From the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff and Students

As media advertising and the shop displays remind us the season of Christmas and gift buying is fast approaching.

How well do we prepare our children for a season of giving rather than receiving, of showing thankfulness for what they have and of generosity towards those who are not as fortunate?

It is normal and natural for young children to believe everyone in the world exists exclusively for their benefit. Thankfulness is just not part of their job description. Part of our role as parents, is to lead our children out of their internal gazing and continually prompt them into a "concern for others" attitude towards the people around them.

Modelling thankfulness to our children is an important way to have them learn about living with and for others. We might need to project an attitude of thankfulness with our possessions, our clothes and appearance. Do we see the bigger world of need around us or is our focus simply on ourselves?

As recently as this week we are aware of the suffering of our human family in the Philippines. Typhoon Haiyan was one of the most powerful storms ever recorded. It has devastated the lives of millions of people leaving them homeless and with many children losing their families. The rain continues in the affected areas so there is an urgent need for shelter, food, drinking water, hygiene and sanitation. It will take years to restore homes, schools, hospitals and roads so that the people may resume their normal lives.

Thankfulness and caring for others is a major part of wellbeing as it creates an inner harmony of contentment and peace.

God Bless

Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal
Faith Community

Nearly Christmas

Many classes have started their Advent Units from the 'Sharing Our Story' curriculum. It will be very busy between now and the end of term. The school Mass for All Saints Day was memorable and in the church we now have a book with the names of family members we wish to pray for during November, the month of the Holy Souls.

Christmas Hamper requests will be sent out as they will need to be ready for the 6th December, the Feast of Saint Nicholas. To ensure variety each student will take home a slip with a designated item to donate. This year the Christmas Hampers will be sent to the victims of the bush fires in the Blue Mountains.

Also this week a note went home advertising our school Christmas concert on Tuesday 3rd December. Before the concert, the P & F will be selling sausages in buns and drinks at a cost of $4 per person. Between 6:00pm and 7:00pm you will be able to enjoy this time, having dinner before the concert. For catering purposes please fill out the form and let us know if you wish to make a purchase on this night and how many buns and drinks you require.

Results of the Religious Literacy Assessment for Years 4 and 6 will be sent home this week.

Please keep free dates for our Christmas Concert and End of Year Mass.

We have been saddened by the extent and the effects of the storm in the Philippines. We are also conscious of the large number of our Filipino families in our community with connections to family and friends in the affected areas.

We ask you to keep them in your prayers.

You can donate to the Caritas Australia Typhoon Haiyan Appeal. www.caritas.org.au/typhoon-haiyan

Thank you and God bless you.
Beverley Hermens
Religious Education Coordinator

Teaching & Learning

CARES

In Week 8 Term 4, Tuesday 26th November and Wednesday 27th November, the children of Year Four, will be attending the Bike Education Centre at Prospect as part of the Personal Health and Development curriculum. This Centre provides a day of class and practical activities to heighten children’s awareness of bike and road safety.

The Centre provides the bicycles and helmets for the children, but children who have a correctly fitted, safety approved helmet may bring them on the day.

Shaun Tan Author Study

This term in Year 6 we have been studying the author and illustrator, Shaun Tan. Shaun Tan is an award winning author and illustrator who has written many books. We have been focusing on different books and skills every week.

The books we have been focusing on so far have been: The Lost Thing, The Red Tree, The Viewer, Eric, and The Rabbits. We are now focusing on one of his most difficult books, The Arrival, that has no text at all. We have completed a lot of fun activities on all of these different books like making a new character for Eric and designing our own book cover for The Lost Thing!

We have learnt so many new words and different types of figurative language, which has helped us with writing our own stories and making them more interesting. Shaun Tan’s books are very interesting and very imaginative and are a very good read.

We would highly recommend them!
Amy Miller and Emma McDonald
Kitchen Garden Term 4
The kitchen Garden team have been very active so far in term 4. We have repotted lots of plants and have been able to sell some of these to the St. Patrick’s community. All money raised will be re-directed back into the garden. We are hoping to buy some aprons for use during cooking and some other items to be used in and around the garden. We also need to buy some kitchen utensils to assist when cooking, tasting and eating the produce.

All students have been contributing eagerly to the garden. We have planted, weeded, raked, watered and composted continually over the last few weeks. Perhaps the students who are attending the group this semester could share with parents and friends some of the composting tips they have been learning? When cooking, the students have been able to use freshly grown carrots, parsley and cucumber from the garden to contribute to the salad they have made this term. Part of the cooking process is the preparation, creating, and eating the finished meal. It is also important that students set the table and eat together as they are sharing the meal. They then need to all assist in the cleaning up!!

The strawberries are beginning to ripen and most students have had a chance to sample them. The tomatoes are also growing very quickly and we are hoping to have some fresh tomatoes to sell to the St. Patrick’s community towards the end of term.

Hopefully some of our budding gardeners will try their skills at home and encourage parents to assist them grow some fresh herbs or vegetables. You don’t have to have a big garden, it is very easy to grow some of these things at home in pots.

Happy gardening everyone!!
Maria Marks

End of Year Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3rd December</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Christmas Concert</td>
<td>School Grounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6th December</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Mission Awardees Assembly</td>
<td>Multi Purpose Area</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11th December</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13th December</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Dinner</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th December</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>End of Year Mass</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th December</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Thank You Morning Tea</td>
<td>Teachers Courtyard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th December</td>
<td>12.00pm</td>
<td>Awards Presentation</td>
<td>Multi Purpose Area</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18th December</td>
<td>9.30am - 11.00am</td>
<td>K-2 Student Disco</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th December</td>
<td>11.30am - 1.00pm</td>
<td>3-6 Student Disco</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Parish Hall</td>
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Office

Kindergarten Enrolments
We have had parents with siblings at our school applying for Kindergarten Enrolments for next year. We remind parents that enrolments have now closed and that if you require a Kindergarten Enrolment for 2014 please contact the office immediately to obtain an enrolment form. We still have some vacancies for Yrs 1 - 6. The Enrolment form is also available on our website: www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

School Fees
Office hours are 8.30am – 3.30pm. Wednesday mornings the office is opened at 8.55am. All School fees accounts for 2013 should now be paid in full unless you have an arrangement in place.

If you have any difficulty paying the school fees we may be able to assist you with alternative arrangements. These accounts should not be overlooked. Please contact Mrs Shannan Browne on 9621 4122 to arrange a confidential meeting.

Staff Development Day
As families may be aware, Friday 29th November is a Pupil Free Day. Catholic Out of School Hours Care is able to offer limited places for care on this day. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, with priority given to families already enrolled at the service. Opening times 6.30am to 6.30pm Flat Fee $45.00 per child for the day, prior to Child Care Benefit deductions. Families that already attend COSHC on Mondays will have their regular fee deducted from the $45.00 fee. A minimum number of enrolments will be required for all day care to proceed. If this number is not reached, care will not be available.

No further applications will be accepted after 6.00pm on Monday, 25th November 2013.

Please collect a Pupil Free Day request form from the office or alternatively contact COSHC Supervisor on 0408 835 838 or email COSHCStPatricksBlacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au

Moving School
The Catholic Education Office has developed a Policy relating to the notice required from parents to terminate their children’s enrolment in the schools of the Parramatta Diocese. In part this states that “A term’s notice (10 weeks) in writing must be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term’s fees will be paid. The notice can be given any time during the term for the next term. This means that unless the school receives a term’s notice no pro rata adjustment will be given for part term tuition. Notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year’s enrolment. In this circumstance the requirement for 10 weeks notice will be waived.

St Patrick’s Web Page
To view all events, celebrations and current newsletters go to: www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Partnership
Sacramental Process 2014
The time has come to register your child/children for the 2014 Sacramental Process. If you have a child/children in years 2 and over AND BAPTISED and wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession), First Communion and Confirmation, please call Claudette on 9622 1125 during office hours for more information.

You can obtain a registration form from St Patrick’s parish office or download the form from our website www.stpatricksparish.org.au

P & F Association
The Annual General Meeting of the P & F Association will be held in Week 7 on Wednesday, 20th November at 7.30pm. The P & F need your help to keep going so please join us to find out how you can help the P & F to continue to support your children during their time at St Patrick’s. All Welcome! Stephanie Pearson President

Personal Growth
School Captains Report
Welcome to week 6. These past two weeks we have had the second half of the kinder orientations, which was a blast for the students who are attending St Patrick’s in 2014.

On Monday it was Remembrance Day where we remember all the people who have passed away in the war and who have gone to heaven.

School Starters was today and the students have had a great morning at their new school for next year.

Jasmine Treacy and Patrick Vracevic