10 February 2016

**St Patrick’s News**

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**Principal’s Report**

Each week at Assembly our school leaders say these words:

"We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, of elders past, present and future on which this meeting takes place".

These words will hold even more significance with the passing of our local Elder Aunty Irene. When I first met Aunty she indeed welcomed me to her country she was incredibly giving caring and always made you feel at ease. Aunty was passionate about the welfare of all the children of Mitchell both at the Mitchell State School and St Patrick’s. She had a thirty year association with St Patrick’s and she was a strong advocate for indigenous culture and language. She would often drop in and talk to the students. She wrote books with the students and helped develop resources to be used in the classroom. St Patrick’s is proud to continue the work she started in the promotion and learning of Gungarri at our school.

The newspaper called her a Legend and for us she was. She will be missed but she will live on in our hearts and minds.

**Liturgical Life of the School**

This week we entered the season of Lent in our liturgical calendar. It is a time of reflection and a time to focus on personal and communal prayer. It begins with Ash Wednesday when we receive the ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of our own mortality, but also as a symbol to others that we are followers of Christ. Our students are currently working on their own Lenten promises.

You can learn more about Lent by downloading the app. Use the calendar to deepen your spirituality this Lent and learn about Caritas and their work around the world. Meet inspiring people and reflect on the Lenten period through daily readings prayers and social justice actions, in this Year of Mercy.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar
This morning the children and staff participated in a very moving Ash Wednesday liturgy to reflect on God’s love and how we can help one another to grow in God’s love by helping others.

God Bless
Caring Makes the Difference
Allan Clark

Jocelyne Chirnside – Empowering Life Skills

Jocelyne Chirnside will be visiting the school on Monday, 15 February to once again speak to the children and staff. She will be reinforcing the strategies to have emotional resilience and resolution skills.

Conflict is a part of everyday life. Conflict is often unpleasant, and when unresolved or resolved poorly can be harmful or lead to bullying. How conflict affects our school child/ren largely depends on how they respond. Few of us have been equipped in how to handle conflict well.

Jocelyne Chirnside uses her 30 years of teaching experience and almost 20 years as a Social Emotional Learning consultant in over 70 state, private and Catholic schools to share insight in:

- the difference between conflict and bullying
- how to empower children to be resilient
- practical and easy-to-use skills to resolve conflict
- how to create positive, productive school and home environments

We look forward to welcoming her back to our school community to continue her fine work.

Library

Bookclub orders are due back 16 February. Please make cheques payable to St Patrick’s School.

P & F Meeting

The first P & F Meeting for the year will be held next Thursday, 18 February at 1.00 p.m. They will be discussing arrangements for the Car Boot Sale which will be held on Saturday, 19 March from 3.00 to 6.00 p.m. All welcome to come and support the hard working committee and share your ideas. See you there.

Tuckshop

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who have offered to prepare our lunches each week. Thank you to Kylie and Myra for preparing our first tuckshop of fish and chips for Ash Wednesday this week. It was very delicious and popular! Attached to today’s newsletter is the Menu/Roster for Term One.

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.

Birthdays

A very Happy Birthday to the following student:

Havish who will be 11 on Sunday 21 February.

Blue Light

The next blue light disco will be at the Shire Hall on Friday 19 February from 6-30 to 9pm

Entry fee is $5-00 which includes a sausage.

2016 at a Glance

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 25 Jan</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 26 Jan</td>
<td>Australia Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 27 Jan</td>
<td>Term One commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 9 Feb</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 10 Feb</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday/Tuckshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12 Feb</td>
<td>Assembly 8.40 a.m./Swimming - 9.15 to 10.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 15 Feb</td>
<td>Empowering Life Skills</td>
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<td>Wed 17 Feb</td>
<td>Tuckshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 18 Feb</td>
<td>P &amp; F Meeting 1.00 p.m. ALL WELCOME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 19 Feb</td>
<td>Assembly 9.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 24 Feb</td>
<td>Tuckshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 26 Feb</td>
<td>Assembly 9.00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Wed 2 Mar</td>
<td>Tuckshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4 Mar</td>
<td>Assembly 9.00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Wed 9</td>
<td>Tuckshop</td>
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**Mon 11 April**  
Term Two commences

**Mon 25 April**  
Anzac Day Holiday

**Mon 2 May**  
Labour Day Holiday

**Tues 10 May**  
Mitchell Show Holiday

**Wed 11 May**  
Naplan Testing Years 3 and 5

**Thurs 12 May**  
Naplan Testing Years 3 and 5

**Fri 13 May**  
Naplan Testing Years 3 and 5

**Friday 24 June**  
Term Two finishes

**Mon 11 July**  
Term Three commences

**Wed 17 Aug**  
Pupil Free Day – Bishop’s Inservice Roma

**Fri 16 Sept**  
Term Three finishes

**Mon 3 Oct**  
Queen’s Birthday Holiday

**Tues 4 Oct**  
Term Four commences

**Thurs 1 Dec**  
Last Day of School Year 2016

**Forms to be Returned ASAP:** Absentee Note if required