Dear Parents,

Thank you to all those parents who attended our recently conducted Parent Teacher meetings. I trust that you found the meetings informative and that it gave you an insight into the dynamics of your child’s class.

As we enter Week 4 of the first term there is a great deal happening in the school. This includes the PPP parenting program commencing tonight—6.00p.m. in the school library—all parents are very welcome to attend these very informative workshops. On Sunday (weather permitting) we have our Kinder, Yr 1 and 2 Family Picnic Day at Hastings Point. On the 1st March a School Disco will be held at the school—see details below.

In the upcoming weeks Parent / Teacher interviews will be conducted again I strongly encourage all parents to make an appointment to speak to your child’s teacher about their progress to date.

Congratulations to our School Swimming Squad who won the Zone Championship on Monday—a great team effort—well done to all who took part and to those parents who were able to come along and support the school!

Our Kindergarten rooms are all but completed, with the Kinder teachers moving into the rooms this week. It is anticipated that the students will commence classes in these rooms on Monday 25th Feb.

It is wonderful to see the students so engaged in their learning. Many thanks for your encouragement and ongoing support.

Regards,

Brian Laybutt
PRINCIPAL

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 3 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 seminars will be offered at Mt St Patrick PS from the 19th Feb commencing at 6.00p.m. Contact the school Office for further details.

SCHOOL DISCO
KINDER—Yr 6
SCHOOL BASEMENT AREA
FRIDAY 1st MARCH: 6p.m.—8p.m.
Barbeque / Drinks available on the night
NO COST!!!!
**SACRED HEART PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2013**

**FIRST RECONCILIATION**
- Parent Meeting – Tuesday 19th February
- Retreat Day – Thursday 21st March
- II Rite of Reconciliation – Thursday 21st March

**FIRST EUCHARIST**
- Parent Meeting – Tuesday 8th May
- Inscription Ceremony – (weekend of 11th & 12th May)
- Retreat Day – Thursday 30th May
- Sacrament of First Eucharist – Sunday 2nd June

**CONFIRMATION**
- Parent Meeting – Tuesday 30th July
- Inscription Ceremony – TBA
- Retreat Day – Tuesday 27th August
- Sacrament of Confirmation – Tuesday 27th August

Parents of any new students who wish for their child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation please contact Mrs Dixon at the school.

**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. Forgiving yourself means to stop punishing yourself or feeling hopeless because you did something wrong.

**OUR SCHOOL PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the great gift of life. We thank you for the opportunity to live and grow in a free country. Thank you for the blessings that you give to Mt St Patrick Primary. Help us to appreciate your love which is given freely to each one of us. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Our school prayer is read at Monday morning assembly & Friday afternoon assembly

**Newsletter week 4, term 1, 2013**

On the 5th February Mini-Vinnies held their first meeting for 2013. The Year 5 students who came along were told all about what we do and our responsibilities for this year. We decided who the new leaders will be:


New members will be commissioned at the noon Mass on Friday 22nd March.

**ST PATRICK’S DAY PARISH CONCERT**

**THURSDAY 14TH MARCH**

**CATHOLIC HALL**

**COMMENCING @ 7.30p.m.**

**MT ST PATRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIR PERFORMING**

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**Mass Times for Stage masses**

The dates for these special celebrations are:-
- MS Mass– Friday 22nd February
- Stage 1– Friday 1st March
- Stage 2– Friday 8th March

You are welcome to join us for these stage masses during the school term at 12.00 in the Sacred Heart Church.

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**WITH HEART & PRIDE “TIME”**

Throughout this year the Children from Year 1 to Year 6 are going to be participating in a series of workshops based on the programmes known as “Making Jesus Real” and the “Peer Support Program”.

The “HEART & PRIDE TIME” will be lead by the Middle School students and held every third Friday. The children will be involved in small group activities throughout the term looking at various values and attitudes central to our school. The first session is based on school leadership and class spirit. Each workshop will run for approx. 25 min.
PARENT FORUM

On Monday the 11th Feb. the school held its first Parent Forum Meeting for the year. At this meeting the new office bearers were elected for 2013.

Congratulations is extended to:

CHAIRPERSON – Clare Price
SECRETARY – Jan Cronly
TREASURER – Kathryn Leslight
ASSISTANT TREASURER – Leah Sheldon

PARENT ASSEMBLY REPS:
Sarah Wilkinson, Emma Butler & Nikki Clark

Our sincere thanks is extended to the Parent Forum Executive of 2012: especially Nikki Clark (Chairperson) & Gillian Taylor (Assistant Treasurer). Your hard work and commitment to the school is greatly appreciated.

Please Note:
Minutes of our meetings are available on the school Web Page

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:

- Infants Picnic Day KINDER L
- Disco YEAR 2N & 2P
- Skill A Thon STAGE 2H
- Mother's Day MS F
- Bush Dance MS P & STAGE 2P
- Monster Raffle MS S
- Talent Quest YEAR 1D
- Father's Day STAGE 2D
- Grandparents Day MS M & YEAR 1T
- World Teachers Day YEAR 1D
- Murwillumbah Show KINDER M
- Disco YEAR 2N & 2P

A Committee was also set to organise a Parent Function for Term 3. The Committee includes: Nikki Clark, Maria McCabe, Kathryn Leslight, Karen Anderson & Gillian Taylor

INFANT CLASSES FAMILY PICNIC DAYS

@ HASTINGS POINT
SUNDAY 24th FEBRUARY
FROM 11.30a.m.

The park has:
- Age appropriate play equipment for the children
- Barbeque facilities
- Undercover seated areas
- Flat water area for swimming

Bring a picnic lunch or food for the barbeque, drinks etc., some seating is available however fold up chairs / blanket to sit on would be advisable. Stay for an hour or stay for the whole day, it is up to you, meet new friends or reacquaint yourself with old ones! I am sure a great day will be had by all.

For further information, contact the school office.

SCHOOL FEES ACCOUNTS

School Fee Accounts will be sent home next week. Resource Fees are due for payment by 28th 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.

SCHOOL OPEN DAY
FRIDAY 15th MARCH
ALL WELCOME
WEEK 3 AWARDS

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KM — Sebastian Calvino
KL — Hunter Leslight
1D — Cailey Baker
1T — Sienna Reid
2N — Cooper Shields
2P — Tabitha Stratton
St2D — Evie Falkner
St2H — Areana Twohill
St2M — Bronte McLean
St2P — Olivia Flannery
MSF — Angus Stratton
MSM — Chloe Donald
MSS — Isaac Walford
MSP — Reece Walton

MOST IMPROVED

KM — Cale Graham
KL — Alex Dowling
1D — Charlie Toms
1T — Olivia Adams
2N — Elsie Biles
2P — Neo Willis
St2D — Keirsten Roach
St2H — Nicholas Buchanan
St2M — Ella Buch
St2P — Jack Gracie
MSF — Will Murnane
MSM — Tayla Slater
MSS — Fletcher Condon
MSP — Bryson Buch

GOOD SPORTS AWARD

INFANTS — Ruby Trueman
STAGE 2 — Lloyd Mcveigh
MIDDLE SCHOOL — Tom Mumford

TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Finn Walsh,
Nicholas Ratcliff
Connor Pearson

CREATIVE ARTS AWARD

Jarrah Fitzpatrick
Tiffany New
Alex Flannery

BIRTHDAYS (from February 11th - February 24th 2013)

Ella Ewing, Konnor Wheeler, Ruby Trueman, Alira Heterick, Eva McDonald, Jya Fing, Vance Madden, Daniela Ouwerling, Zali Zuschke, Brock Youngblutt.
BEGINNING SCHOOL MASS
On Friday 8th Feb. the school celebrated the beginning of the school year with a Mass. At the conclusion of our Mass our school leaders were inducted into the school. Pictured above are our School Captains, Sports Captains and School Representative Council (SRC) members for 2013. We are sure all students will carry out their duties with “Heart & Pride”.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS: Ben Champley & Anthea Warne
VICE CAPTAINS: Montana Taylor & Cooper Leslight

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS
Throughout the course of the school year teachers are often presented with the opportunity of attending Professional Development Days. Attendance at these days is sometimes mandatory (as determined by the Catholic Schools Office) while others is a school based decision. Recently we have a number of staff attending PD days, mostly mandatory. These days provide valuable information for the teachers which can be implemented within classrooms and across the school. Unfortunately most of the days are offered at the beginning of the year which coincides with students settling into their class. The school is very conscious of this and wherever possible we attempt to employ the same teachers so that the continuity of the class be maintained. On the occasion that the class teacher is attending a PD workshop class work is set so that the continuity of the students learning is not interrupted. I thank you for your understanding in this matter!
Assemblies: Term 1

Week 4 Feb 22nd - Year 2N
Week 5 Mar 1st - Year 1T
Week 6 Mar 8th - Year 2P
Week 7 Mar 15th - Stage 2M
Week 8 Mar 22nd - St Patrick Day Presentation

WELCOME KINDERGARTEN 2013

EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE IN 2013 AND IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME

In June-July students from over 20 countries around the world will be arriving in Australia to study at local high schools for 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist for families to act as a host family, in a volunteer capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide international students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or our student exchange programs out of Australia Call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300 135 331 or visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student

PCYC Junior Disco ages 7-12 years, Friday 15th Feb 6.30 – 8.30 pm great prizes to be won, cool music only $5 ph 5599 1714 PCYC activities – basketball camps, dance classes, after school care, martial arts, boxing & more ph 5599 1714. Many thanks Mark Madden Club Manager

Murwillumbah Hockey Club Sign On: Saturday 9th, 16th and 23rd of February at Brothers Leagues Club 1:00pm to 4:00pm Ages 5 and up Contact Matt Palmer 0410 031 802.

Total Football Academy will be running an after School soccer program in Term 1 2013 at Mt St Patrick’s Primary School. Registration forms will be distributed during a free demonstration. During the 6 week program games will be played inside an inflatable soccer field, which captures the imagination of students, giving them a great soccer experience. Training will take place inside a skills square focusing on different skills each week, such as dribbling, turning and shooting. Start date: Monday 18th February, Kinder - Year 4, 3:25pm - 4:25pm. Sign up online at www.totalfootballacademy.com.au or call Andy Robinson on 0413 888 643.

SURFSIDE BUS LINES: MANAGING QUERIES REGARDING SCHOOL BUS PASSES AND TIMETABLES. Queries regarding eligibility and application forms are available at all school offices. For queries about the issuing of a bus pass, timetabling, or route information please refer to Surfside Buslines at www.surfside.com.au then click on Schools Services tab – if you still need further information telephone 07 5571 6555, are staff are endeavouring to respond to your enquiry within 48 hours.
Polding Summer Sport Trials  Congratulations to Anthea Warne (softball) and Montana Taylor (tennis) for their selection in the Polding softball and tennis teams to compete in the PSSA trials later this year.

Congratulations also to Ena Mitchell, Jacob Pedlow (tennis) and Joseph Warne (softball) for their participation in the trials. Although they weren’t selected they gained valuable training and experience.

Zone Swimming Carnival

Mt St Patrick’s swimming team is to be congratulated on their great behaviour as well as their tremendous efforts, with many personal best times being swum, at the Zone swimming carnival yesterday. I appreciated all the parents that assisted with timekeeping, especially Nikki Warne for her professional approach as chief timekeeper and Jodie Champley assistant recorder. Thank you! Mt St Patrick was the champion school and has 14 competitors including 3 relay teams (junior and senior boys 2nd, senior girls 1st) traveling to Coffs Harbour. Joseph (11 year) and Anthea (senior) Warne were age champions. Anthea broke 4 individual Zone records, Cecilia Ryan also broke the Zone 200IM record and is the new senior girl breaststroke record holder and Madelene Northeast also broke the previous 12 year freestyle record. The senior girls relay team took a massive 11 seconds off the previous record! A tremendous team effort.

We wish the following students all the best at Coffs Harbour: Hayley Smith, Madelene Northeast, Elizabeth Warne, Cecilia Ryan, Anthea Warne, Angus Stratton, Joseph Warne, Ben Champley, Patrick Gray, Darcy Reinke, Zane Patience, Nicholas Ratcliff, Finn Whitney and Darcy Hannah.

Zone Winter Sport Trials.

Notes with venues, dates and times were issued to students involved in the various sport trials. If your child is unable to attend please let me know so that I can contact the convenor.

Group 18 Rugby League Challenge

Boys who are interested in forming a school team to compete in the Tweed Byron Primary Schools Rugby League Challenge on Tuesday 26th March at South Tweed were issued a note requesting parent preference for transport. Please complete the form and return it this week to enable us to finalise teams and transport.

Information for the Netball Gala day on 6th March will be sent home soon.