Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone for the start of another year at St Patrick's. After what has felt like a longer break than usual, it was wonderful to see the children back at school today. St. Patrick’s has a long and rich history and I look forward to the year ahead.

We welcome the children of Grade Prep who started school today. First day is always exciting, nervous and sometimes emotional for children and families and the children are to be congratulated on making such a positive start to their school life. On behalf of the school community, I wish Blake, Thomas, Jye, Seth, Sam, Thomas, Monty, Yasmin, Taryn, Kayla, Kayd, Mitchell and Kelsea (Yr 1/2) a long and fruitful time at St. Patrick's. I also welcome the Duncan, Garrett, Krouwer, Pratt, Richardson and Straw families who join our school community.

Today we welcome Mrs Carmel Kuizenga to the staff and welcome back Anika Duncan from maternity leave. It’s also wonderful to welcome Mrs Liz Magnuson back after having time off during term 4 last year. I wish Carmel, Anika and all the staff well for the year ahead. A full list of staff and roles is included in today's newsletter.

This year St Patrick's is the home of the Stratford Playgroup. Playgroup will be operating Monday and Friday mornings from 9.30-11.30am in the Multi-Purpose Room, and we welcome all the children and families involved. It should be exciting to have the young children at school on a regular basis. Any interested families are welcome to join.

Last week classroom teachers completed a large part of the Literacy and Numeracy assessments mandated by the Catholic Education Office. Student attendance for testing appointments was outstanding, and I take this opportunity to thank all families for your cooperation with this. Over the coming weeks staff will analyse the data gathered to inform planning for the year ahead so that we can meet the needs of all students.

Thank you to the many families who have completed the Family Update Form that we’re distributed last week. The information collected is crucial for St Patrick's and I urge you to return the forms by the end of this week if you have not done so already.

Communication is a crucial ingredient in the life of a school community. The school newsletter is a key part of this, which contains important details about school life and events. Today’s newsletter in particular has a great deal of information for families and it would worth while noting key dates and routines for the term ahead. Every second week the newsletter will be a brief communique, consisting of one double sided page. The school website also contains key dates and information and will continue to be developed this year. A survey will be sent home next week to confirm how you wish to receive the newsletter each week.

As a school we make every effort to ensure all relevant information for families is contained in the newsletter, however it is vital that you as parents read the information contained so that you are fully informed.

Finally, I remind all families that my door is always open should you have any questions or issues to discuss, no matter how big or small.

Have a great week,
Nick.
St. Patrick’s School Staff: 2013

Mr. Nicholas Hall: Principal
Ms Rose Lee: Yr. 5/6 (Mon,Tues,Wed, Thurs)
Deputy Principal
Religious Education Coordinator
Mrs Janelle Stothers: Yr. 5/6 (Thurs, Friday)
Mrs Carmel Kuizenga: Yr. 4/5, (Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs)
Mr. Justin Henderson: Yr. 2/3 (Wed, Thurs, Friday)
Student Wellbeing
Mrs Anika Duncan: Yr. 2/3 (Mon & Tues)
Miss Sarah Boag: Yr. 1/2
Mrs. Liz Burkitt: Yr Prep/One
Mrs Joanne Kennedy: Reading Recovery, Extending Mathematical Understandings, Curriculum Leader
Anita Hensen: Music/Drama (Tuesday)
Mr. Leon McAlpine: Physical Education (Thursday), Yr. 4/5 (Friday)
Mrs. Liz Magnuson: Visual Arts (Thursday)
Mrs. Sharon Cunningham: Admin Officer (Monday–Friday)
Mrs. Sharon Gordon: Aide, Librarian, Admin Officer
Mrs. Andrea Walker: Aide
Mrs. Rachael Nicholls: Aide
Mrs. Colleen Baker: Cleaner

Daily Routine

8.20am: Yard supervision begins
Children should not be at school before 8.20am.
8.57am: First Bell
9.00am: Line up, classes commence
10.00am: 10 o’clock fruit
11.00-11.30am: Recess (incl. 5min eating time)
1.00-2.00pm: Lunch (incl. 10min eating time)
3.30pm: Dismissal bell

Uniform Days
Summer Uniform: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
P.E Uniform: Thursday & Friday:

NO HAT NO PLAY!

Education Maintenance Allowance

The EMA provides financial assistance to families on a low income to help with the cost of essential educational items such as textbooks, stationery and uniforms.
EMA is a means-tested payment—parents must hold a centrelink/veterans affairs concession card to be eligible.
The EMA is being restructured to increase the focus on direct support to parents. The changes to the EMA starting in 2013 include:
- EMA payments to parent increase.
- *$200.00 for parents of eligible Prep Students.
- *$150.00 for parents of all other eligible primary school students.
- *School based EMA payments will be discontinued.

The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August). The existing payment options for the EMA payment to parents will not change. Parents will still have the choice on the EMA application form whether to have their EMA paid directly into their bank account or paid by cheque. EMA application forms are available from the school office and are to be lodged at school by 28th February 2013.

Conveyance Allowance

The Department of Education and Childhood Development provides financial assistance in the form of a conveyance allowance to assist families with the cost of transporting their children to attend their closest appropriate school in regional Victoria.

To be eligible for a conveyance allowance a student must reside 4.8km or more from the school.

For further information please visit:

Reading with My Child

Parent workshops will be held on Wednesday 27th February at 9.00am and 7.00pm.
More information to follow.
Happy Birthday to:
Blake A,
Harry C,
Blake R, Tilly P and Rohan W,

Parents and Friends News

Book Club
Welcome back to school and to bookclub. For those of you who are new to our school, bookclub brochures are sent home approximately every 4–6 weeks (9 issues per year). St Patrick’s always has a great response to bookclub as it not only encourages children to read, but also helps the school obtain valuable resources. So please take the time to check out bookclub, fill in the order form and return it to school with your payment by the due date. Books are delivered to school approximately 7–10 days after the due date and are sent home with the students. If you are buying books for a gift and you want your order kept at the office, just put a note with the order and that can be organised. If you have any further questions please ask either Sharon Gordon (Librarian) or myself, Tammy Dyer and we will endeavour to help in any way.

Guitar Tuition
Guitar lessons will resume the 13th of February. Guitar lessons are offered to children in grades 3 – 6. Lessons are for 40 mins on a Wednesday. The guitar timetable rotates each week. New guitar students will require their own guitar, capo and A4 plastic folder. Lessons per week are $12 and are done in groups of approx. 4 students. For any queries please ask Anita – music teacher.

Students already doing guitar will need to ensure that any outstanding guitar accounts have been paid before resuming lessons. Please fill in slip on the newsletter and return to office, if you are a new student.

Anita Hensen
Music Teacher

Term Dates for 2013

Term 1
4th February—28th March
Easter—29th Mar– 1st April

Term 2
15th April—28th June

Term 3
15th July—20th Sept

Term 4
7th Oct—20th December

Sign in/Sign Out Book and Visitors Registers
To ensure the safety and accountability for each child we have a “Register of Late Arrivals/Early Departures Book”. Children arriving late are to be signed in and parents of guardians wanting to take their child/children from school during the day e.g. for an appointment, must also sign them out at the office. If they are returning to school, they must sign them back in. The book is located outside the office.

You will also find a “Visitors Register” located outside the office. We ask that all visitors entering the school building after 9.00am, i.e. after the start of the school day and including classroom helpers, use the front entry and sign their name on the register. This allows us to monitor safety reasons.

Swimming Program
Daily swimming classes for Years 1 to 6 will commence tomorrow, Tuesday 5th February and will conclude on Tuesday 19th February.

Children are to bring bathers, rash vests, hats and sunscreen and asthma medication where required.

The children will change into their bathers at school and on return from their lesson will change back into their school uniform.

If children want to wear goggles they must bring their own goggles with their name clearly labelled on them.

Please see the timetable attached to the newsletter.
WEEKEND MASS TIMES
Saturday 5.30pm: St Mary’s Cathedral
Sunday 9.30am: St Mary’s Cathedral
Sunday 11.00am: St Patrick’s Briagolong
Sunday 6.00pm: St Mary’s Cathedral

PART TIME POSITION FOR PARISH SECRETARY - MAFFRA/HEYFIELD PARISHES:
Are you interested in a Parish Secretary role consisting of 20-28hrs. per fortnight flexible hours? Must be willing to be involved in Parish life. On job training will be provided. Further job description details can be provided on application. Please submit your letter of application and resume to:
Fr Andrew Wise by 22nd February, 2013 to P O Box 183, Sale 3850

Sacraments 2013
Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation

Last year families were asked to enrol children for the Sacramental Program for this year. If you have not enrolled and/or would like more information about the program, please contact the school ASAP.
Thursday 14th February preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation begins with parent workshops in Sale at 11.00am and 7.00pm.

GUITAR TUITION
Child’s Name:………………………………….
Year:…………………………………………….
Parents signature………………………………

Leyla, Lila and Emily enjoying the sweet-corn from our veggie garden.
Swimming Timetable 2013

Don’t forget your goggles, towel, rash vest & swimmers!

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th February – Thursday 7th Feb</td>
<td>30 minute lessons from Yr 1- 6&lt;br&gt;10.30am 5/6&lt;br&gt;11am 4/5&lt;br&gt;11.30 2/3&lt;br&gt;12pm 1/2&lt;br&gt;12.30 Gr 1 (from Prep/1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 8th Feb</td>
<td>Stroke Practice/Time trials&lt;br&gt;Gr 5/6, 4/5 &amp; 3: 10.30-11.30am</td>
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<td>Monday 11th – Thursday 14th Feb</td>
<td>30 minute lessons from Yr 1- 6&lt;br&gt;10.30am 5/6&lt;br&gt;11am 4/5&lt;br&gt;11.30 2/3&lt;br&gt;12pm 1/2&lt;br&gt;12.30 Gr 1 (from Prep/1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15th Feb</td>
<td>Time Trials&lt;br&gt;10.30-12.30pm&lt;br&gt;Gr. 5/6, 4/5 &amp; 3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 18th Feb – Tuesday 19th Feb</td>
<td>30 minute lessons from Yr 1- 6&lt;br&gt;10.30am 5/6&lt;br&gt;11am 4/5&lt;br&gt;11.30 2/3&lt;br&gt;12pm 1/2&lt;br&gt;12.30 Gr 1 (from Prep/1)</td>
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**Friday 22nd February**   **St Patrick’s Swimming Carnival 11.00am – 3.00pm**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27th February</td>
<td>HDSSA Carnival&lt;br&gt;Sale Swimming Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th March</td>
<td>Wellington Division Carnival&lt;br&gt;Sale Swimming Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th March</td>
<td>Gippsland Regional Carnival&lt;br&gt;Sale Swimming Pool</td>
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