St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School
Cnr Melbourne & York Street (PO Box 4085) East Gosford NSW 2250
T: 4325 1159   E: speg@dbb.catholic.edu.au   W: www.spegdbb.catholic.edu.au

Family Mass
30 November 2014
Children’s Liturgy every 9am Mass except in school holidays

P & F Meetings
Next meeting at: 5 March 2015 in the LARC
E: SPEGparents@dbb.edu.au
Please find minutes of meetings on the school website

St Patrick’s Hall
Enquires and bookings please call the school office

Outside School Hours Care
E: eastgosford.oshc@dbb.org.au
or phone 0408 165 671
or visit the school website

The Uniform Shop
phone 02 4323 4671
opening hours during school terms
Tuesday
8.30am – 10.30am
Also 1st Friday of every month
2.30pm – 4.00pm
The uniform shop can be contacted outside of business hours by email
stpatricksprimary@alinta.com.au
payments can be made direct to Alinta Apparel in the form of cash,
credit card, or debit credit card
NO CHEQUES
uniform price list & online shopping available at
www.alintaapparel.com.au

2nd Hand Uniform Shop
2nd Tuesday of every month
8.30am – 9.30am
near the clothing shop
CASH ONLY

Canteen
Infants: Wednesday & Friday
Primary: Wednesday & Friday
Contact Michelle on 0408 412 408
Rostered volunteers please give 24 hours’ notice if you are unable to attend

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Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education Coordinator, Kev Coote

Sunday, 2 Nov 2014: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day)

Gospel Reading: Mt 22:34-40 - You have hidden these things from the learned and the clever
and revealed them to children.

For the remainder of the year I’ll be including reflections on the Joy of the
Gospel and encourage you to read through and try to take something from
each reflection. You can access the full document for free at the
Vatican Website through either a flipbook or a text version.

Reflection & Prayer

“No to closed doors, Yes to open doors.”

The image of the open door features frequently in the speech and writings of Pope Francis:

“The door of the Lord is always open… Jesus [himself] approaches us. He always opens the doors
and gives us hope. The Lord comforts us with tenderness.” (Vatican Radio, 12 Oct 2013).

“Little by little increasing security has made us bolt doors, employ means of vigilance. Install
security cameras and mistrust strangers who call at our door… The closed door is really a symbol
of our today.” (Buenos Aires, 4 Dec 2013)

For Pope Francis, this analogy does not refer just to our physical houses, but to ‘the whole area
of my life, my heart.’ The gospel compels Christians to not shut themselves up but to go out,
accepting risks, discomfort and dangers as they take the Gospel message into the streets and
marketplaces.

“The Church is above all a mother that takes care of all people... The announcement of the
Gospel requires an opening of the doors; to allow people to enter and allow the Gospel to go out
to the world.” (Buenos Aires, 4 Dec 2013)

“A Church which ‘goes forth’ is a Church whose doors are open...At times we have to be like the
father of the prodigal son, who always keeps his door open so that when the son returns, he can
readily pass through it.” (Evangelii Gaudium, 46)

Images & Stories

Can you think of concrete examples of the ‘open doors’ of which Francis speaks? For example:

• The hospitable home: “There is a family household in our neighbourhood which we refer to as
‘the home with expanding walls.’ There is always a spirit of welcome, always room for
another guest, a person in need, an extra place at table.”

• “I think of the parents who always welcome their children home, long after they have left
home.”

• The open door work practice. “I think of the workplace where office doors are always open to
one another’s colleagues.”

• “People who are flexible, accommodating of the unexpected... the God who always surprises
us.”

• The treatment of asylum seekers
Additional thoughts –

Ten ways...to go forth as a Church of open doors:

1. Listen to what God is asking of you. Take a risk.
2. Invite a new neighbour or parishioner home, for a coffee, a meal.
3. Sign up for the ‘greeting’ ministry at church.
4. Consider more deeply a perspective that you would normally dismiss.
5. Welcome the person who turns up to a gathering not knowing anyone.
6. Get to know a person of another faith.
7. Be ready to open doors, literally, for those who struggle physically.
8. Do something practical to welcome a refugee or immigrant to Australia.
9. At your next staff/leadership planning meeting examine how your usual practices can be more inclusive of those on the margins.
10. Over to you... from your experience, add a tenth point.

_________________________________________

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL....

Assessments and Reports

Next week we start our standardised testing period. It is really important that children are at school to undertake these tests with their class to allow for optimum test conditions.

Supervision

Please note that supervision does not commence till 8.10am and therefore children should NOT be on the school grounds before then. Similarly, supervision finishes at 3.15pm when ALL children should be picked up (unless catching a bus). Children are NOT permitted on school grounds outside these hours as there is no supervision and therefore we cannot watch out for their safety. However, Before and After school Care operates on site if needed.

School Fees

We have been following up on overdue school fees over the last week and it appears that a number of families have not been receiving their school fees statements. Statements are emailed at the beginning of every month. If you are not receiving your statement, please contact the school office. We can change the email address to whatever suits your family arrangements best. Thank you to the families who have brought fees up to date and all those who always pay by the due date.

Term 4 is always a stretch on our school budget. Therefore,

WOULD YOU PLEASE ENSURE YOUR SCHOOL FEES ARE UP TO DATE.

In anticipation, I thank you for ensuring this is taken care of so that we can meet our financial commitments.

Toys/Cards

Please remember that toys and cards, eg. pokemon, soccer etc... are NOT permitted at school. They cause no end of problems when they are lost or damaged, or “unfairly swapped”. These situations inevitably end in tears and wasted learning time as teachers try to get to the bottom of the issues.
Let us remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and show one another the face of God through our words and actions.

From our P & F President, Rachael Brady

"Friday, October 31st is "World Teachers Day". It is a good time to stop and reflect on where our children would be without the wonderful teachers and support staff at St Pats.

We are so lucky to have such a truly beautiful team of people to teach, nurture and provide role models for our children. A big thank you to the team at St Pats for your dedication and hard work and for the significant part you play in all our lives."
SCHOOL BANKING INTIATIVE

To encourage School Banking, each week we will have a Primary and Infant Canteen Reward

Winners for Week 4 Broden Mexon & Dakota Xuereb

Congratulations!

Year 1 Swimming

Over the last two weeks at school Year 1 went swimming at Gosford Pools. We went on the bus to swimming everyday. When we first arrived there we were put into small groups and we did one lap of swimming. Then we went into new groups and did lots of swimming. We learnt things like dog paddle, freestyle, frog kicks, tumble turns and floating.

We went swimming everyday and on the last day everyone got an award and a lollypop. Year 1 all had a very good time at swimming and we were sad because swimming lessons had finished.

By Lopez and Christian 1PM.

PBL Focus for this week

At St Patrick's we are responsible when we are in the right place at the right time.

LOST

Lilly Phillips KT has lost her sports hat—name inside
NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM: with Mrs Suzie Morris

In Year 2 Music this term we are investigating tone colour - different sounds and their quality. A different tone colour is produced by different instruments depending on the materials they are made from and the way they are played. To get hands on exploring tone colour we are going to make our own instruments!

Keep it simple! The instruments do not need to be elaborate or expensive. The focus is on using everyday materials found at home and your recycling bin is a good place to start! We will then explore the sounds our 'instrument' can make depending on how we play it and also combining these sounds to make music.

Look out for a note coming home in the next few days explain more but please send in an instrument for next Thursday (6th November) - stay tuned for action shots!
LET US PAINT YOU A SONG and that we did!

At 12.30pm on Thursday this week St Patricks joined over 500,000 students from more than 2,100 school across Australia to sing the same song at the same time on the same day! This event, National Song Day, is organised by Music Count Us In (http://www.musiccountusin.org.au) to highlight the importance of music education in schools.

Students form Kindergarten to Year 6 have been learning the song 'Let Me Paint You a Song' and developing actions since the end of last term. Together with some of our very own talented musicians on drums, guitars and recorders we blew the roof off! A huge thank you goes to Mr Smiley (Guitar Tutor from the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music) who not only joined our performance but who worked with us in teaching his students the guitar component for the song.

We sounded fantastic singing together and looked wonderful doing our actions. We entertained our teachers and had a ball. As the Music Teacher it was great to see some of our more reserved and shy students, along with those who do not consider singing and dancing 'their thing' to be grooving along and singing and having fun with their mates next to them - music to my ears and eyes!
If you would like to help out in the canteen, we would welcome you with open arms. Please contact Michelle on 0408 412 408 or email michellecormack@bigpond.com

No experience needed – we are happy to train all volunteers.

It’s not hard, the kids are friendly and polite and the best thing is your children really do love seeing you behind the counter!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 4, 2014</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>INFANTS</th>
<th>PRIMARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 5th November (Recess only – 9.30am – 11.30am)</td>
<td>Annabel Cockerton</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED Ph 0408 412 408</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 7th November (All Day - 8.15am – 2.00pm)</td>
<td>Rachael Brady Katie Talbot</td>
<td>Adrienne Prazauskas Belynda Vassallo</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 12th November (Recess only – 9.30am – 11.30am)</td>
<td>Jane Minehan</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED Ph 0408 412 408</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 14th November (All Day - 8.15am – 2.00pm)</td>
<td>Michelle Cormack HELP NEEDED Ph 0408 412 408</td>
<td>Deidra Robertson HELP NEEDED Ph 0408 412 408</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>WEDNESDAY 19th November (Recess only – 9.30am – 11.30am)</td>
<td>Kristy Montague</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED Ph 0408 412 408</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 21st November (All Day - 8.15am – 2.00pm)</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED Ph 0408 412 408 HELP NEEDED Ph 0408 412 408</td>
<td>Adrienne Prazauskas Karman Sawyer</td>
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P&F Christmas Dinner

EVERYONE’s invited to our end of year dinner!
Come and celebrate on

Tuesday 2 December 2014 @ 7.00pm

Central Coast Leagues Club
Dane Drive Gosford

Buffet restaurant with a huge variety of seafood, carvery, Asian food, salad, desserts and much more.

Cost: $24.40 per person (non-member) or $21.40 per person for Club members

Drinks: available to purchase from the bar

RSVP: to Michelle on 0408 412 408 or michellecormack@bigpond.com
by Tuesday 25 November

All welcome
Let’s talk about literacy

The importance of reading to children – on a daily basis, from birth and beyond – has never been more imperative, writes Karen Fontaine

Since 2002, the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Community Child Health has run a Let’s Read program in partnership with The Smith Family. Its aim? To make reading to young children “an integral part of early childhood development,” the Centre’s director, Professor Frank Oberklaid, told me in an interview 11 years ago.

“In the same way that we immunise children against the possibility of getting infectious diseases, we are arguing that reading to young children in the first few years of life is the best way of immunising them against poor literacy later on,” he said.

More than a decade down the track, the report card for the children the Let’s Read program is trying to reach isn’t exactly glowing – and that isn’t my appraisal, it’s that of Peter Garrett. Before he resigned as the federal Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, Garrett penned a newspaper article headlined ‘We cannot be proud of our literacy levels’.

Garrett offered as examples the fact that around 75,000 students who sat NAPLAN tests in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in 2012 didn’t meet national minimum standards. In Year 4 reading, one in four students are not meeting international benchmarks. In the most recent tests conducted in 2010, Australia performed worst out of all English-speaking countries; our score was lower than that of 21 other nations. This result is made worse when you consider that literacy is defined by the United Nations as a basic human right.

In response, Garrett unveiled a series of reforms, one of which was that hundreds of thousands of children would be assessed in their first year of school to find out whether they are at risk of falling behind and require extra help. In addition there would be a three-year ‘reading blitz’ for 1.1 million students from kindergarten to Year 3.

But the $64 million question is this: will these reforms actually improve Australian children’s literacy levels?

One expert, Annemarie Laurence, a clinical educator in speech pathology with the Speech Pathology in Schools (SPinS) program run by the University of Newcastle, fears not.

Identifying ‘at-risk’ children at the age of five is “two years too late”, warns Ms Laurence, who works every day with children struggling with literacy.

In The Sydney Morning Herald, Ms Laurence painted a wretched picture of the plight of the children with whom she works. “In the years before they started school, an outing for these children was being pushed around in a stroller at the local Westfield [shopping centre]. They have an iPad. They rarely have a book read to them. Their language is not stimulated regularly by conversation and questioning. They may have a speech delay so perhaps both familiar and unfamiliar people might have difficulties understanding what they are saying. They arrive on the mat on the first day of kindergarten with a mild receptive language delay

[michael grose]
1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud.

2. Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read.

3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don't be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.

4. Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.

5. Read the stories that the kids love, over and over and over again, and always read in the same ‘tune’ for each book: i.e. with the same intonations on each page, each time.

6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book; or sing any old song that you can remember; or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way; or be noisy together doing clapping games.

7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.

8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, and finding the letters that start the child’s name and yours, remembering that it’s never work, it’s always a fabulous game.

9. Never ever teach reading, or get tense around books.

10. Please read aloud every day, mums and dads, because you just love being with your child, not because it’s the right thing to do.

Although disadvantaged children are certainly at a higher risk of lower levels of literacy, even in higher socio-economic circles there exists a misapprehension that a child will succeed at school whether he is read to or not – just because both of his parents can string sentences together.

In a joint article in *Scientific American* magazine in 2002, a group of five US researchers – professors of psychology, linguistics and paediatrics – noted that “although many parents might think that innate intelligence will govern how well their kids learn to read no matter what type of instruction is given, the evidence suggests otherwise”.

Indeed, as Professor Oberklaid points out, the foundations for literacy are established long before children start school. “Young children who are exposed to words and language develop language but literacy is a learned skill ... and so by the time children get to school, when the brain is well on its way to being developed, children who are vulnerable find it very hard to catch up,” he told ABC TV’s News Breakfast program.

Professor Oberklaid went on to say that while reading books to children is important, creating a "language-rich environment" to establish strong literacy building blocks is also crucial. “The theme is ‘anytime, anywhere’,” he said. “It can be a walk in the park; it can be looking at street signs (and) introducing children to the idea that words have meaning.”

The underlying message could not be clearer: make reading to kids a habit as non-negotiable as the ritual of brushing teeth.

As Paul Jennings, author of *The Reading Bug ... and how you can help your child to catch it*, puts it: “Our happy ending is to know that no matter where they go, children lost in books will always find their way home.”

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“The fire of literacy is created by the emotional sparks between a child, a book, and the person reading. It isn’t achieved by the book alone, nor by the child alone, nor by the adult who’s reading aloud – it’s the relationship winding between all three, bringing them together in easy harmony.”

Mem Fox, author of *Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever*.

Fox, a literacy consultant and the bestselling author of such classic children’s books as *Possum Magic* and *Time For Bed*, has spent much of the past 20 years urging parents to read aloud to their children – particularly in their first few years of life.

Her book for adults, *Reading Magic*, espouses the many benefits of doing so – such as developing children’s ability to concentrate at length, to solve problems logically, and to express themselves more easily and clearly.

These are Mem Fox’s 10 ‘Read Aloud Commandments’ for parents and caregivers:

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes *every single day* reading aloud.

2. Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read.

3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don’t be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.

4. Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.

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9. Never ever teach reading, or get tense around books.

10. Please read aloud every day, mums and dads, because you just love being with your child, not because it’s the right thing to do.
Chairperson: Rachael Brady  
Meeting opened: 7.40pm

- **Record of Attendances** – Rachael Brady, Annabel Cockerton, Julia Conroy, Michelle Cormack, Patti Cox, Nicole Cumming, John Malicki, Michelle Perry, Adrienne Prazauskas  
  **Apologies** – Renee Heaney, Angela Stitt  

  _NB – Insufficient numbers for a quorum. General discussion only. Any matters that require a vote will be held over until term 1, 2015._

- **Confirmation and acceptance of previous AGM minutes** – accepted Annabel Cockerton, 2nd Adrienne Prazauskas

- **Presidents Welcome** – Rachael Brady  
  - Thanked everyone in attendance for their ongoing support  
  - Meetings should go no longer than 2 hours with the aim of completing all meetings by 9pm  
  - Each agenda item should go no longer than 10-20 minutes. If further discussion is required than a sub-committee will be formed and required to report back at the next meeting  
  - All agenda items are published in advance. Any new items brought forward at the meeting will be tabled under “Matters for future consideration”.
  - House rules for a friendly and welcoming P&F meeting –  
    - Everyone should be opened minded and respectful of others and only one person speaks at a time

- **Correspondence IN**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>CORRESPONDENCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Office</td>
<td>2013 Annual report details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Pete McLean</td>
<td>Thank you card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Smart Fundraiser</td>
<td>Loom band fundraiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Mr. Show Bags</td>
<td>2014 order form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Nestle</td>
<td>Chocolate fundraiser</td>
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- **Correspondence OUT**

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<tr>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Trivia Night – Angela Stitt</td>
<td>Thank you cards for donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Noel Laughton – host of trivia night. Email of thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Bunnings information to volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>P&amp;F 2015 calendar - Kinder Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>P&amp;F 2014 End of year dinner</td>
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REPORTS

PARISH – No report

PRINCIPAL – Nicole Cumming

- Year 6 Market day for fundraiser
- Year 5 parents to organize Year 6 graduation
- Swimming for Yr. 1 & 2 – returned to Gosford Pool this year. Has gone well
- Surf days coming up next month for Y3 to 6
- Postponed gala days completed this week for Oz Tag and Touch Football
- First Communion this term
- Concert preparations underway. Kate Kelly is coordinating.
- Year 5 leadership camp next month where students will nominate captains for 2015. Voting will then take place.
- Michelle & Nicole to attend National Learning and teaching conference in Qld.
- Kinder orientation went well. Prep groups commence in November.
- Catherine Kyle has been offered a permanent position at Toukley. Applications to fill her position close Friday 24/10.
- End of year award ceremony to be held Friday 12 December.
- WHS external audit Week 4
- Choir will sing at Erina Fair on 1 December and decorate a Christmas tree
- Step up / End of Year Mass Wednesday 17 December

TREASURER – Patti Cox

Balance as of 21/8/2014 - $15,849.13

Incoming -
- P&F levy $4106.90
- Bunnings BBQ $2078.60
- Father’s Day stall $2387.80
- Interest $38.81

Outgoing -
- Transfer to school $15000.00
- P&F meeting expenses $23.21

Balance $9,438.03

Nb
- Bunnings profit $1658.60
- Father’s day stall profit $382.30
- Trivia Night profit $1775.10

CANTEEN

Financials

- Balance at today $19,344.97
- Less ovens $1354.93
- September invoices are outstanding est- $1333.15

Leaving - $16,656.89

Nb - $10,000 held over from 2013 for Garden of Tranquility project.
CANTEEN continued
- Two new pies warmers were purchased this week. One for each canteen.
- Chest freezers in infants still need to be replaced. Next major expense.
- Yr. 6 students to receive a free snack food to say thanks for working in the canteen this year.
- Jellybeans (donated at BBQ) to be given to Yr. 6 for their graduation lolly bags.
- Banking incentive – each week a lucky winner will receive an ice block voucher (value of $1.50) to use at the canteen. To be drawn in front of students to encourage more children to bank each week.
- Last day of canteen this year will be Friday 12 December

GENERAL BUSINESS

Principal recruitment / Asst Principal contract renewal – Rachael Brady
- Rachael was the parental representative for the recruitment of our new principal.
- Very professional, organized panel.
- Rachael has the utmost confidence in the recruitment process.
- Decision imminent (announced Friday 24 October)
- Rachael was part of a parental panel interviewed to reflect on Michelle Perry’s role.
- The review focused on the strength of the person and included opinions from both staff and parents.
- Panel was very down to earth and respectful.
- Michelle’s positions has been renewed and Rachael thanked her for her significant contribution to our school.

RMS – Pedestrian barrier (York Street)
- Petition delivered directly to RMS on the day of their meeting with thanks to Patti Cox
- RMS are still investigating

ACTION – follow up Term 1, 2015

Disco – Term 1, 2015
- Welcome back disco to be held either 20th or 27th February.
- Nicole to confirm with parish re: dates for hall use.
- Annabel to book Scott
- Volunteers to be sourced as soon as school returns.

Dinner Dance / Trivia Night
- Annual dinner dance has been moved from March until 24 October 2015. This will be organizers Karen Hayhursts last year. Adrienne has volunteered to rejoin the committee for 2 more years.
- Trivia Night will be held Saturday 21 March. Host has been booked. Committee needed to organize and source prizes. Nb Prizes should be bigger/better for the Dinner Dance than the trivia night
- Parish Jubilee will be held the weekend of the 28/29 March 2015

Infant’s playground
- Not cost effective to plant hedge along Central Coast highway fence (e.g. number of shrubs required plus watering/feeding not practical)
- Mesh fencing an option, similar to that of another local public school. Provides a privacy screen but contains photos of school children. **Action** - Rachael to investigate.
Canteen Rostering
- Adrienne Prazauskas has volunteered to take over the canteen rostering for Term 1, 2015. This should be reviewed each term.

End of Year dinner
- Invitation included at the end of the minutes
- Invitation to be issued in newsletter
- Staff to receive personal invitations

Matters for future consideration

AGM – moving from August until November
- Held over until Term 1, 2015 meeting as not enough people present to vote.

Farewell
With thanks and best wishes to Nicole. We wish her well at St John the Baptist.

MEETING CLOSED – 8.30pm

NEXT MEETING

TERM 1 MEETING
Thursday 5th March 2015
7.15pm for a 7.30pm start
in the LARC, Primary Campus (Victoria Street).

Any matters for consideration to be forwarded to the Executive Committee via email to SPEGparents@dbb.org.au by Thursday 26th March 2015.
P&F Christmas Dinner

EVERYONE’s invited to our end of year dinner!

Come and celebrate on

Tuesday 2 December 2014 @ 7.00pm

Central Coast Leagues Club
Dane Drive Gosford

Buffet restaurant with a huge variety of seafood, carvery, Asian food, salad, desserts and much more.

Cost: $24.40 per person (non-member) or $21.40 per person for Club members

Drinks: available to purchase from the bar

RSVP: to Michelle on 0408 412 408 by Tuesday 25 November

All welcome