Dear Parents, Staff and Students

As Principal of St Patrick’s I am proud to highlight an excellent staff dedicated to providing a wide range of opportunities for our students to excel.

On Wednesday 27th August 51 of our students showcased their talents at the 2014 Creative Arts Expo at the Evan Theatre, Penrith. St Patrick’s item, ‘Memories in Time’, took the audience on a journey of life through the eyes of an elderly person reflecting on childhood, study, work, marriage and old age.

Our students are to be congratulated on an outstanding performance and for the many lunch times and days they devoted to rehearsals. On the concert day they rehearsed at the theatre with the same enthusiasm and enjoyment as they displayed on the first day, way back in Term One.

The audience responded with great applause, acknowledging the skill and precision of the dance as well as the delight on the faces of all our performers. We thank the teachers, Ms Karen Jaye and Mr Edward Shaw, who dedicated so much time, talent and energy to prepare for and present this event.

On Tuesday 26th August the book character parade and the book fair allowed our students to ‘connect with reading’ in a Book Week celebration coordinated by Ms Joanne Beamish.

Last week Mrs Charmain Floody organised a Poet’s Corner, ‘Poems in Your Pocket’ and ‘Everyday Arrays’ as the focus for National Literacy and Numeracy Week. And that’s not all.....

There was the Zone Athletics Carnival, Netball Gala Day, Kindergarten, Stage One, and Stage Three Assemblies, Stage Three Voice of Youth Speaking Competition and Excursions for Years 2 and 3 as well as Masses for the feast of the Assumption and our Staff Farewell celebration.

Well done everyone.

God Bless
Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal
Faith Community

Our focus this week will be on Our Lady of Mercy, Catherine McAuley and our Mercy traditions here at St. Patrick’s.

St Patrick’s Primary School Blacktown opened with 35 students in 1919. It was a parish school administered by the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy and was situated in Patrick Street, Blacktown. In 1986 we relocated to the present site in Allawah Street. The Sisters of Mercy withdrew from the school in 2001, however, we remain a Mercy school and it is important to maintain our Mercy traditions. This involves continuing the work of Catherine McAuley, who established the Sisters of Mercy and believed that: ‘Through education and skills training she empowered people, particularly women, to become agents of their own advancement and liberation. Through the Works of Mercy, she aimed to set people free from oppressive structures and to protect their dignity and human rights.’

Through all the works of Mercy, Catherine always believed and aimed to set people free. This is why education for all was so important to her.

Sr. Ailsa MacKinnon will be coming to speak to the students today about Mercy Works and how they assist to educate and support communities all over the world.

Mercy International has asked all people to say a Mercy prayer over the next month leading up to the feast of Our Lady of Mercy on 24th September.

We will be having a Gold Coin Donation Mufti Day Fundraiser on Thursday, 18th September to raise monies for the Mercy Works.

Keep Smiling!
Maria Marks
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Teaching & Learning
Staff Profile

My name is Rachel Salem and I am currently teaching Stage 3 on Thursdays and Fridays.

I have taught at St Patrick’s since 2007 and love working with the multicultural community at Blacktown.

I have two beautiful children with whom I love spending time when I’m not at work.

I enjoy playing netball, doing some gardening and having a laugh with friends. That’s all folks!

Fathers’ Day Celebration

You are invited to join St Patrick’s School community for a celebration of the gift of fatherhood on Friday 5th September 2014.

7:30am Breakfast Shelter Area
8:30am Organised Games Turf Area
9:00am Liturgy Multi-Purpose Area
9:30am Creative Arts Expo Performance MPA

Creative Arts Expo Performance

You are invited to a special school performance of the Creative Arts Expo on Friday 5th September in the Multi-Purpose Area, immediately after the Fathers’ Day Liturgy, at about 9:30am. This is an opportunity for the whole school to enjoy the ‘Memories in Time’ item, to celebrate the talent at St Patrick’s and to thank the teachers for their work in putting it together.

St Pat On The Back Awardees

Congratulations to the following students who received their ‘St Pat On The Back’ awards at last Friday’s Stage 3 afternoon’s assembly.

Bronze Awardees:
Gaksoun Are
Ashleigh Tabusares
Shaquania Dennis
Lillie Pender
Jason De La Torre
Keji Lokosang
Nancy Aduniya
Amber Afarian
Marcus Rojas
Ellenora Vaotuua
Marlon Noval
Amy Kingsley

Godwyn Gomez
Shanikqua Dennis
Emily Rigley
Jessica Laurance
Gracia Fernando
Ranveer Boparai
Hannah Willoughby
Jack Stewart
Ashleigh Hooper
Dut Deng
Rebecca Wehbe
Ana Da Silva
Silver Awardees:
Beatriz Arellano  Lillie Pender
Jessica Laurance  Monyping Monyping
Stephanie Nwosu

Gold Awardee:
Jasmine Germino

Year 2 Excursion
This term, Year 2 has been learning about Families, Past and Present in HSIE, and has been learning about dinosaurs in Literacy.

Last week, we went on an excursion to the Australian Museum to further their study and deepen their understanding about oral histories and fossils. The weather shaped up beautifully and not a drop of rain was to be seen.

We were lucky enough to have both recess and lunch in Hyde Park and spend hours exploring the Aboriginal and Dinosaur exhibits at the Museum. Thank you to all the parent helpers and teachers who assisted us throughout the day. We all had a great day. More photos will be available on our website.

Ed Shaw & Michelle Jarrett
Year 2 Teachers

National Literacy and Numeracy Week
Thank you to the children who participated in our Poet’s Corner and those who submitted Everyday Array pictures.

The following students have had work selected for publication in this week’s special insert:
Monty, Ashlee and Amelia Year 4
Alexander, Zavier, Ada and Hayley Year 3
Awal Year 2

Charmain Floody
Literacy Coordinator

Congratulations
Congratulations to the following students who have achieved well on the UNSW Global Australia English Competition.

Adrienne Arellano - Year 3 - Distinction
Montgomery Cartledge - Year 4 - Credit
Tanisha Prasad - Year 4 - Merit
Beatriz Arellano - Year 5 - Distinction
Martha Buitizon - Year 5 - Merit
Godwyn Gomez - Year 5 - Merit
Creative Arts Expo
On Wednesday 27th August the St Patrick’s Creative Arts Group performed with 4 other schools, showcasing their special talents.

The students from St Patrick’s performed a dance called ‘Moments in Time’. Their performance was exceptional and the audience was in awe of the talents that our students exhibited. The St Patrick’s group also showed exemplary behaviour throughout the very long day of rehearsals at the Evan Theatre and should be commended for all their hard work leading up to the final performance.

They certainly did St Patrick’s proud. Sensational work Creative Arts Group 2014!! Karen Jaye & Ed Shaw

Sport News
K-4 Swimming Program
The venue for our swimming program is the ‘Aquatic Safety Training Academy’ 78 Best Road, Seven Hills. The children will be taken by bus to the pool for instruction.

Years Kindergarten to 4 will attend on:

Monday 8th September to Friday 12th September
Monday 15th September to Friday 19th September

Timetable:

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<tr>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>9.30am – 10.15am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>10.15am – 11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>11.00am – 11.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>11.45am – 12.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>12.30pm – 1.15pm</td>
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Kindergarten and Year 1 bring their swimmers to school for changing into.

Checklist for each day:

- Swimmers - to be worn to school under their sports uniform (Years 2, 3 and 4)
- underwear, socks
- towel - pin a handkerchief to one corner
- sandals (no thongs) to wear to pool
- extra tee shirt
- goggles (are required)
- girls - hair tied back or swimming cap
- plastic bag for wet clothes

Cancellation of Stg 2 Touch Football
The Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day that was due to be held on Friday, 5th September 2014 has been cancelled. We will advise you when we have been given a new date.

School Uniform
The wearing of our school uniform gives St Patrick’s School its identity and our students are expected to wear it with pride. Children in primary school need their parents to assist them to follow the guidelines:

- Hair styles should be ones which do not attract attention. They should be neat, tidy and of natural colour. Rat’s tails and shaved indents, for example, are not permitted. Long hair is to be tied back or plaisted and blue hair accessories should be worn. Fringes should be cut above the eyebrow.
- Shoes need to be black leather and regularly cleaned and polished.
- Jewellery is not to be worn, except for small gold or silver studs or sleepers, one in each ear, for pierced ears.
- Sports shoes should be predominately white and should have white shoe laces. White sport socks are to be worn with the sports uniform.

Your continued support of school policies enables St Patrick’s to be an exemplary school community.

Partnership
CARES Open Day
Where: Auto Place x Peter Brock Drive, Prospect
When: 24th September 2014
Time: 10am - 3pm

- Bring your own helmet & bike.
- Road Safety Information
- Safety Checks & Skills Course
- NSWP Push Bike Squad
- Cake Stall & Sausage Sizzle
- Face Painting
- Participant Show Bag

Enquiries: caresprospect@police.nsw.gov.au