24 January 2017

St Patrick’s News

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Principal’s Report

Dear parents, staff and students,

Welcome back to another busy school year. No doubt all families have had a relaxing break and are rearing to start the school term. I have had one very excited little man to be joining the St Patrick’s school community, so excited that he was wearing his hat around town before school even began. I was also talking to one other parent who was telling me how excited their little girl is to be attending because she has other relatives at the school. I love hearing stories of excitement and enthusiasm our students have for school. A positive attitude to schooling really has a huge impact on student achievement and it is an important responsibility of teachers and parents to cultivate this positive attitude.

First term is a very busy term in a school and we are looking forward to celebrating many special occasions together. 2017 will see our Year 6 class as the senior students, which is very exciting for them. I am sure that our Year 6’s will do a fine job of leading the school in their final year at St Patrick’s. Over the next few weeks they will be presenting their leadership speeches to the school on February 6th, which parents will be invited to. Our opening School Mass and morning tea will be held on Friday February 17. This celebration will also include the announcement of the 2017 school leaders. Finally, our Year 6 class will participate in a leadership day at the Maranoa River and return to the school that night to enjoy a shared dinner, which will help to prepare them all as school leaders for the year ahead.

I would like to introduce you to our staff members of St Patrick’s for 2017, Miss Jessica Woods (Prep-Year 3 teacher) Miss Amy Davis (Year 4 – 6 teacher) and myself Mrs Zoe Stewart (principal).

Mrs Zoe Stewart

My name is Zoe Stewart and I have come to Mitchell from Clermont. My husband and I are from the west as we grew up in Barcaldine. I completed my teaching degree at James Cook University in Townsville and began my teaching career in Longreach where I spent a lot of time catching fish at the Thompson River. After three years in Longreach my husband and I headed to Clermont where we spent the last six years and if you have never been to Theresa Creek Dam you should put it on your bucket list, it is just amazing. I spent the last five years as the School Curriculum Officer and assisting as Deputy Principal. I’m very passionate about children receiving the best Catholic Education that we can give them and teaching children the way of Jesus. My family and I look forward to spending lots of time in the community and getting to know you all.
Miss Davis
Hi everyone and welcome to 2017! I’m Amy Davis and this is my fifth year at St. Patrick’s. I am the Year 4/5/6 class teacher. I grew up in Toowoomba, completing my schooling and university degree there. I am the youngest of three children with an older brother and an older sister. I am an Aunty to two beautiful boys; Kai will be four this year and is starting Kindy while Flynn will be two in July. They are both growing up very quickly so I enjoy seeing them whenever I can get back to Toowoomba. I also enjoy travelling; at the end of 2015, I travelled the United States of America with a friend from university and last year during the September school holidays, my partner and I travelled to Fiji to celebrate a friend’s birthday. I will return to America during the Easter school holidays this year with my sister so we can celebrate her 30th birthday at Disneyland! I’m looking forward to another great year at St. Patrick’s with you all.

Miss Jessica Woods
Growing up in the small town of Hartbeespoort, South Africa was where my love of learning and teaching started to flourish. As there were no quality schools in the area, my parents became involved in developing a quality school for myself and my brother to attend, along with many other children in the community. I felt a real sense of pride in my new school and developed a curiosity about the schooling system. This inspiring beginning to my education has been one of the underlying factors behind my choice to be a teacher, as I want to be able to offer my students the same quality of education. As I was born in Australia, I moved back to do my Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) which I completed in 2014. I moved out to Mitchell by the beginning of 2016 and I have really enjoyed getting to know this charming little community. I recently got engaged to Joshua Maris over the December holidays in Hong Kong. I look forward to working with the children, parents, teachers and staff of St Patrick’s School for a very successful 2017.

I would also like to welcome some new children to St Patrick’s for 2017:

- McKenzie Mitchell (Prep)
- Cabe Stewart (Year 2)
- Dana Gorry (Year 3)

Parent Info Nights
Parent information nights will be held in week 3. These important meetings are to inform the parents of the content covered in class during the year, specific classroom procedures and other general information of importance to parents. These meetings are a very important way to ‘get to know’ your child’s teacher and also to find out a host of useful information for the year. The information session will be held in your child’s class and times for the presentations are:

- Wednesday 8th Feb
  - 6:30pm - Prep, Year 1,2,3
  - 7:15pm - Year 4,5,6

Specialist lessons
This term, children will be involved in two specialist lessons; PE and Library. From next week, Library will be taught each Thursday by Miss Sarah Mehay-Dewer and PE will be taught by myself on Wednesdays. Swimming will commence in Week 1 and the students will have nine lessons at the pool. The swimming note and money will need to be returned to the office ASAP as this will assist with the payment of the pool entry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Wednesday 25/1/17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45am – 9:45am</td>
<td>Year 4,5,6</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45am – 10:45</td>
<td>Prep, Year 1,2,3</td>
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Year 6 Leadership Formation: Important Information
To begin their special time as school leaders, our Year 6 students will participate in a Leadership Day at the Maranoa River, on Monday 20th Feb. On this day, students will participate in a variety of challenging activities designed to foster efficient team-work, communication and leadership skills. They will also learn about the life of Catherine McAuley and investigate the way Jesus showed leadership to others. Prior to this day, on Monday 8th February from 9:00am in the undercover area, the Year 6 students will be involved in leadership speeches. Positions available are;

- School Captains (2 students)
- Patrician House Captain (1 student)
- Columban House Captain (1 student)

Afterwards, students from Years 3-6 will have the opportunity to vote for school and house captains. Parents and relatives are most welcome to attend this special morning.

Our Leadership Presentation Ceremony will be held during our Opening School Mass on Friday 17th February from 9:00am, where we will present our school and house captains for 2017, as well as leadership badges to all our Year 6s. Parents are invited to attend this mass, with morning tea to follow afterwards. If you have any questions about this process, please do not hesitate to contact me.
P & F Welcoming BBQ

All parents are invited to our annual P&F welcoming BBQ. This BBQ is for all families, new and existing. Families are asked to bring a plate of food to share for the BBQ eg. Salad, Potato bake, dessert etc. If you can contact Anna Cross and let her know what you will be bringing that would be much appreciated.

Date: Monday 9th February
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: St Patrick’s School

Following the BBQ, the P&F will hold its AGM and goal setting meeting, which is a wonderful chance for parents to help set the P&F agenda for 2017 and beyond.

Year 4 to 6 News

Welcome back to a brand new school year. This year in the Year 4/5/6 classroom we will continue using Class DoJo. Your parent codes will be sent home this week so you can connect to our class and see how your child/children are doing each day. This is part of the classroom reward system where students earn points which then convert into ‘money’ at the end of each week for students to spend at the classroom shop. Last year the students really looked forward to spending their hard earned money at the shop each week so I hope our new year 4’s will enjoy this reward too.

I hope you all have a wonderful week ahead.
Miss Davis

Prep to 3 Newsletter corner

A big “yawalla” (hello in Gunggari) from the Prep, 1, 2 & 3 class. It is going to be a fantastic year ahead of learning, developing confidence and making new friendships. We said goodbye to Jaxson, T-Jay, Ryan, Aaron and Jarad last year, as they have moved up to year 4. We are very excited to have new students: Dayna (Year 3), Cabe (Year 2) and McKenzie (Prep) joining us in Prep – 3 this year. Our class extends a warm welcome to our new Principal Mrs Zoe Stewart and we look forward to working in collaboration with you in the coming year. At the beginning of this term our focus is going to be on our identities, our family and discovering the skills required to succeed in the classroom environment. In English we will be exploring texts and learning how to write recounts, in Mathematics we will have a focus on number and in Religion the students will explore the person of Jesus, as revealed in scripture texts. Weekly, for homework, the students will have a reading, spelling and mathematics task. This is an important opportunity for your children and I would appreciate your support in developing a positive and strong school/home partnership.

Remember “caring makes the difference” and I look forward to working with you all in 2017.

Miss Jessica Woods

APRE News

One of the great blessings and privileges we share as members of the St Patrick’s community is our Catholic identity. Catherine McAuley, our founder, encouraged Mercy to be at the heart of all that we do here at St Patrick’s School. This can be seen through the actions we perform that extend God’s compassion and mercy to those in need. We are going to start this term with a focus on getting to know Catherine McAuley, a woman of deep faith who recognised the many needs of people who are economically poor. During our professional development days, we had the pleasure of Father Jamie, Sister Nora and Joan Haines joining us to talk about the charism of our school. They shared their religious backgrounds with us and we spoke about the History of our Founder Catherine McAuley and the Mercy Sisters. To ‘pray’ means to ‘communicate’ and in this context it means to “communicate with God”. This term we are going to have a prayer and reflection time in our Peace Garden, each Wednesday. I am looking forward to a collaborative and reflective term with the community of St Patrick’s School.

Forms to be returned:

The following forms are attached to the newsletter:

- Responsible Use of ICT agreement
- Parents Authority and Consent
- Update family details

Please return the forms to school by the end of this week.

Child Protection

The school student protection contacts at St Patrick’s School are Mrs Zoe Stewart and Miss Amy Davis. The School Counsellor is Ms Allison Cuskelly.

Tuckshop News

Please contact the school if you are able to work on tuckshop this year and if you have any new menu ideas. A new roster and menu will then be completed and tuckshop can commence.
## Birthdays

There are no birthdays this week.

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### Term One 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 23 Jan</td>
<td>School year commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25 Jan</td>
<td>Swimming Lessons 8.45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 26 Jan</td>
<td>Australia Day public holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 29 Jan</td>
<td>Ecumenical Service Booringa Wing Mitchell Hospital at 9.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1 Feb</td>
<td>Swimming Lessons 8.45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 6 Feb</td>
<td>Year 6 Leadership speeches /P &amp; F Meet and Greet and AGM at 6.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 7 Feb</td>
<td>Board Meeting 4.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 8 Feb</td>
<td>Swimming Lessons 8.45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 13 Mar</td>
<td>P &amp; F Meeting 3.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 14 Mar</td>
<td>Board Meeting 4.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 15 Mar</td>
<td>Swimming Lessons 8.45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 17 Mar</td>
<td>School Mass St Patrick’s Feast Day Celebration 9.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 18 Mar</td>
<td>Mass St Columba’s 6.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 22 Mar</td>
<td>Swimming Lessons 8.45 a.m.</td>
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<td>Thur 30 Mar</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 1 Apr</td>
<td>Mitchell Tryathlon</td>
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<td>Fri 14 Apr</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Sun 16 Apr</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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### Term Two 2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 18 Apr</td>
<td>Term Two commences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Forms to be Returned ASAP: Absentee Note if required

- [A B S E N T  N O T E](#)  

  * Day(s) absent:  
  * Date(s) absent:  
  * Cause(s) of absence:  

  Parent/Student Signature:  
  Teacher Signature:  

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

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**Note:** The document contains a webpage URL and web page thumbnails which are not shown in the extracted text. The content focuses on dates, events, and activities for Term One and Term Two, including school holidays, meetings, and special events.