tommy Littlewood
STAGE2M- Sophie Bird
MS F- Lewis Hancock
MS M- Cooper Hardy
MS S- Sarah Littlewood
MS W— Fianna Wilkinson

GOOD SPORTS AWARD

INFANTS- Ebony Northeast
STAGE 2 - Tiffany New
MIDDLE SCHOOL– Georgia Buch

CREATIVE ARTS AWARD

INFANTS –Hannah Trembath, Keirsten Roach
STAGE 2– Zoe Gatt, Leila Parnaby
MIDDLE SCHOOL – Isaac Bergamin Jada Langan Keyte

TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Lillyan Charman, Connor Foreman-Keenan, Harrison Myler

PRINCIPAL AWARD

1D: Elizabeth Warne, Noah Carroll
1T: Neo Willis
2P: Amber Charilaou
ST2C: Matteo McDermott, Kiara McCarthy
ST2H: Olivia Newell, Caleigh Kennedy
ST2 M: Codie Chung, Madeleine Hill
MS-F: Thaine Foreman Keenan
MS-S: Isabella Davis
MS-W: Anthea Warne, Max Bird, Callum Baker
**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

**KINDER M** - Bryce Wilson  
**KINDER P** - Nara Coleman  
**YEAR 1 D** - Sienna Smith  
**YEAR 1 T** - Kianna McCabe  
**YEAR 2 D** - Riley Bull  
**YEAR 2 P** - Charli Miller-Smylie  
**STAGE 2C** - Wren Phelan  
**STAGE 2H** - William Townsend  
**STAGE 2M** - Eden Davison  
**MS F** - Skye Engler  
**MS M** - Coby Lewis  
**MS S** - Summer Clausen  
**MS W** - Charlie Browning

**MOST IMPROVED**

**KINDER M** - Sharde Darragh  
**KINDER P** - Kai Mumford  
**YEAR 1 D** - Kyan Rech  
**YEAR 1 T** - Jack Devoy  
**YEAR 2 D** - Lilly Charman  
**YEAR 2 P** - Malachy Wilkinson  
**STAGE 2C** - Ivy Morton-Rowthorne  
**STAGE 2H** - Fletcher Condon  
**STAGE 2M** - Codie Chung  
**MS F** - Ellie Cunningham  
**MS M** - Ada Vobr  
**MS S** - Angus Stratton  
**MS W** - Cassidy Baker

**GOOD SPORTS AWARD**

**INFANTS** - Cormack Flannery  
**STAGE 2** - Jye Kane  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL** - Ena Mitchell

**CREATIVE ARTS AWARD**

**INFANTS** - Enya McCarthy  
**STAGE 2** - Chloe Brawley  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL** - Lucas Pearson

**TECHNOLOGY AWARD**

Bailee Pedlow, Olivia Flannery, Emerald Haglund

**PRINCIPAL AWARD**

KM: Ava Price  
KP: Logan McGilvery, Kai Mumford, Izaac O'Keefe, Enya McCarthy, Maya Sutton  
2P: Gabe Malcolm, Malachy Wilkinson  
St2H: Tommy Littlewood, Josef Leslight, Cale McDonald, Clayton Porter  
St2M: Anna Smith, Connor Pearson  
MSF: Isabelle Woodford  
MSS: Jackson Rohweder  
MSW: Erin Van Amstel, Andrew Ridgway, Aidan McDonald
MIDDLE SCHOOL ART GALLERY VISIT 29th August 2012

Look! The art of Australian picture books today, is a touring exhibition of original artworks from Australia’s most accomplished children’s book illustrators that will be on display at the Tweed River Art Gallery from 17 August - 30 September 2012. Middle school had a great opportunity to view this exhibition last week. Hope you enjoy our photos and reading some of our responses to illustrations we saw!

THE LOST THING
By Shaun Tan

The image looks very isolated and desolate, as if to be abandoned and forgotten. There are papers flying in the wind, scattered and littered. The sky is a damming shade of grey, and the one thing along the skyline is a brave statue, as if to point the way to freedom, out of this ghost town.
The streets and roads are strange winding junctions, and the street lamps taking on the likeness of scythes. There is outer-worldliness to the image, with an alien like six legged contraption shuffling along the street, a mysterious vapour rising from the tall slender funnel in the roof. It takes the place of a winged, six-legged red teapot standing on the sidewalk.
It’s all rather mysterious, and the picture is simply alienated, stretching further the title – ‘THE LOST THING’.

One book illustration we saw was from ‘Beneath The Surface,’ written by Gary Crew. The illustrations were by Steven Woolman. The illustrations were jumping out at you saying, ‘This is the best book ever!’

What’s beneath the surface you ask?
I do not know!

Max Bird

The first thing that caught my attention was the surreal lush green landscape that was a work of art in itself. The vibrant rolling green hills gave the picturesque landscape an immense sense of beauty. A vivid assortment of trees were scattered randomly around the astounding image. Mountains lined the distant horizon with a luminous clear river winding its way through the jaw dropping scene.

Soon I found myself immersed in the wide variety of artworks, mesmerized by the dynamic displays. For the first few minutes my eyes didn’t rest on one single painting for a second as I absorbed the brilliance and talent that went in to making the illustrations. When my gaze finally did settle, I stopped to stare at ‘The Rabbits’ by Shaun Tan. The first thing I noticed about the startling image was a dark foreboding ship anchored at a gloomy beach, its bow towering over the malevolent scene. Further up from the murky depths of the shore, rabbits marched in an orderly formation dressed in uniforms coloured blood-red and blue that gave them an overpowering sense of dominance and superiority. The vile army seem as if its intentions were to storm out of the greyed canvas and fire on everything in sight with their long ominous rifles. At a glance, I see that this picture portrays a true understanding of the white settlers and what it would have been like for the native Australians.

– Lucus Pearson

Interactive activities were also available to try!

“We went outside to start our landscape pictures. It was the most amazing sight. I was speechless!” - Cooper Leslight

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– Lucus Pearson

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SPORT NEWS

POLDING ATHLETICS
Congratulations to our junior boys relay team 7th overall and the senior girls relay team for placing 3rd. The girls have qualified for the state athletics next term. It was a wonderful experience for them all, many thanks to all those parents who attended and supported our students.

GALA DAYS
Stage 2 enjoyed playing a variety of sports against St Joseph last week and ES1 and S1 are looking forward to their day tomorrow. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the Zone Gala Day for Middle School had to be cancelled.

BIRTHDAYS
Jamie Cotelli, Noah Clark, Isabela Sutton, Sophie Bird, Fianna Wilkinson, Emmett Stepto, Summer Gibbons, Jessica Rees, Charlie Toms, Kai Mumford, James Nimmo, Elsie Biles, Millie Davidson, Mahli Coyne, Archie Lamb, Ayla Fing, Hannah Trembath, Jayden Woodward, Travis Antonelli, Thomas Littlewood, Zane Patience, Jye Kane, Finn Whitney, Jada Langan-Keyte, Brayden Andrew, Shenai Matlock, Callum Baker, Cooper Leslight, Erin Van Amstel, Isaac Wallford, Aidan McDonald

SCHOOL REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT
On the 16th and 17th October a Review Panel from the Catholic Schools Office will be at Mt ST Patrick Primary School to oversee the schools Review process. To date the review process has involved Parent, Student and Parishioner surveys. These surveys were collated and reviewed by the staff at a Staff Development Day. On this day staff not only read the survey responses (presented anonymously) but they also reviewed the current schools Strategic Plan and Annual Plans, focusing on areas of attainment and areas for development. From this data the school has now developed a draft Strategic Plan that will focus on a number of goals over the next 5 years. As mentioned this document is still being drafted, once it has been completed it will be placed on the school moodle page for parental comment. Thank you to all those parents who have contributed to this very valuable process.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Murwillumbah Summer Six A Side Soccer competition with two ONLY sign on days. Sign Ons will be held at the Murwillumbah Football Clubs clubhouse at the cnr of Mooball and Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah Wednesday 19th of September between 4.00pm and 6.00pm. Competition is open to all children between the ages of 5 to 15 years.

KINGSCLIFF SWIMMING CLUB 2012/13 SEASON IS STARTING SOON!!!!! COME AND RACE WITH US, YOU RACE TIMES SO ALL RACES ARE EQUAL, IT GETS YOU FIT AND ITS LOTS OF FUN. JOIN US FOR A FREE SIGN ON SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER AT KINGSCLIFF BOWLS CLUB 9.30-12PM FREE BAREFOOT BOWLS, FREE BBQ.

SIGN ON AND RECEIVE FREE SHIRT AND SWIM CAP. CLUB NIGHTS START TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER AT 5.45. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU FOR FURTHER DETAILS CALL JULIE ON 0421696200.

"PLAYBALL" SOFTBALL A GAME FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY Tweed District Softball Association Inc. is inviting new and old members to come and register for the upcoming 2012/2013 season commencing 13th Oct. Games are played Saturdays at Piggabeen Sports Complex, Carramar Drive, Tweed Heads West - Jnr's - 10am or 12noon / Seniors - 2pm & 4pm. We cater for boys and girls from ages 6 and up with Teeball(U10) / Primary (Yrs 4,5&6) / High School (Yrs 7-10) / Seniors - Mixed. We welcome players from both NSW and QLD.

For further information contact Association Secretary, Linda on either 07 5523-2571 / 0409 27 99 34 or via e-mail: tweedsoftball@iinet.net.au

TWEED VALLEY RELAY FOR LIFE 2013 volunteer committee is looking for additional volunteers to join the committee to assist with the planning and running of the next Relay. We invite any interested person to please come along to the next meeting on Thursday 13th September at South Tweed Sports Club, 5:30pm in the Dusk Room. More information can be obtained by ringing Lynn 07 5599 2175.
Mt St Pats - After School Care and Vacation Care
Rachael De Groot – Director
Phone: 02 66744487