Principal’s Report

Uwalla

Last Friday the St Patricks school community came together to celebrate another successful year. We were happy to share the night with our invited guests, Father Jamie, Sister Nora, Father Steffan, State Member for Warrego Anne Leahy, Mayor of Maranoa Regional Council Mr Tyson Golder and Uncle Teddy. It was a night to recognise and thank people for their tremendous contribution to St Patrick’s and for helping make our school the special place that it is. To Jason, Hunter and Crystal finishing their last year of primary school with us, we wish them all the very best as they commence the next exciting stage.

Congratulations to the 2016 Award recipients:

Presentation of Major Awards

Pastoral Care Award:
Prep to 3 Jaxson Wyman
Years 4 to 6 Josh Cross

Consistency of Effort:
Prep to 3 Storm Gould
Years 4 to 6 Laine Baldo

Attendance Award: P-6
Joshua Wilkinson

Academic Award: Only Year 4-6
Joshua Wilkinson

Inaugural Award: Aunty Irene Indigenous Award
Awarded to someone who represents the spirit of Aunty Irene in their work:

School Officer - Sonya Martin

What a year we have had! Welcome BBQ, Anzac Day March, School camp, School Eisteddfod, Arts Council, tennis lessons, athletics carnival, meeting the Governor General the list goes on. Probably one of the standouts would be not only our school Masses but the presentation of the Lords’ Prayer in Gunggari which with the help of Des Crump, Aunty Lynette, Sonya Martin, Amy Davis, Bernadette Gobbert and the Yugarabbeh Museum Group (Reeghan Finlay and Shaun Davies) and no doubt the spirit of Aunty Irene. It was certainly a moment in history for recognition and respect.

Thanks to our hard working and dedicated P & F who have raised thousands of dollars and donated it back to the school. They supported our school camp and the purchase of more IT equipment. The school has recently purchased a new data projector for the senior classroom and also an additional 10 new laptops. We certainly are a very well-resourced school.

This being the final Newsletter for the year I take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas break. Take
the time to share with your children be it family meals, reading books, visiting relatives or participating in some of the many free events on offer in Mitchell by the Maranoa Regional Council.

I would like to sincerely thank all staff of St Patricks for the commitment you have shown this year in so many ways to the mission of Catholic education. To the parents thanks you for entrusting us with the education of your children. I would also like to thank Father Jamie, for his ongoing work at the school along with his guidance and support. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the students of St Patrick’s for your outstanding year in 2016 and wish them all the best into the future. I certainly have enjoyed working here and will always remember fondly my time here at St Patricks.

Thanks to all for a great two years.

God Bless and have a wonderful week
Allan Clark

Child Protection

The school student protection contacts at St Patrick’s School are Mr Allan Clark and Miss Amy Davis. The School Counsellor is Ms Allison Cuskelly.

４, 5, 6 News

It’s been another busy couple of weeks for the year 4/5/6 students. They are all working hard on completing all of their assessments for the term and the students are really enjoying creating their board games all about developmental changes in health. The students have also been hard at it, researching lots of information for their animal information reports.

The year 6 students had the honour of attending the town Remembrance Day service held at the cenotaph last Friday and represented the school really well. All of the class attended a session at the Life Van last Monday and once again got to see their old mate Healthy Harold. The students also celebrated Miss Bensley’s last music lesson with a very fun round of pass the parcel.

Thanks to all the students and parents for another great year. It was lovely to catch up with everyone on Friday at our Celebration Night!

Miss Davis

APRE News

A reflection from Fr Ron Rolheiser.

Always in a hurry

We know this from our own experience. Our struggle to give proper time to family, prayer, and helping others has mainly to do with time. We’re invariably too busy, too pressured, too hurried, too driven, to stop and help.

A writer that I know confesses that when she comes to die what she will regret most about her life is not the times she broke a commandment, but the many times she stepped over her own children on her way to her den to write.

I know this all too well, of course, from my own experience. I am forever pressured, forever in a hurry, forever over-extended, and forever stepping over all kinds of things that call for my attention on my way to work. As a priest, I can rationalize this by pointing to the importance of the ministry. Ministry is meant to conscript us beyond our own agenda, but deeper down, I know that much of this is a rationalization.

It’s no accident that virtually all of the classical spiritual writers, warn about the dangers of overwork. Indeed, the dangers of haste and hurry are already written into the very first page of scripture where God invites us to make sure to keep proper Sabbath. When we are in a hurry we see little beyond our own agenda.

The positive side to haste and hurry is that they are, perhaps, the opposite of acedia. The driven-person who is always in
a hurry at least isn’t constantly struggling to get through the morning to the lunch hour. She always has a purpose.

As well, haste and hurry can help make for a productive individual who is affirmed and admired for what he does, even as he is stepping over his own children to get to his workplace. I know this too: I get a lot of affirmation for my work, even as I have to admit that pressure and hurry prevent me much of the time from being a Good Samaritan.

Haste makes waste, so goes the saying. It also makes for a spiritual and a human blindness that can severely limit our compassion.

**Miss Davis**

**Library News**

Wow, 2016 has flown by extremely fast in the library. Some of the highlights have been: discovering all the different areas in the library; how to search for resources using the catalogues; learning how to correctly handle our library resources; understanding and explaining the differences between fiction and non-fiction texts; exploring the Dewey Decimal Classification system used in non-fiction; identifying clues that showed how a resource is an information text; unpacking the elements of what is in a non-fiction resource; listening to audio and watching video resources; analysing a variety of poetry formats; practising note-taking and referencing skills with print and digital media; comprehending how to use Encyclopaedia Britannica for research; many discussions about reading and why we read; enjoying various activities for special days and events; and hosting two successful book fairs.

Just a final reminder to return any outstanding library resources by 3pm Thursday 1st December 2016. We say a special thank you to Mr Clark for his dedication and leadership over the past two years. We wish our graduating students all the best for their next stage of their education. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead and wish everyone.

**Miss Sarah and Miss Karen.**

**Tuckshop News**

Thank you to all the mothers and grandmothers who have worked on Tuckshop all year providing the students and staff with delicious lunches each week. We really appreciate your dedication and time to cater for all the students and staff. Tuckshop is now finished for the year.

**Birthdays**

Happy birthday to Everton who will be turning 7 on Tuesday and Nicholas who will be turning 8 on Christmas Day.

**Term Four 2016**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 23 Nov</td>
<td>Swimming 2.00 to 3.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 25 Nov</td>
<td>End of Year Liturgy and Annual Celebration Awards Night 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 26 Nov</td>
<td>Christmas Craft Activities Mitchell Library 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 30 Nov</td>
<td>Swimming 2.00 to 3.00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Thurs 1 Dec</td>
<td>Last Day of School Year 2016</td>
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<td>Sat 3 Dec</td>
<td>Christmas Craft Activities Mitchell Library 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sat 10 Dec</td>
<td>Christmas Craft Activities Mitchell Library 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 17 Dec</td>
<td>Mass St Columba’s Church 6.00 p.m./ Christmas Craft Activities Mitchell Library 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 24 Dec</td>
<td>Christmas Mass 5.00 p.m. St Columba’s Church</td>
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Forms to be Returned ASAP: Absentee Note if required

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Holy and Merry Christmas,a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year for 2017.