Dear Parents,

Last Term parents were invited to complete a number of surveys regarding different aspects of our school. These surveys/comments have been collated and will provide essential information in developing the School's next 5 year Strategic Plan. As an insert to this newsletter I have published some of the compiled information. If parents wish to read all the comments made, please go to the appropriate links on our school web page.

Following the survey results, a “think tank” meeting was held, in which 25 families (parents) were invited to attend a meeting with myself and Mr Brendan Ryan. The families were a cross section from the school; they represented new families, families that have moved from other schools, families that have had a long association with the school, families that were both active/not active within the school and families from across all classes. At this meeting parents were asked to feedback thoughts and discuss issues raised from the surveys. From the meeting, some of the main items of interest included:

- Parking / school safety
- Size of the school — in particular projected school size
- School community
- Art/Music within the school.

In upcoming newsletters I will attempt to address each of these items in light of what was said at the meeting and what the school perspective/vision is.

The “Think Tank” meeting was a first for Mt. St. Patrick Primary School and it was an extremely insightful and beneficial exchange of ideas and thoughts. As a result the school will conduct two such meetings a year, where a cross section of families (as outlined above) will be invited to attend. In addition to those invited, an open invitation will be made to anyone within the school community who would like to attend and contribute.

I would also encourage parents to actively participate in our Parent Forum meetings, held each term. These meetings provide great insight into the school, in particular regarding future planning and direction. The minutes of the meetings are available on the school web page.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school, have a great week!

Regards,

Brian Laybutt (Principal)
We celebrate the Feast of Mary MacKillop on 8th August.

In proclaiming Mary MacKillop as a saint for Australia and the whole world the Catholic Church recognises that a life of fidelity and service is still possible today.

In acclaiming Mary MacKillop, all Australians, not only those of the Catholic faith, celebrate the inspiration offered them by the life of one Australian-born woman.

In knowing Mary MacKillop we can appreciate that what it means to be a saint is to simply do the ordinary things of daily life well; do them with faith, with courage and with conviction. That is the example she set.

On the 15th August it is the Feast of the Assumption. On this day we remember when God took Mary to Glory into heaven. This Feast day is a Holy Day of Obligation when we celebrate and rejoice in the saving power of our loving God.

On this day the school will attend mass with St Joseph’s Primary School, South Murwillumbah. You are welcome to join us at The Sacred Heart Church at 12.00 for this special celebration.
LATE FOR SCHOOL / EARLY DEPARTURE
If students arrive to school after 8.50a.m. they are required to go to the Office and complete a late note (green slip). This is then brought to the class teacher and recorded in the class roll.

If a student is collected early, the parent / guardian will complete an early departure note (yellow slip) and this note will then be presented to the classroom so that details can be recorded in the class roll.

If a parent / guardian is collecting a student during the day with the intention of returning the student to school, they will need to fill in an early departure slip (yellow) and when returning back to school a late arrival slip (green).

EXTENDED ABSENCE
If the child is to be away for an extended period (3 or more days), a telephone call / or notification to the school should be made. In certain circumstances e.g. a family event for week: an Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form (B1 Form). This form is available on the school web page or school office.

GRANTING LEAVE
Principal may record up to 15 days in School Year for a student for:
- Misadventure/Unforeseen Event
- Domestic necessity
- Participation in non-school Special Event
- Attendance at Funeral
- Recognised Religious Festival or Ceremonial Occasion

More than 15 days in a school year requires an Exemption from Attendance
Principal & Director can issue an Exemption from Attendance of up to 50 days in a 12 month period. More than 50 days must go to Minister via Catholic Education Commission.

Students participating in Elite Sport or Entertainment Industry for more than 10 consecutive days need an Exemption from Attendance
Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form (B1 form) is available on the school web page or school office.

UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES
In the event of a student:
Having returned to school after an extended absence, and a written note has not been presented to the school outlining the reason for the absence the school will:
1. Send home a proforma requesting a written note
2. Contact the parent / guardian requesting same
3. At the discretion of the Principal, make contact with the School’s Liaison Officer (CSO) or relevant Child Protection Agencies.

UNIFORM POLICY
The wearing of the school uniform is compulsory and therefore non-negotiable. If your child is unable to wear their correct school uniform then a parent note is required to explain the reason. An ‘Out of Uniform’ note will be sent home if an explanation is not provided. This ‘Out of Uniform’ note is required to be signed by a parent and returned by the next school day. A withdrawal is given to the student if this does not occur. Accompanying this newsletter is an outline of our school uniform requirements for day and sport uniforms.

Information required to determine the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) for schools

PRIVACY NOTICE
This notice is from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), to advise you that ACARA has requested your child’s school to provide ACARA with information about you and your child. Your school may disclose to ACARA information such as your child’s gender, date of birth, country of birth, background language, residential address, parental occupation and parental education.

This information is disclosed to ACARA under the ACARA Act 2008 for one or both of the following purposes:
—formulating national reports consisting of aggregated data on school performance; and
—assisting government to formulate policies in relation to education matters.
ACARA will not disclose this personal information to any third party. If you do not want your school to provide this information to ACARA, please advise your school within seven (7) days of receiving this notice.
Further information about ACARA can be obtained from our website: www.acara.edu.au
**MS-WEEK 2 AWARDS**

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

- KINDER M: Summer Gibbons
- KINDER P: Izaac O'Keefe
- YEAR 1 D: Cashlin Townsend
- YEAR 1 T: Renzo Walford
- YEAR 2 D: Billy Campbell
- YEAR 2 P: Hannah Trembath
- STAGE 2C: Matteo McDermott
- STAGE 2H: Zane Patience
- STAGE 2M: Areana Twohill
- MS F: Callum Moss
- MS M: Kiara Woodward
- MS S: Harris McLean
- MS W: Cassidy Baker

**MOST IMPROVED**

- KINDER M: Emmett Stepto
- KINDER P: Abbie Thomas
- YEAR 1 D: Jamie Cotelli
- YEAR 1 T: Georgia Lollback
- YEAR 2 D: Eli Graham
- YEAR 2 P: Abbey Bevan
- STAGE 2C: Genevieve Spencer
- STAGE 2H: Caleigh Kennedy
- STAGE 2M: Connor Pearson
- MS F: Milyka Sharp
- MS M: Coby Lewis
- MS S: Nic Bergamin
- MS W: Lucas Pearson

**GOOD SPORTS AWARD**

- INFANTS: Miguel Andrew
- STAGE 2: Aidan Willis
- MIDDLE SCHOOL: Erin van Amstel

**CREATIVE ARTS AWARD**

- INFANTS: Abbey Bevan
- STAGE 2: Georgia Felton
- MIDDLE SCHOOL: Eden Folkers

**TECHNOLOGY AWARD**

- Izaac O'Keefe, Paris Ludlow
- Abigail Sutton

**PRINCIPAL AWARD**

- KM: Bryce Wilson, Lachlan van Amstel
- KP: Billy John, Tylenah Mitchell, Cailey Baker
- 1D: Michael Lack, Nathan Pryke, Sienna Smith
- St2C: Wraith Dare, Indiana Nuspanl, Zoe Gatt, Aidan Willis
- St2H: Lara Lewis, matildas Nimmo
- St2 M: Leila Parnaby, Connor Foreman-Keenan, Eden Davison, Finn Whitney, Areana Twohill.
- MS-M: Joel Antonelli, Abigail Stratton, Bailey Engler
WEEK 3 AWARDS

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KINDER M - Theo Parsons
KINDER P – Cailey Baker
YEAR 1 D – Elsie Biles
YEAR 1 T – Neo Willis
YEAR 2 D – Shayah Coyne
YEAR 2 P – Lucy Jones
STAGE 2C- Siennah Nottle
STAGE2H- Tommy Littlewood
STAGE2M- Anna Smith
MS F- Fynn Campbell
MS M- Sylvia Mair
MS S- Jordan Tilsley
MS W- Zayne Stewart

MOST IMPROVED

KINDER M - Summer Gibbons
KINDER P – Enya McCarthy
YEAR 1 D – Wyatt Gradisnik
YEAR 1 T - Archie Lamb
YEAR 2 D – Hudson Bosnich
YEAR 2 P – Hannah Whitney
STAGE2C – Kobe Spry
STAGE2H- Bryson Buch
STAGE2M- Eva McDonald
MS F- Oscar Rogers
MS M- Quinn Willis
MS S- Nelson Ewing
MS W- Cooper Leslight

GOOD SPORTS AWARD

INFANTS- Spencer Leslight
STAGE 2 - Cale McDonald
MIDDLE SCHOOL– Kalindi Lathouras

CREATIVE ARTS AWARD

INFANTS –Ruby Wilson, Isabella Dusi
STAGE 2– Wren Phelan, Matilda Jones
MIDDLE SCHOOL –

David Macartney, James Houlan

TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Elsie Biles, Cale McDonald, Cooper Hardy

PRINCIPAL AWARD

KM: Lincoln Newell
KP: Alira Heterick
1D: Wyatt Gradisnik, Jamie Cotelli, James Nimmo, Noah Smith
1T: Renzo Walford
2D: Hudson Bosnich, Tyler Hanrahan, Isabella Sutton
ST2H: Amelie McInerney, Nicholas Ratcliff, Darcy Hannah, Jya Fing
MS-F: Jada Langan-Keyte, Kalindi Lathouras, Taleigha Garbett, Tom Snellgrove
MS-W: Cecilia Ryan, Mark Jackson
BANANA FESTIVAL  Saturday 25th August

This year BIG DOG from NBN Channel 9 will be part of our school parade.

We need lots of our students to come dressed in either pyjamas or dressed as puppies!!!

So put Saturday 25th August in your diary – the Parade starts at 12 noon!!!!

Further details will be provided closer to the event.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Garden Club would like to thank all those families who supported our produce sale in Week 3. We raised $101.65. This money will help us to continue growing and expanding our gardens. We would like to send an extra special thank you to all the families who donated extra produce to help us reach such an amazing total. We will have another sale later in the term. This week we will be planting seeds for our next crops. These will include beetroot, lettuce, beans and tomatoes. Remember to look after our garden and watch it grow.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Heterick Family (Alira – KP) on the recent arrival of Carter James, born Wednesday, 1st August. We pray that Carter will have a life blessed with good health and great happiness.
SPORT NEWS

DIOCESAN ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

I was lucky to be Tweed Zone manager for the Diocesan Athletics Carnival on Friday where 23 Mt St Patrick students competed. I was impressed with the good behaviour, enthusiasm and good sportsmanship that each competitor displayed especially as the competition was extremely tough. Many competitors qualified for the finals or had PBs in their event – Harrison Smith threw a PB of over 2m in his discus! They should all be proud of their achievements as they spent many lunch times and personal times training. The relays were tremendously exciting, with Mt St Patrick winning the senior girls and junior boys and our junior girls running a commendable 4th.

Congratulations to the following students who qualified to compete in the Polding trials in September - Clara Withers – runner up senior girls with 1st relay, 2 2nds, 2 3rds and a 4th place, Brooke Saddler – runner up 11yr girls with 1st relay, 2 2nds and 3rd place wins, Isabelle Macfarlane, 1st relay, 3rd 200m, Summer Clausen 1st relay, Jye Kane 1st relay, Angus Macfarlane 1st relay, Macauley Wells 1st relay & Finn Whitney 1st relay, 3rd long jump & 100m. Several students are first reserves in various events.

CRICKET GALA DAY

60 Middle School students will participate in the Cricket Gala Day on Thursday and all the primary classes will have fun in the rugby league skills clinics next Monday.

CONGRATULATIONS—JANE MORAN

Jane Moran is a former student at Mt St Patrick Primary School and is currently representing Australia at the London Olympics as a member of the Women’s Water Polo team. The team is doing extremely well making it to the semi final stage. Many students having been sending messages of support to Jane. We wish Jane and her team much success over the remaining days of Olympic competition.

BIRTHDAYS:

Yvette Lapworth, Kendall Wells, Phoebe Sykes, Zachary Macartney, Matilda Nimmo, Nicholas Ratcliff, Areana Twohill, Neave Butler, Lilli Oniper, Alexis Sutton, Jorja Smith, Oliver Parsons, Clayton Porter, Corey Grossman, Connor Foreman-Keenan, Byron Browning, Charlie Browning

ASSEMBLIES TERM 3

(Assemblies commence at 2:15pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall)

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COMMUNITY NEWS


DAFFODIL DAY: Friday 24 August 2012 You can help us Grow Hope and beat cancer. Every day, around 300 Australians are told they have a life-threatening cancer. The Daffodil symbolises rebirth and new beginnings. Daffodil Day is an opportunity to grow hope and make a difference. You can make a difference! Cancer Council NSW would like to invite you to volunteer for Daffodil Day on Friday 24 August 2012. We have 60 sites across the Far North Coast Hours are flexible and can be within school hours

Cancer Council is Australia’s peak cancer control organisation and invests approximately $50m a year into research into the causes of cancer, prevention and improved treatments. By volunteering to sell fresh daffodils and merchandise on behalf of Cancer Council NSW, you can help raise these necessary funds and provide support for the 1 in 2 Australians affected by cancer. For more information contact Kellie Pinkerton, Cancer Council NSW - Far North Coast, Ph: 02 6627 0303 or kelliep@nswcc.org.au or visit the website www.daffodilday.com.au