THIS WEEK AT
ST PATRICK’S

Monday 11th February
*Swimming

Tuesday 12th February
*Swimming

Wednesday 13th February
*Swimming
*Ash Wednesday
*No Preps

Thursday 14th February
*Swimming
*Reconciliation Parent Workshops 11.00am & 7.00pm
*Bookclub due

Friday 15th February
*Swimming – Time trials 10.30am—12.30pm
*Assembly 3.00pm
*Beginning of year picnic 5.30pm BYO food & drinks

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 20th February
*No Preps
*P & F Meeting 7.30pm

Friday 22nd February
*St Patrick’s swimming Carnival 11.00am-3.00pm

Wednesday 27th February
*Reading Workshop 9.00am & 7.00pm
*No Preps
*HDSSA Swimming Carnival

Thursday 28th February
*Reconciliation Parent/child Workshop 4.00pm & 6.00pm

Tuesday 5th March
*Wellington Zone Swimming Carnival
Monday 11th March
*Labour Day Holiday

Monday 18th March
*St Patrick’s Day Celebrations

Wednesday 20th March
*Reconciliation at St Patrick’s Stratford 7.00pm

Friday 22nd March
*P & F Cinema Night

Thursday 28th March
*St Patrick’s Cross Country *End of term 1

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come follow me says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people.
Alleluia!

On Monday mornings we gather as a school at 9am to hear the weekend’s Gospel and pray for the week ahead. From the Gospel a value is chosen for us to focus on at school and this is acknowledged again on Friday at the weekly assembly. The Monday morning gathering is a wonderful way to start our week together and families are most welcome to join the students and staff in the MPR.

Yesterday’s Gospel details the calling of Simon Peter to follow Jesus. Simon was an ordinary man, a fisherman, who was approached by Jesus to put down his nets and join Him. This week’s value is inclusion.

Dear Parents and Students,
Thank-you to the children, parents and staff for such a positive start to the school year. Walking around the school throughout the week, it was clear to see children were settling quickly into their learning and classroom routines. The swimming program is well underway and the children are thoroughly enjoying their time in the pool. A special congratulations to our Grade Prep children who have made a fantastic start to life at St. Patrick’s.

Ash Wednesday this week marks the start of Lent. This is an important day in our church year. We will be having a prayer service at 3pm in the church; all families are welcome. The Grade 4/5 and 5/6 classes will be attending Ash Wednesday mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral Sale at 9.30am.

This term there are three events planned that are opportunities for the school community to come together. This Friday we have the beginning year picnic in the school grounds from 5.30pm (BYO food & drinks). On Monday 18th March (please note the change of date) we celebrate St Patrick’s Day. St Patrick’s Day is traditionally Grandparents day and all grandparents are warmly invited to join us on the day. Full details will be included in next week’s newsletter. On Friday 22nd March the Parents and Friends have organised an Open Air Cinema night in the school grounds.

On Friday afternoon we finished our week with assembly in the MPR. The weekly assembly is a great way to celebrate our week together and includes student awards, birthdays and any special messages. Assembly starts at 3pm each Friday and parents and families are always welcome to attend.

When a child is absent from school, it is important that the school is informed of this absence in the appropriate way. Contacting the school to let your child’s teacher know the morning of the absence keeps your child’s teacher informed. Once back at school, written notification of your child’s absence, stating the dates and reason for your child being away is also appreciated. This information is required for school attendance records. Longer term absences, for a family holiday for example, require a written notification prior to the absence.

This year it would be great to see more families access the newsletter electronically either by email or from the school website. In an effort to achieve this, we will run a newsletter delivery survey in the next two newsletters clarifying how you will be accessing the newsletter this year. All surveys are due back by Friday 22nd February.

The planned industrial action planned for this Thursday will not affect St. Patrick’s. Classes and programs will be running as usual.

Have a great week,
Nick.
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.


IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 15th February:
*Time trials (grade 3-6) 10.30am - 12.30pm
Friday 22nd February:
*St Patrick’s Swimming Carnival 11.00am -3.00pm
Wednesday 27th of February:
*HDSSA Swimming Carnival
Sale Swimming Pool
Tuesday 5th of March:
*Wellington Division Carnival
Sale Swimming Pool
Wednesday 13th of March:
*Gippsland Regional Carnival
Sale Swimming Pool
Thursday 28th of March (Last day of term 1)
*St Patrick’s Cross Country

Regards,
Janelle Stothers

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

P & F Meeting will be held on
Wednesday 20th February at 7.30pm
All Welcome.

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: Rohan W and Ella-Rose S.

Stratford Basketball
The season has started again, if you are interested in playing please come along. Juniors start at 4.15pm and seniors at 5pm. For more information please call Krystal on 0427 288 680.

Stratford Junior Netball Club
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 20th February 2013
7.30PM at the Stratford Football Club Rooms.

STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
Congratulations to the following students who received awards for last week

Principal’s Awards:
Whole class (Yr. Preps), Kelsea K, Dodge S, Kane D, Aaron S and Lucy C.

PARISH NEWS
WEEKEND MASS TIMES
Saturday 5.30pm: St Mary’s Cathedral
Sunday 9.30am: St Mary’s Cathedral
Sunday 11.00am: St Patrick’s Stratford
Sunday 6.00pm: St Mary’s Cathedral

PART TIME POSITION FOR PARISH SECRETARY - MAFFRA/HEYFIELD
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

PARISHES:

COMMUNITY NEWS
Sacraments 2013
Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation

Parent Workshop: Thursday 14th February
11.00am & 7.00pm

Commitment Mass: Saturday/Sunday
16th & 17th February

Parent/Child Workshop: Thursday 28th February
4.00pm & 6.00pm

Parent/Child Workshop: Thursday 14th March
6.30pm

First Reconciliation:
Stratford: Wednesday 20th March 7.00pm

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY
Please select

- Email
- Hardcopy
- Download from website
STRATFORD PLAYGROUP

MONDAY AND FRIDAY

9.30AM—11.30AM

AT ST PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

IN THE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

Cost: $3.00 per session

$25.00 Insurance (per family)

Please bring a piece of fruit to share