Term 1, Issue 4, 11 March 2015

St Patrick’s News
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Mathletics

All students from Prep to Year 6 are now able to access Mathletics. St Patrick’s is pleased to have purchased this program to support your child’s learning. Mathletics is an interactive e-Learning resource, being used by over 2,000 schools. Originating in Australia, Mathletics is now being used in over ten countries. The primary goal of Mathletics is to improve Math results. As a parent it is great to see what math you child is expected to know as the program is aligned with the Australian Curriculum. The program also has a help function to explain and show worked examples of problems.

Your child has been given his/her own user name and password. This program will be used at school and can also be accessed at home. First step is to visit www.mathletics.com . The first time a student signs in they will be asked to make their Mathlete. This is the character that they play under. Within Mathlete Maker pupils are able to select from all sorts of characteristics. The students are able to earn credits for their Mathlete by gaining High Scores and Participation Certificates. The credits are used to obtain additional items for their Mathlete character. This program is a wonderful way for students to learn their tables in a fun and engaging way.

Audiology Visit to Your Child’s School

The Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education Office has contracted the services of an Audiologist, Ms. Dendra Cole, to visit schools in the Western region of the Diocese. This opportunity allows children to have a full hearing test, and will provide vital information of the hearing health of your child. This service is rarely provided in your area. The cost of this service has been covered by the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education Office.

Your child may have previously participated in a Hearing Screening Process through your local Health Unit. These screeners help to inform us of some issues, such as whether there is fluid in the ears, wax build up or hearing levels. However, without a comprehensive hearing test by an accredited Audiologist, you are unable to access federally funded hearing services such as Australian Hearing or Ear, Nose and Throat consultations.

The hearing health of your child is vital in their access to educational, social and emotional development. Even a mild hearing loss can mean that your child may be missing 25% of the speech that occurs in the classroom. Hearing loss (whether permanent or fluctuating) can also be linked to fatigue, disengagement in school and difficult friendship experiences.

Your child has been selected to participate in this program. This may be due to an existing screening history, or due to their age (we are targeting specific age groups). We have attached a consent form that we would like you to complete as soon as possible and return to the school.

The hearing tests will take place at your child’s school. Part of the consent form asks whether you consent to the hearing test occurring without you being present. Of course, you are welcome to attend the hearing test (approximately 20 minutes) with your child.

I will be in attendance during the Audiologist’s visit. Please contact me (via email or through your school office) if you have any questions around your child’s hearing health.

We thank you in advance for your support.
Audiologist Return Form Competition.

Please return consent form as soon as possible. Every child who returns a completed form will receive a Freddo Frog. The form must have Five signatures to collect the prize.

God Bless

Allan Clark

Launch of “Don’t Drop the Ball”

The school song, “Don’t Drop the Ball” was created with St Patrick’s School Student’s last year and is 1 of 16 Music Video’s celebrating the vibrant Schools and Communities in the Maranoa District as part of the ‘Roma Cluster - Small Town Culture’ project.

The song is part of the ‘Roma Cluster’ iTunes Album to be launched at the 2015 Easter in the Country Festival in Roma.

Proudly supported by The University of Southern Queensland, Maranoa Regional Council RADF and Ed QLD RREAP Funding.

In conjunction with the official launch of the album, we are asking for expressions of interest from all children who appeared in the video of “Don’t Drop the Ball”. They would be required to be representatives of the school, and are asked to appear at the presentation of the album at this year’s Easter in the Country celebrations. If you are interested could you please contact the school ASAP.

School fees

School fees for Term 1 have been issued. Thank you to all the families who have already made payments. Each family is asked to make a contribution to support their child’s education. For payment solutions please feel free to contact me.

Small regular payments can sometimes be the easiest way to pay. Others include:

- Centrepay (forms are available at school if needed)
- Instalment plan through your bank
- Cash or cheque paid to the school office

I will be contacting families with large outstanding balances to discuss the matter. All conversations regarding school fees are confidential. Looking forward to working with you for the betterment of our school.

Music forms

Miss Rikki Bensley handed out forms for the 2015 music program to interested music students. Please return these completed forms and money this week.

Tuckshop

Tuckshop operates each Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who has offered to assist. The children and staff are certainly enjoying the delicious food. Please contact the school if you are able to work occasionally in a relief capacity. If you have any new ideas for tuckshop please let us know. One of our groups is keen to make milkshakes on their day next term probably chocolate and strawberry flavours.

Parents and Friends

The AGM of the St Patrick’s School P & F Association will be held on Monday, 16th March at 5.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come along and support your children.

We are looking for expressions of interest for parents who want to come along and be a part of our P&F committee! The P&F is a vital part of our school community! The major role of the P&F includes running the tuckshop once a week for the students of St Patrick’s and fundraising throughout the year to make purchases to enhance your children’s education. Please leave your name at the office if you would like to support our students in this area!

Board Meeting

St Patrick’s Board Meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, 24 March 2015 at St Patrick’s School.

School uniform

Please ensure that your child comes to school each day in their full school uniform and hat. The school has a no hat no play policy and it must be worn to school every day.

Consent and Update Family Details Forms

Please complete and return forms as soon as possible. It is vital to have all student and family details up to date. Thank you to all families who have already returned their forms.

Birthdays

No Birthdays at school this fortnight, but happy birthday to anyone in the community who is celebrating their special day.

APRE News

On Friday 6th March, 8 students from St. Patrick’s School and myself attended the World Day of Prayer held at St. Columba’s Parish Church. It was a wonderful service to be a part of and the students represented our school well. I would like to thank Chris Smith, Laura Russell, Jason Mitchell, Joshua Wilkinson, Lainie Baldo, Zoe May, Mia Wilkinson and Jaxson Wyman for attending and participating in this service and also
for their excellent behaviour during this time. We had many of
the other participants at the gathering comment on how well
they behaved and how great it was to see them in attendance.
We look forward to attending the World Day of Prayer event
next year.

**Miss Davis**

**St Patrick’s Day**

A Liturgy will be held at school on
Tuesday, 17th March to celebrate St
Patrick’s Day. The children are invited to
wear something green to celebrate our
Patron Saint. There will also be a sausage
sizzle at first break.

**Years P-3**

The P-3 class have had class newsletter go home on Monday.
This was in regards to the educational websites: Mathletics
and Spelling City. This is not extra homework but is an added,
onoptional extra.

*Have a great week Miss Radunz*

**Year 4/5/6 News**

Well this term has definitely flown by as we are now into Week
7 of our term. The year 4/5/6 students have recently been
given access to Mathletics with most of the students showing
great eagerness to participate in this activity during our maths
rotations. If students would like to access this resource at
home, they are more than welcome to request their log in from
myself and I can send this home with them.

In class, our behaviour management is focused on
acknowledging positive behaviour through the use of the Class
Dojo resource. Students are awarded ‘Dojo Points’ for a variety
of positive behaviours and at the end of the week, these points
are traded in for stickers on their individual sticker charts. Once
students have filled up their sticker chart (25 stickers) they are
able to pick an item from the prize box. If you would like to
access Class Dojo at home and see how your children are
progressing through the day, I am more than happy to send
home the parent logins for your children which will allow you to
gain access to your child’s information.

I hope you all have a wonderful week ahead.

**Miss Davis**

**Learning Support**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As you all know the learning support area is already working
hard to make sure each child is given every opportunity to
succeed at school.

The students are eagerly participating on Pre-Lit and MiniLit
programmes and support-a-Reader and speech language
programmes.

Thank-you to staff and students for using the correct
procedures when the brown snake came to join us for
lunchtime assembly. Well Done.

Have a Fantastic week.

**Regards Mrs Gobbert and Miss Karen**

**Classroom Makeover**

The Toowoomba Chronicle is offering a school a chance to
win a $5000-00 classroom makeover. Simply collect tokens
appearing in the Chronicle until 16th March and send in to
to school. There is also a collection box at the Mitchell
Newsagency.

**Library News**

**Jackie French**

One of Australia’s best known Authors and a huge favourite of
the children of St. Patrick’s Jackie French has been awarded
Senior Australian of the Year for 2015. Congratulations to this
amazing Lady.

**Senior Australian of the Year 2015**

**Author**

Living in a shed and needing to register her
car, Jackie French wrote her first children’s
book, Rainstones, in 1991. While her editor
said it was the messiest, worst spelt
manuscript ever received, the book was
shortlisted for Children’s Book of the Year
and Jackie’s career as a best-selling author
One of the few writers to win both literary and children’s choice awards, Jackie has published 140 books in 32 languages and received more than 60 literary prizes for beloved children’s classics such as *Diary of a Wombat*. Overcoming dyslexia herself, Jackie is a tireless advocate for children with learning difficulties. As the current national Children’s Laureate, Jackie is travelling the country to promote literacy and share the transformational power of reading, creativity and story-telling in the lives of young Australians. Passionate about the conservation of wildlife and our planet, Jackie is also a director of The Wombat Foundation that raises funds for research into the preservation of the endangered northern hairy nosed wombat.


**Reminder**

*Home Reading books and Library books are to be returned on Wednesday’s and borrowing will take place on Thursdays. There are a large number of overdue books, could you please search at home for them.*

**Book Club**

Book club is due in on 18th March

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**Forms to be Returned ASAP:**

- Consent form Audiologist
- Parent Authority and Consent Forms
- Update Family Contact Details Forms
- Absentee Note if required

**Absent Note**

__________________________________________ was/will be away from school on the following dates:

________________________________________________________________________

They were/will be away for the following reasons:

________________________________________________________________________

A copy of a medical certificate is attached: Yes/No

Parent/Guardian Sign:

________________________________________________________________________

Teacher Sign:

________________________________________________________________________

Please fill out this form and return to the classroom teacher prior to or just after your child has been absent from school.

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**Term One at a Glance**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>AGM P &amp; F Association 5.30 p.m.</td>
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<td>17 March</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day – Liturgy 8.30 a.m.</td>
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<td>18 March</td>
<td>Bookclub due</td>
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<td>21 March</td>
<td>ROMA &amp; DISTRICT SCHOOL FOOTBALL &amp; NETBALL season opener &amp; March past</td>
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<td>21 March</td>
<td>Mass and Reconciliation at St Columba’s at 6.00 p.m</td>
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<td>24 March</td>
<td>Mass School - Lent and Easter Mass 2.00 p.m.</td>
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<td>29 March</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Fifth Sunday Ecumenical Service 9.00 a.m.</td>
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<td>2 April</td>
<td>School Closed – Teacher Travel Day</td>
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<td>3 April</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>4 April</td>
<td>Easter in the Country Street Parade &amp; Josh Arnold Concert— all students invited to participate</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>Easter Sunday Mass - Mitchell 9.00 a.m., Mungallala 10.30 a.m.</td>
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<td>20 April</td>
<td>Term Two school resumes</td>
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