St Patrick’s Day Celebrations
Monday 18th March, 2013
10.00am Mass
10.45am Morning tea (provided)
11.30am Student Performances
12.15pm Classroom Visits
1.00pm BBQ lunch (provided)

All families and special guests (especially grandparents) are invited to join us to celebrate our school’s feast day. This is a wonderful celebration of our school’s history and identity, not to mention great fun!

Dear Parents and Students,

This morning we gathered as a school to hear the Sunday gospel; The Prodigal Son from Luke’s gospel. The father’s love is an unconditional gift for both his sons, regardless of the choices they make, just as God’s love is a gift to us all. Our value focus for the week is forgiveness.

Next week we celebrate St Patrick’s day as a school community and the children are looking forward to welcoming the many special visitors who will be with us on Monday. To help make the day a great success, we need help with catering for morning tea and some people willing to help with cooking and serving lunch. If you are able to assist in any way, please let myself or Sharon know at the office.

The St Patrick’s School board has scheduled the AGM for Wednesday 20th March at 5.30pm. The board is now seeking nominations for new members as two places need to be filled. If you would like to know more about the role and function of the school board, please don’t hesitate to speak to myself, or one of the existing board members; Carmen Lee, Anna Roberts, Fran Sutherland and Mark Nicholls. Nomination forms are available from the school office.

This Friday all students will have the unique opportunity to see the Seven Harp Ensemble perform and take part in a hands on workshop. The children will attend one of two sessions being held at the Stratford Courthouse, at 12.30pm or 2.00pm for approximately one hour.

Due to timetabling issues we have had to make a change to the specialist teacher timetable. From this week the children will have specialist PE lessons on Monday’s with Mr McAlpine. This means the children are asked to wear their sports uniform on Mondays and Fridays.

While on the subject of uniform, I am noticing a number of children wearing incorrect socks to school. A reminder that girls are expected to wear white socks and the boys grey, without brand names and/or logos.

I hope everyone is coping OK in this warm weather we are experiencing. On days when we experience high temperatures, such as today, the students are given the option of spending lunch time in the school library to stay cool.

Finally, a big thank you to all the children who have been running fundraising initiatives throughout the school. Thank you also to families for your support of these worthwhile activities.

Have a great week,

Nick
Happy Birthday to: Emily N.

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

Sacraments 2013 - Reconciliation
Parent/Child Workshop:
Thursday 14th March
6.30pm
First Reconciliation:
Stratford: Wednesday 20th March 7.00pm

PE/SPORT
Sports uniform to be worn on Monday’s and Friday’s for all classes.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2013
Week 4 - Vannak’s Story

Vannak, 17, and his family live in Andong Village, the largest slum in Cambodia. Home to approximately 8000. When he was 15 Vannak left school to support his family. Around the same time, in the hope of achieving a better life, his parents had borrowed money. So every week he would give most of his 12,000 Riel (US$3) a day earnings to them.

Although he was helping his family, Vannak felt a sense of hopelessness and knew that he could end up in a youth gang, passing time by drinking alcohol and gambling. “Adults thought I was useless...However they sometimes praised me as a good boy because I was helping my parents to pay off their debt. When he heard about the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), which is run by Caritas Australia, Vannak decided to give it a go. At first, Vannak wasn’t focused on learning, he was so hungry that what he most looked forward to was eating the food provided! However, it didn't take long for his hunger to grow for something else— learning: in particular silk screen printing and gardening.

“On behalf of the youth in Andong Village, I would like to thank the Australian people for their generosity and continuing support, I wish them good health”.

Vannak

CARITAS FUNDRAISER
Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

This week grade 5/6 is selling icy poles for Caritas Australia. The price of the icy poles are 50c each. The icy poles come in various flavours such as apple, blackcurrant, tropical, orange and mango. These icy poles are healthy containing of 99% of real fruit juice and no added sugar. These icy poles will be sold in the multipurpose room, that way they can keep cool. These icy poles are going to be sold are on Wednesday the 13th of March.
The stall holders will be Amber Ross and Hannah Peatling.

Casual Day Fundraiser
Well done to Prue, Ebony and Lani for organising the casual day and raising $115.15 for Caritas.

STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
Congratulations to the following students who received the Principal award for Patience: James G, Felicity H, Jonathan B, Emily D and Lucy C.

Class Award:
Year Prep/One: Monty G for good work on his phonics.
Year 1/2: Declan M for your amazing work in all areas of literacy
Year 2/3: Lila C for excellence in reading and writing.
Year 4/5: Jack D for doing a great job with the compost bins.
Year 5/6: Tom T for hard work and his determination towards his school work.
SPORT NEWS

Good luck to Tom T who will be competing in the Gippsland Region Swimming Carnival on Wednesday.

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

ICE Age 4
Continental Drift
Open Air Cinema
St Patrick’s School grounds
March 22nd, 2013
From 6.00pm – Movie starts at 7.30pm
Tickets Available at school office
or on the night
$10 single
$25 Family (pre-booked)
$30 Family on the night
Contact St Patrick’s school office on 51 456463

HOT CROSS BUNS
Hot Cross Bun order forms are due back at school on Friday 22nd March.
If you need more order forms, please contact the school office.

COMMUNITY NEWS

STRATFORD JUNIOR NETBALL CLUB
Saturday Winter Competition
Invites Girls & Boys Grade 3 & up to:
Have A Go!!
Training Night : Tuesday 5th March 2013
4.30pm—5.30pm
Registration & Training Night
Tuesday 12th March 2013
4.30pm—5.30pm
Stratford Recreation Reserve

Fees: Modified (11/U) $105.00
Junior (17/U) $115.00