Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Happy St Patrick’s Day** – Today the school celebrated the Feast of Saint Patrick beginning with a mass in the church followed by some green sprinkle covered ice-cream. A feast day in the Catholic liturgical calendar year is a day set aside to commemorate those that have been canonised – our Saints.

St Patrick often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick’s message. Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland over 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, travelling and enduring much suffering he died 17th March 461.

The feast day for St Joseph is the 19th of March. St Joseph also holds special significance for our community in that our school was founded by the Sisters of St Joseph.

**Centenary Celebrations**– Thank you to all members of our school parish community that contributed in some way towards the organisation and running of last week’s celebrations. In the same spirit of the early parishioners and religious of our school’s proud history, you have rallied and worked hard and your efforts have been exceptional.

The students performed wonderfully in church and many of those in attendance spoke very highly of the way they conducted themselves. Congratulations students – your behaviour and sense of pride is commendable. A special thank you as well to those of last year’s Year Six students that were able to come back and join in the singing. Thank you also to our staff for their tireless efforts in preparing the students for last weekend and for the numerous other roles taken up in the support of our fellow parishioners.

The art show was a wonderful success with 200 people attending on the evening. The $10 cost of the individual student paintings will be added to Term 2 fees. This amount covers the cost of materials used by the students in their creations. The paintings will have a special centenary label attached to them before being sent home early next term.

Our centenary book; ‘Still Shining’; written and compiled by Cathy Cowley was launched during the art show. While all copies were sold, orders are still being taken for a reprint. If you are interested in ordering a copy please place your orders at the office.

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**– Parent/teacher interviews will be conducted during the second week of Term 2 starting on the 18th April. As mentioned in previous newsletters, the partnership between parent and teacher is a vital component of your child’s learning. These interviews are a very important part of the learning journey your children will take this year and an opportunity to discuss any queries that you may have about their learning. Time preference sheets will come home in the first week of next term and times will be allotted on a ‘first in- first served basis’. All parents/carers will be required to book an interview with their teachers.

God Bless,

Tyronne Maher
Principal

"Christ be within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ inquired, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger." St Patrick
Assembly Roster Term 1

Friday’s 8.45am

Week 8: No Assembly
Week 9:
- Assembly Monday
- Easter Liturgy (Thur)

School Masses – Term 1

Family and friends are invited to share with their children the following celebrations:

Thursday 24th March – Easter Liturgy 9.30am

Happy Birthday

Best wishes for a Happy Birthday to:

Casey-Lee Shelton
Daniel Morris

Cross Country

Tomorrow will see the running of our cross country event with the students of St Francis de Sales, Clifton. Students are welcome to accessorise their sports uniforms with their house colours (Hughes – Blue, Rynne – Red, Lynam – Green). This might be done by adding a ribbon, sensible use of zinc sunscreen (not above or around the eyes), a coloured sweat band or socks. For safety reasons students are not to colour their hair in any way for the event.

While there will be overall (for St Francis de Sales and Allora combined) age champion medallions given out for the day, our house champion and medallion winners will be awarded back at school during Monday’s assembly.

Please ensure that your children have plenty of water, a hat and some sunscreen (preferably applied before departing for school). Please ensure that they have sufficient food if they have not ordered lunch. Parents would be well equipped with a chair and a hat also.

Emily’s Purple Hair

Congratulations to Emily who recently raised $103 for the Leukaemia Foundation. Rather than shave her hair Emily opted for colouring her hair purple. Emily’s family’s personal connection with this disease prompted her to take action. Well done Emily!

Southern Downs Trials

Congratulations to those student who participated in the Southern Downs, soccer, netball and league trials on Tuesday. By all accounts the students enjoyed the competition and their behaviour was exceptional. Congratulations to Reuben, George and Daniel who were successful in gaining selection into the SD Rugby League Team.

World of Maths

On Wednesday our students were put to task with activities set up by ‘World of Mathematics’. Students, with questions in hand, progressed through seventeen problem solving focused activities. The kids had a great time. Thank you to those parents of students in years prep to four that were able to give of their time to help supervise the students in this large group.

Trax Sports

Students had a great time on Monday with the development officers from the Trax tour. Students participated in a rotational format through the disciplines of softball, badminton, soccer, rugby league, touch football, tennis and baseball.

Dental Van

Please find attached information and registration form (yellow). If you are interested please complete and return to the school office by Friday 15th April.
Parish News

LITURGY TIMES
1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH –
MASS 9AM
2ND, 3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH –
MASS 6pm
4TH, 5TH SUNDAY OF MONTH –
LITURGY OF THE WORD – 9 AM

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
(Meetings held on 2nd Wednesday of every month)
The Centenary celebrations were a wonderful example of how the St Patrick’s community works together to socialize and celebrate important events. Congratulations to Peter Cavanagh, John Cowley and all associated with the organizing committee for all their foresight, planning and work in bringing the weekend together. Anita Wright and her vast band of helpers held a very successful inaugural ‘ART IN THE CONVENT’ and I can see this being a permanent fixture on our calendar even if it is every 2 years. Thank you to all who helped on the BBQ. A large number of school, parent and parish helpers were kept very busy. Thank you to Ty and the staff and all children for their efforts in making the weekend a memorable one.

Our next meeting is after the holidays. Karen Brown, Terri Esson and Alana Deehan have the organization of the trivia night in hand and we do not require a trivia night meeting at this stage. If you can provide any assistance please contact myself or any of these people.

Kind Regards
Roy Nott
[04 4717 4487]

St Patrick’s Centenary Merchandise for Sale

Packs of 5 assorted cards - $10
- School student’s art work
- Convent
- Church stained glass

Centenary Etched Wine Glasses
- $7 each

St Patrick’s Stubby Coolers
- $5 each

St Patrick’s School Stickers
- $2 each

Centenary Pens
- $3 each

Between Two Rocks - Wine
- $15 per bottle
- Verdello or
- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon

Missing after P&F BBQ
a new Tupperware Cake/Slice blue container with cream lid
Contact Anita Wright – 0488 663 836

Guinea Pigs FOR SALE
Contact Suzanne Mathie - 0455 277 993

‘Art in the Convent’ – food station and service staff
1970 Easter Hat Parade Kindergarten Class
Macquarie Fields Primary School, NSW

St Patrick’s Easter Hat Parade

Where did you get that hat?
Where did you get that tile?
Isn’t it a nobby one and just the proper style.
I should like to have one, just the same as that.
Wherever I go they’d shout, “Hello, where did you get that hat?”

J.J. Sullivan

As a fun way to end our extremely busy term and to raise some money for CARITAS, we will be having an Easter Hat Parade on the last day of term after our Easter Liturgy. Children are encouraged to make a decorative hat from basic items and to wear their creation proudly on March 24th. Children may decorate an existing hat, collage a computer template, or raid Dad’s shed and Mum’s sewing supplies for inspiration. There will be a gold coin donation made to Caritas on the day.

Karine Preston
APRE

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT ST PATRICK’S…………

2016

Mar 18 Cross Country at Clifton
Mar 24 Easter Hat Parade
End of Term 1

Apr 11 Start of Term 2
Apr 25 ANZAC Day
May 2 Labor Day (Public Holiday)
June 24 End of Term 2

July 11 Start of Term 3
Aug 19 Bishop’s Inservice Day (School Closed)
Sept 16 End of Term 3

Oct 4 Start of Term 4
Oct 17 Pupil Free Day
Dec 2 End of Term 4

Easter Liturgy

We would like to invite all parents and carers along to our Easter Liturgy on Thursday, March 24th at 9:30a.m. Lent represents the time Jesus spent alone in the wilderness and is an opportunity for us to take some time out of our everyday busyness to reflect on Jesus’ journey to the cross and explore what it means for ourselves and the world. After the opening of the liturgy, we will rotate through a Lenten Labyrinth where it is hoped that with the experiences we will have a sense of making a journey that has brought us closer to God and deepened our understanding of our inner self.