Dear Parents/Carers,

School improvement surveys – During term 3, our St Patrick’s parents were emailed school improvement surveys. Of our parent body 62% completed the ‘School Improvement’ survey along with staff and students from Year 5/6. The size of the responding group and the resulting data collection has provided our professional learning community with useful information. This information will be used in decision making in the formulation of our school’s annual action plan for 2017. Thank you to our parents and your shared commitment to improving learning for our students. I am confident these annual surveys will continue to be a reliable source of information to stimulate conversation and action towards the enhancement of student learning at our school.

Consistency of teacher judgement – During the pupil free day this coming Monday the 17th October, our staff will be joining in professional conversations with teachers from other schools in the area to analyse practices around the marking and teaching of writing. These meetings occur on an annual basis with a different area of learning being put ‘under the microscope’ each time. For educators, sharing is a great way of maintaining consistency and the conversations around these judgements, and the networking opportunities it creates, stimulates future directions in student learning.

Multi-age classrooms – During parent interviews regarding prospective enrolments in recent weeks, some conversations have been had around the multi-age format of our school classrooms and other like schools. While some smaller schools such as ours must form multi-age classrooms to meet staffing and curriculum resources, other larger schools adopt this format due to the known benefits that the multiage classroom setting can offer. According to the Queensland Studies Authority, some benefits include:

- The development of skills and capabilities such as communication, cooperation, flexibility and independence. All of which are lifelong skills required to work in diverse environments.
- “Children and teachers usually have the opportunity to work together for more than one year, which enhances continuity of learning and the forming of positive relationships with teachers and children, and between children…”
- Opportunities for younger children to aspire to the capabilities of older students and for older students to rise to the occasion in leading their younger classmates in learning.
- Opportunities for extension of learning for more capable students and opportunities for consolidation of learning for students having difficulty. (Queensland Studies Authority 2006)


God Bless

Tyronne Maher
Principal

“Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.”

Swami Sivananda

Read more at: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/s/swamisivan390760.html?src=s_inspirational
October 13—Term 4 Week 2

School News

Sight and Hearing – When questions arise around the learning and progression of a student one of the first questions asked in the referral process is in regard to how recently sight and hearing has been checked. Your doctor will be able to advise you on how often this should be done and point you and your child/children in the right direction in getting this checked. Please keep in mind that your child’s sight may be perfect, but their ability to follow words on a page may not. Behavioural optometrists can assist in identification if such a condition exists. Such issues, if left untreated, can have a profound affect on your child’s learning.

Prep Orientation and Leadership

Next Thursday is the second of two prep orientation mornings for our prep students starting in 2017. Our year 5 students start their leadership journey on this day when they meet their prep buddies for next year. Next year these older students will play an important role in assisting our new prep students to settle in by helping them with routine tasks in the first few weeks.

Camp 2016

Some very tired students and their teachers returned from Tallebudgera last Friday afternoon after completing camp for another year. Many students had to challenge their own fears in many aspects of camp, from high ropes courses to simply being away from home. The students represented both themselves and their school wonderfully and we are proud of their efforts.

Fete News

Parish Pastoral Council President; Mr Peter Cavanagh; will attend our school assembly tomorrow to remind students of the upcoming fete and some of the fun available on the evening. Parents are reminded (as per the attachment to this week’s newsletter) that there will be a working bee on Wednesday the 19th October at 5pm to set up marquees, chairs and tables. If this can be completed on Wednesday there will be no need to return on Thursday afternoon. Those that can’t assist on Thursday are encouraged to attend the very short cleanup on Saturday morning after the fete. We thank our parents for their help and in doing so continuing the long standing partnership between school and parish.

Tennis Well Wishes

Congratulations to Billy Mutch on qualifying for the 2016 Junior Development Series South Regional Team. Billy will play at the State Finals, this weekend in Rockhampton. We wish him luck and safe travels and look forward to catching up with him next week in regard to his experiences. Have fun Billy!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

AWARDS Term 4 Week 1

Talgaí — Billy Keogh for his good concentration at the beginning of term.

Cunningham —
Reagan Pendergast for a great effort in her learning. Daniel Fein for a great start to the term.

Dalrymple —
Paddy Denny for switched on thinking in math.

Mary MacKillop Award - Helpful
Cunningham — Zara Sullivan
Dalrymple — Ashlee Henry
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

Parish Fete News – Friday week - 21st October 2016 (if postponed due to weather the next date claimer is Sunday 23rd October)

Only 8 sleeps to go for our annual fete. Thankyou to those who have generously taken on their role of Convenor/Helper of the Stalls. Paul Morris is kindly co-ordinating the BBQ and this stall requires many helpers from the Parents and Friends of St Patrick’s School. Can you please allow for just 1 hour on the night to help Paul on either the serving, till or cooking. Please leave your name at the office or call Paul on 0407973276. Thanks once again.

Please bring along your small change for the stalls and welcome to spread the word by sending the flyer to your friends and family. The flyer is also available on the school website and our new Facebook Page St Patrick’s Allora Fete.

We would like to extend an invite for the Dad’s to come and help the parishioners setup next Wednesday & Thursday from 5pm or later if this suits with work commitments.

Plants wanted for St Patrick’s Fete Oct 21st....

If you’re in the garden over the holidays please collect and pot some cuttings/plants for our stall.....Deliver the plants to school, or Mandy Mutch is happy to collect them.
Ph:0428365676 All donations appreciated!

Learn to Swim - Lessons now available at Clifton Pool
Babies thru to adults.
Qualified instructor, Gail FULTON Ph: 4697 3920 or message 0421 289 932
What’s Happening at St Patrick’s Allora?

DATE CLAIMERS- 2016

Oct 17  Pupil Free Day (School Closed)
Oct 20  Prep 2017 Orientation
         8.30am to 11.15am
Oct 21  5pm FETE
Nov  1  9.30am Mass
         All Souls/All Saints
Nov  6  Family Mass 9am
Nov  9  7pm P&F meeting in Library
Nov 25  St Patrick’s Swimming Carnival
Nov 29  7pm Graduation
Dec  2  10.30 am to 12 noon
         Whole School Christmas Liturgy,
         parents are welcome to take
         students home at the conclusion.
         End of Term 4
“8 Sleeps to Go”
St Patrick’s Fete
Friday 21st October from 5pm

Visit the new Facebook Page for updates

Can you please assist in one or more of these ways:

✱ **BBQ & Drinks** – please drop your name into the office if you can help with the cooking, preparation, serving or cashier or contact Paul Morris.

✱ **Bottle Stall (Tombola)** – Bottles/jars filled with wrapped sweets, novelties and cans of foodstuffs are all suitable. They can be left in the cry room at the back of the church or taken to the school classroom (for their class competition), as they need to be numbered for the lucky number system on 19th October.

Please **DO NOT** send in **OUT OF DATE** products or **Soft Drinks**.

✱ **Cakes, Lollies, Sweets & Tarts** – we would love your cooking. These can be dropped into the school on the day. **A list of recipe ideas & plates have gone home today. Please label with ingredients for consumers.**

✱ **Art Union Tickets** - please return your tickets (sold or unsold) to the School by 19th October.

✱ **Working Bee** date claimers – **Wednesday 19th from 5pm main set day with Thursday 20th only being used if we are unable to finish Wednesday.** Can Dad’s please help the older parishioners setup marquees, chairs and tables. If this doesn’t suit, please drop by from **6.00am** Saturday morning for the cleanup.

*Saint Mary MacKillop always reminded us “Never see a need without doing something about it”.*
New for 2016
Grab your Chance in the
St Paddy’s Cow Pats Lottery

Pads $10 each. 1 in 50 Chance of winning $250. Contact Nick Morris.
Visit the new Facebook Page for updates

St Patrick’s Allora
Cow Paddy’s

HOW IT WORKS
- Buy a/some ticket/s for only $10
- We put a cow who goes by the name of Otis in a fenced off area with 50 squares
- Which ever square/number he does his business on first determines the winner
- The winner gets a $250 prize!!!