**Diary Dates**

**Tuesday 22nd November**
Kindergarten excursion to the Museum of Fire

**Wednesday 23rd November**
9:15am - 11:00am School Starters Program
Year 6 Graduation Fundraiser

**Thursday 24th November**
Year 5 Leadership Day
Year 6 Mercy Retreat Day
7.00pm Stage 3 2017 Parent Meeting

**Friday 25th November**
9:15am P & F Annual General Meeting
Year 7 2017 Nagle Orientation Day

**Sunday 27th November**
1st Sunday of Advent

**Wednesday 30th November**
9:15am - 11:00am School Starters Program
Last day for homework group

**Thursday 1st December**
2.40pm Stage 3 Assembly

**Friday 2nd December**
Year 7 2017 Patrician Brothers Orientation Day

**Monday 12th December**
12.00pm -1.40pm Stage 2 & 3 Drama and dance students

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**From the Principal**

Unlocking Potential at Patrick’s; as a place of Mercy where we welcome, love and forgive everyone.

This week we farewelled Mrs Carol Hawkes who has been a valued member of St Patrick’s School for 40 years, in fact, for her entire teaching career. This is a wonderful achievement of loyal service to the one community. It is a significant loss for our community especially as Mrs Hawkes holds the history of our school and has been the narrator of our story.

Mrs Hawkes has been an outstanding role model as teacher, colleague and friend, a person of great faith and a compassionate and pastoral carer of everyone. She lived out her Christian beliefs in her relationships and her daily interactions.

Mrs Hawkes is renowned for her creativity and gardening talents and she generously demonstrated these for special events and at working bees. Perhaps the working bees would have been more aptly known as ‘Mrs Hawkes Gardening Club’. St Patrick’s would be the only school in the Diocese to claim an ‘in-house’ gardener.

You may know that Mrs Hawkes is an accomplished patchwork quilter but you may not know that she likes to collect teapots. This is her connection with our Mercy tradition and Catherine McCauley who recommended her Sisters take the time for a ‘comfortable cup of tea’.

Mrs Hawkes will be remembered for her love of learning, for providing each student with guidance and encouragement and therefore the confidence to have a go. She would always take the time to strive for continuous improvement in her own learning so that each student had the best opportunity to learn.

We are a richer community for her presence here and her legacy that continues with another generation of students and staff. She has touched the lives of thousands of students, parents and staff.

We thank God for the beautiful gift Mrs Hawkes has been to St Patrick’s School Community and wish her happiness and contentment in her retirement.

*God Bless*

*Mrs Anne Marrins*

*Principal*
Joyful and Sorrowful

November is the month of the holy souls. In the last two weeks our school community has paused to pray for Mr. Koko- father of Venus and Daniel, Miss Hull’s grandfather, Miss Maka’s mother and their families. These three souls have now joined Our Lord. In John 14:1-4 Jesus tells us to believe in God. He says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.” This is our faith to believe in heaven and a place for each of us there. Please keep these three families in your prayers.

On Thursday 17th November we celebrated 40 years of Mrs. Hawkes’ dedication to St. Patrick’s School. It was a wonderful celebration beginning with a farewell Mass in her honour, during which Father Peter and the community blessed her for her hard work. Mass was followed by performances of poems and memories from the students. Speeches and presentations of gifts followed from the school, Parish and Parents, concluding with afternoon tea.

This fortnight has also seen some of our students receiving the Sacrament of Penance for the first time.

At both celebrations on Tuesday and Thursday there were nervous children as the celebration began. As they were presented by their parents to the priest and they confessed their sins, a sense of calmness seemed to show on their faces. It was wonderful to see the warmth among families as they welcomed their child’s return. Celebration is an important part of our Catholic life and in the past two weeks we have celebrated both the joyful and the sorrowful. Let us keep all these people in our prayers.

Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

Teaching & Learning

Library

Summer Reading & eBooks

Between now and February there are a number of Summer Reading challenges that we will be advertising via our newsletter and Facebook page. It is vital that students continue reading during the school holidays and hopefully these competitions will encourage all students to read during the summer break.

Please remember students can also access ebooks via classm8. The links below indicate how to access these via a computer and also on a mobile device.


Executive Director’s Summer Reading Challenge

This is a quick and easy reading challenge that all students in K-6 can enter. This year there is no minimum number of books that students need to read; so 1 book qualifies for an entry. The more books read, the more entries allowed and the greater the chance to win one of 4 iPad minis! Students can read anything – a comic, play, poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel.

To enter, click on the link below and please remember to read all the terms and conditions. For each book entry, students need to state in 50 words or less why they enjoyed it. https://docs.google.com/a/parra.catholic.edu.au/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAHj4cZyUS9c0Yt-bwGhmshi3GM3OEbaP4lW-4UdM72dit5Q/viewform

Book Club

We have one final Book Club order available for 2016 (Issue 8). Entries must be submitted online by Wednesday 30th November 2016 via our online system – LOOP (NO cash or cheques to the office). Every issue contains some great specials as well as books for as little as $2!

How to Order Book Club Online via the LOOP

• Have your Book Club catalogue handy (Given to students at the start of Week 6)
• For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu at www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP
• OR Register first at https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/ to save your details for next time (existing Scholastic Store customers can simply log in)
• Select your school and your child’s class
• Add your child’s first name & last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
• Enter the item number from the Book Club catalogue
• All orders are sent directly to the school and Mrs Coghlan will submit to Scholastic. Books are delivered to your child’s classroom BUT you must order by the closing date 30\11\16.

Natalie Coghlan
Teacher Librarian

From the AssistantPrincipal

Leadership and Reflection Day

Next Thursday 24th November students from Stage 3 will be involved in a Leadership day for Year 5 and Mercy Reflection Day for Year 6. The day will begin with Mass celebrated by Father Luis in the Library. On this day the children of Year 5 will get a deeper understanding of what leadership is and what it takes to become a leader. They will hear from students of, Nagle and Patrician Brothers about the key components of leadership.

Year 6 will have the opportunity to reflect on their time at St. Patrick’s, explore more deeply their own faith through the Mercy Charism and Values. Year 6 will also have the opportunity to hear from Nagle and Patrician Brothers students about high school and how to prepare for this transition. We ask you to pray for our Stage 3 as they participate in these very significant days.
School Leader’s Process

Listed below is the following process that the school will undertake to choose our 2017 school leaders.

Tuesday 29th November: Applications close for school leadership positions.

Thursday 1st December: student who have been shortlisted for the school Captains positions are informed. They must prepare a 1-2 minute speech outlining why they believe they would be the best person for this position.

Monday 5th December Captain speeches take place in MPA. Year 4, Stage 3 and teachers vote on these positions.

Students who are going for the other leadership positions of Mission, Media and Sport leaders give a one-minute presentation on why they believe they are the person for these positions.

Wednesday 7th December: 2016 School leadership positions announced.

If there are any concerns about this please do not hesitate to ask Mr. Crowley or Mrs Marrins.

Best wishes

Tom Crowley
Assistant Principal

Partnership

Prayers and Sympathy

At this time there are people in our community in need of our support as they have recently lost a significant member of their family. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to:

• Koko Family, Venus (Year 5) and Daniel (Year 3) on the death of their father Kamal on the 5th November. Mr Koko’s Requiem Mass will be on Saturday 26th November at St Patrick’s Church, Blacktown.
• Miss Kirsty Hull (Stage 3 Teacher) whose grandfather died on 11th November
• Miss Kamela Maka (Year 3 Teacher) whose mother died on 16th November.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
Let the perpetual light shine upon them
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen

School Uniform

Our students are reminded of their responsibility and the privilege of wearing St Patrick’s School uniform. The students have been made aware of the following:

• Fleecy-lined all weather jackets and fleecy vests are worn as part of the winter uniform and are therefore not worn in term 4.
• Sports track suit jackets may be worn in summer on cooler days (there are second-hand jackets available from the office)
• Hats are to be worn arriving at and leaving from school and when on the playground.

Missing books

We need your help to locate the very many lost reading books and library books from our shelves. Please have a big search for any books that belong to our school and return them to us as soon as possible.

If the lost books are not returned we will be sending notes home for book replacement fees to be paid. We really would like to get the book rather than charge a replacement fee.

Please ask your family to look for and return to school all books that belong to St Patrick’s.

Office

Canteen:

As you are aware the Munch Canteen has begun operations at St. Patricks. Your feedback is most welcome to the school about the canteen so they can provide the best service for your children and you.

Just a couple of points to remember,

• Canteen opens at 8:30am. The only food that can be purchased in the morning before school starts is from the breakfast menu.
• The children put in their lunch orders before school starts at the Canteen (before 9.00am)
• It is important for the children to have their lunch orders written out at home and brought to school to just drop off at the canteen in the morning.
• Children should have their own paper bags to write their lunch orders on. If you don’t the ones at the canteen are available for 20c.
• The canteen is open between 11:10- 11:30 at break 1 and 1:40-2:00pm at break 2. During this time children are to purchase snacks only and not their lunch.
• The canteen is closed after school.

Staff News

It is with regret that I inform you of Mrs Maria Marks’ announcement of her retirement, effective from the beginning of Term 3 2017. Mrs Marks will be on Long Service Leave for Terms 1 and 2, 2017. Mrs Marks has been a valued member of our school community for nearly twenty years as Learning Support Teacher (formerly English as a Second Language Teacher) and in 2014 as Acting Religious Education Coordinator. We have had the privilege of benefiting from her welcoming and considerate manner as she supported families new to our country and school and her expertise in collaborating with teachers to differentiate the learning. She will be greatly missed for her commitment to her faith and our mission as a Catholic school community. There will be an opportunity to acknowledge and thank Mrs Marks at the end of this year and to formally farewell her next year.
Retirement

On Thursday St Patrick’s farewelled Mrs Carol Hawkes with a beautiful Mass, Assembly and Afternoon Tea.

During her 40 years teaching at St Patrick’s Mrs Hawkes has touched the lives of hundreds of fellow staff members and countless Students and Parents.

We wish her all of God’s blessings for a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

The end of the Year of Mercy… or is it just the beginning?

Sunday 20th November 2016, the Feast of Christ the King, marks the end of the liturgical year and the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. On 8th December last year, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St Peter’s Basilica, inviting the Church throughout the world to journey through a special time of celebration, reflection and growth in life and faith. At that time Pope Francis wrote: “How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God! May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the kingdom of God is already present in our midst!”

This year, we have opened our hearts to the transforming power of God’s mercy in our own lives. We have been called and graced to become more effective signs of God’s mercy in the world. And it can’t stop here! This year of mercy cannot just be remembered as a lovely thing that happened. We must continue to be the face of mercy where we are, in our homes, our work places, our schools and our parish community. A sign that the kingdom of God is already present in our midst!

Alison Ryan
MQOF Youth Minister

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Celebration</td>
<td>Thursday 8th December</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Church</td>
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<td>End of Year Thanksgiving Mass</td>
<td>Tuesday 13th December</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Church</td>
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<td>Thankyou Morning Tea</td>
<td>Tuesday 13th December</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Staff Courtyard</td>
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<td>Awards Presentation</td>
<td>Tuesday 13th December</td>
<td>12.15pm</td>
<td>Multi-Purpose Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass and Supper</td>
<td>Wednesday 14th December</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Church Staff Courtyard</td>
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<td>Years K-2 Disco</td>
<td>Thursday 15th December</td>
<td>9.20am - 10.50am</td>
<td>Multi-Purpose Area</td>
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<td>Years 3-6 Disco</td>
<td>Thursday 15th December</td>
<td>11.40am - 12.10pm</td>
<td>Multi-Purpose Area</td>
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<td>Year 6 Farewell Guard of Honour</td>
<td>Thursday 15th December</td>
<td>2.45pm</td>
<td>Shelter Playground</td>
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<td>Last Day of School for Students</td>
<td>Friday 16th December</td>
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