Dear Parents,

I often stress the importance of the relationship between home and school. The concept of partnership and working together is well illustrated in the story of the goose.

THE GOOSE STORY

Next fall, when you see Geese heading South for the Winter, flying along in V formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way: as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in V formation the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are.

When the Head Goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs with people or with geese flying South.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What do we say when we honk from behind?

Finally, and this is important, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshots and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.

As a School Community we need to support and stand by each other.

Adapted from: Dr. Harry Clarke Noyes  ARCS NEWS, Vol. 7, No. 1, January 1992

Have a great week, Brian Laybutt (Principal)
VIRTUE OF THE WEEK - FORGIVENESS

Everyone makes mistakes. Being forgiving is overlooking the mistakes others make and loving them just as much as before. Forgiving does not mean that all of a sudden you do not feel hurt or that the wrong choice someone made was right. It means that you find it in your heart to give the person another chance.

You can even forgive yourself. You sometimes do things that you are sorry for and wish you hadn’t done. Forgive yourself means to stop punishing yourself or feeling hopeless because you did something wrong. It is moving ahead, ready to do things differently, with compassion for yourself and faith that you can change.

LITURGICAL SEASON

We have been in the season of Ordinary time. Ordinary time is the name given to the thirty-three weeks in the course of the year outside of the seasons of Lent/Triduum/Easter and Advent/Christmas. During ordinary time, no particular moment or aspect of the Christian mystery is celebrated or commemorated. The colour used in Ordinary time is green. Green is the colour of growth and reminds people of hope, life and faithfulness.

ASH WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It is a special time for us to try a little harder to become more like Jesus. By receiving the ashes we show a desire to turn away from sin and to follow the Gospel. It is a day to reflect on God’s goodness and his willingness to love and forgive us always.

The forty days of Lent prepares us for the great feast of Easter. In Lent the Liturgical colour is purple and the symbol is the cross. On Wednesday we receive the ashes on our forehead as a reminder of the season we are now in. You are welcome to join Mt St Patrick Primary School on Wednesday 22nd February at 11.30am at the Sacred Heart Church for the special liturgy which the whole school will attend.

MISSION & VALUES FACILITATOR _ Mrs Philomena Zambelli

Rosary Beading

Each Monday in the new basement the students have the opportunity to make rosary beads for people in underdeveloped countries like Tanzania and some Pacific Island nations. The beads and strings are provided by The Legion Of Mary in our parish. They also package the beads and pay the postage to wherever the completed rosary beads are sent. There are a number of generous students who devote their play time to this cause. We are always looking for new beaders to join our happy group.
SCHOOL NEWS

SECURITY FENCING
Our school locks all external gates to Mooball St. from 8.50a.m. through to 3.00p.m. This will mean entry into the school can only be made through the School Office. (Reminder: All visitors to the school MUST sign in). The bottom gates (near the basement area) will be opened at 3.00p.m. allowing parents to come onto the school grounds and wait for their children.

QUEENSLAND ROAD
A number of parents have instructed their children to walk to Queensland Road and wait for them. This poses a number of potential problems. Firstly the children are unsupervised, the school does not know if the children actually got picked up, if a parent has an incident whereby they are held up, these children may wait for an unknown period of time (as happened last week!). As a result no child may leave the school grounds unless accompanied by a parent / carer.

For your child’s safety I would ask all parents to respect this decision.

ADMINISTRATION AREA IN THE MORNING
Parents please note that the Administration Area in the morning before classes commence is not an entrance for students to make their way to their classroom or the playground. The Admin area is only for those who require assistance from Office staff.

SCHOOL FEES ACCOUNTS
School Fee Accounts will be sent home tomorrow. As mentioned in previous communications, Resource Fees are due for payment by 29th February. There are several methods available for the payment of fees, eftpos at the office or by telephone using credit card, direct debit or internet banking. BPAY facilities are now available to pay monies through your internet banking software.

On your fee statement you will note in the top right corner, under the date, a BPAY symbol. In the box next to this symbol is the school’s Biller Code and a Reference Code. The Reference Code is what identifies who is paying the money to the school. When using the BPAY option with your bank software, you MUST use the Biller Code of the school and your Reference Number. This is most important. There is a $50.00 minimum amount set for the use of BPAY. There is no charge to the end user for this service.

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.

PARENT FORUM
On Monday the 13th Feb. the school held its first Parent Forum Meeting for the year. At this meeting the new office bearers were elected for 2012.

Congratulations is extended to:
CHAIRPERSON – Nikki Clarke
SECRETARY – Clare Price
TREASURER – Kathryn Leslight
ASSISTANT TREASURER – Gillian Taylor
PARENT ASSEMBLY REPS: Sarah Wilkinson & Emma Butler

Our sincere thanks is extended to the Parent Forum Executive of 2011: Sarah Guniea, Erica Wells and our Parent Assembly reps Claire Deal & Mel Rainger. Your hard work and commitment to the school is greatly appreciated.

Please Note:
• Parent Contact Lists are being finalised and will hopefully be distributed this week.
• Parent Reps will also be notified on this list.

Minutes of our meetings are available on the school Web Page
WEEK 3 AWARDS

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
KINDER M - Ava Price
KINDER P – Billy John
YEAR 1 D – Alexis Sutton
YEAR 1 T – Finn Byrnes
YEAR 2 D – Darcy Toms
YEAR 2 P – Charlie Gibbons
STAGE2C – Tiffany New
STAGE2H- Amelie McInerney
STAGE2M- Lloyd McVeigh
MS F- Oscar Rogers
MS M- Shennai Matlock
MS S- Summer Clausen
MS W- Courtney Slater

MOST IMPROVED
KINDER M - Lachlan Van Amstel
KINDER P – Alira Heterick
YEAR 1 D – Noah Smith
YEAR 1 T – Archie Lamb
YEAR 2 D – Billy Campbell
YEAR 2 P – Angie Gatt
STAGE2C – Matteo McDermott
STAGE2H- Matthew Colnan
STAGE2M- Vance Madden
MS F- Skye Engler
MS M- Matthew Mullington
MS S- Jesse Gatt
MS W- Thomas Mumford

GOOD SPORTS AWARD
INFANTS- Sienna Bull
STAGE 2 - Genevieve Spencer
MIDDLE SCHOOL- Thaine Foreman-Keenan

CREATIVE ARTS AWARD
INFANTS – Elizabeth Warne, Lucy Jones
STAGE 2 – Tiffany New, Ben Snellgrove
MIDDLE SCHOOL – Teleah Lesleigher, Jacob Pedlow
The Zone swimming carnival saw everything from heat, torrential rain and lightning. As convenor I would like to congratulate our team on their behaviour and co-operation in the adverse conditions. Many parents commented on the good sportsmanship and co-operation of our team. Thank you once again to the wonderful parent helpers, Mrs Cantrill as team manager and our house captains, Summer, Nic and Thaine who were my runners. Luckily we were able to complete the carnival with Mt St Patrick finishing third.

13 students will compete in the Diocesan Carnival on 6th March, including our senior girl (1st) and senior boy (2nd) relays.

Special congratulations to Anthea Warne who broke 3 zone records and was the 11yr champion. Congratulations also to Grace Eady (2nd & 3rd), Nicholas Ratcliff (3rd) Joseph Warne (2 x 1st, 2nd), Hayley Smith (3rd), Cecilia Ryan (2 x 1st & 3rd), Angus Stratton (2 x 2nd), Brodie Palmer (3rd), Clara Withers (3rd), Madelene Northeast (1st & 2nd), Ben Champley, Coby Lewis, & Brock Youngblutt 2nd relay.

Notes and information for the Zone Winter Sports Trials which will be held next week, will be sent home to the participating students. I wish them all the best in their endeavours to be selected for the Zone teams.

Mt St Patrick will be participating in several Gala Days in March. Permission notes were sent home last week and teams will be formed this week. Once final information has been forwarded to the school then consent forms will be sent home.

Mt St Patrick Primary
Zone Swimming Squad 2011

POLDING SELECTIONS!
Congratulations is extended to Anthea Warne (softball) and Webb Lillis (cricket) for being selected in the Polding team for the respective sports.

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 so we can cater for this.

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 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

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

SEASONS FOR GROWTH EDUCATION PROGRAM 2011

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
 Murwillumbah Netball is a friendly Association. We play at the same place, at the same time every week. We strive to keep our fees low and our love of sport high. Please come and sign up to play in 2012. Sign on is at the courts: Condong Street Murwillumbah. Sign up in a team or sign up and we will try to find you a team. Come and umpire or coach or be on the committee. Everyone welcome.

If you sign up, there is a coaching day where we help coaches, warm up players for the season and sort teams on the 17th of March 9 - 12. Trial games start on the 24th March. We play through to the September school holidays. 

If you have any queries please contact us at infor@murwillumbahnetball.org.au or email scceaust@scce.com.au.

**PARENT REPS SCHOOL EVENTS RESPONSIBILITIES**

The recent Parish Schools Forum meeting allowed for Class Parent Representatives to select which of the major school events they will coordinate for the year. The list below outlines the school event and class Parent Reps responsible:

- **Bush Dance** MS M & STAGE 2H
- **Skill A Thon** MS S
- **Mother’s Day** YEAR 2P
- **Infants Disco** YEAR 1T
- **Primary Disco** STAGE 2M
- **Talent Quest** KINDER M
- **Father’s Day** YEAR 1D
- **Grandparents Day** YEAR 2D
- **Raffle Fundraiser** MS F
- **Golf Day** KINDER P
- **World Teachers Day** MS W
- **Murwillumbah Show – School Display Set up** STAGE2C

**BIRTHDAYS**

Alira Heterick, Layla Anning, Bronte Simpson-Hay, Jya Fing, Vance Madden, Jai Kussrow, Daniela Ouwerling.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

**TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER**

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2012 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover - all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our little booklets of international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY
The wearing of the school uniform is compulsory and therefore non-negotiable.

DAY UNIFORM - GIRLS

Short sleeved blue striped blouse with navy collar and contrast navy trim on sleeves.
Concealed centre front opening.
Navy skirt with 4 knife pleats back and front, elastic waistband, side zippered pocket.
Navy socks with 2 sky blue bands - either long or short.
Shoes - black lace-up leather school shoes or leather look-alike school shoes, definitely not suede / black sports shoes. Shoes above the ankle are not permitted.
Navy V-neck zippered jacket or fleecy lined pullover (with school crest).
Navy tights, stockings or leggings may be worn in winter. (Tracksuit pants are not part of the girl's day uniform).

DAY UNIFORM - BOYS

Sky blue 'Midford' style short sleeved shirt.
Navy long leg wash'n wear shorts i.e. Stubbies Style or Tab Shorts. Not Cargo Shorts.
Navy socks with 2 sky blue bands - either long or short.
Shoes - black lace-up leather school shoes or leather look alike school shoes, definitely not suede / black sports shoes. Shoes above the ankle are not permitted.
Navy V-neck zippered jacket or fleecy lined pullover (with school crest).
Navy long pants may be worn during the colder months.

SPORTS UNIFORM - GIRLS

Navy dropped waist skirt with 3 box pleats, elasticised waistband at back and zippered side pocket. Culotte option available.
White special cushion foot sports socks with 1 navy and 1 pale blue striped band for children in Kindergarten to Year 6 inclusive.
Navy cotton sport briefs.
Predominantly white sport shoes.
Navy tracksuits may be worn in Terms 2 and 3, but not under girl’s skirts.
Sports skirts should be in their bag ready to change for Sport or P.E. Track pants are not to be worn as a replacement for the skirt.

SPORTS UNIFORM – BOYS

Navy long leg 'Rugger' shorts or 'Stubbies' or navy Rugby League Football shorts. Not Cargo Shorts.
White special cushion foot sports socks with 1 navy and 1 pale blue striped band for children in Kindergarten and Year 6 inclusive.
Predominantly white sport shoes.
Navy Track suits may be worn in Terms 2 and 3, but shorts should be worn underneath. Track pants are not to be worn without their matching top.

HATS

Legionnaire hats, navy with school crest, must be worn whilst outside.
No other colour or style hat is acceptable.
Our school has a "No hat - No play" rule as part of our Sun-Safe Policy.
School hats are sold ONLY at the school. All other items are available from local suppliers.
**Jutta Straub & Ulrich Koerner**
Lot 3 Wallaroo Drive, Burringbar NSW 2483
Phone 02 6677 1167 Fax 02 6677 1867
Email: plantasy@westnet.com.au

**SUPPLIER OF:**
- Sands
- Aggregates
- Roadbase
- Topsoil
- Lime
M: 0412013359
190 Byangum Rd

**DGP DANIEL GRAY PLUMBING**
0418 751 765

**Lee & Peter Smith**
loadesbutchery@hotmail.com
www.loadesbutchery.com

**The Key to all your Real Estate needs!**
Ph: 02 6672 1007
Fax: 02 6672 1021
PO Box 14
65 Murwillumbah Street
Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Email: smithp.son@optusnet.com.au

**Finance Now**
Finance & Property Specialists
Home Loans - Home Budgeting - Investment
Do you need some help with your mortgage or finding a home loan?
Call Keith Fletcher on 0414 223 986
Your information is will be kept strictly confidential CRN399755

**Mt St Pats - After School Care and Vacation Care**
Rachael De Groot – Director
Phone: 02 6674 4487
Mobile: 0433 691 316
Email: oshap@madsports.com.au
Web: www.madsports.com.au

**The Balcony Restaurant**
Aaron Wilkinson
Owner / Chef
P 02 6672 1078
Upstairs
2 / 68-70 Main Street
Murwillumbah NSW 2484
(across the road from the courthouse)

**West end Studio**
- Clothing alterations
- Same day jobs
- Personal fitting or drop & pick up
- Dress making, costumes
- School uniform alteration
Ph: 0430 160 428