**Enquiries and bookings please call the**

**uniform price list & online shopping**

**Opening hours during school terms**

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

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

**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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**Family Mass**
Christmas Eve 2014
Children’s Liturgy every 9am Mass except in school holidays

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**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

**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

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**Reminders…**

The St. Patrick’s Parish Carols by Candlelight follows the 6:00pm Mass in the School Hall on Sunday, 14th December. Our own school choir, led by Mrs Morris, will be performing first, followed by the Parish Choir and Youth Band.

Our End of Year Mass is celebrated on Wednesday, 17th December@ 11:30am.

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**Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education Coordinator, Kev Coote**

**Sunday, 7 Dec 2014: Second Sunday of Advent - Year B**

**Mk 1:1-8 Make straight the paths of the Lord.**

**Gospel Reflection** by Richard Leonard SJ

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. ‘Danny, we can’t afford it’, she said, ‘so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.’ ‘Dear Jesus, I’ve been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.’ Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. ‘Dear Jesus, I’ve been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.’ Danny knew this wasn’t true either so he tore it up and tried again. ‘Dear Jesus, I’ve thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.’

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. ‘Jesus, let’s face it, I’ve broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister’s doll and lots more, I’m desperate. I’ve got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.’

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. This week’s scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us ‘doing a deal’ with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. ‘If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.’ ‘I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.’ ‘I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine income.’ ‘If you let me go to university, I will do a deal with God.’ ‘I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.’ ‘I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine income.’ ‘If you let me go to university, I will do a deal with God.’

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That’s not the profile of a deal-doer. It’s the portrait of a lover.

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FROM OUR PRINCIPAL............

Staffing
The following staff are moving on next year, as follows:
Gary McCarthy Retiring
Kevin Coote Our Lady Star of the Sea, Terrigal
Damian Mitchell Our Lady of the Rosary, The Entrance
Cherie Murray St Cecilia’s, Wyong
Nicole Cumming St John the Baptist, Woy Woy

New staff coming:
Paul Toomey Principal
Jackie Fletcher Religious Education Coordinator
Clare McNally Classroom teacher

N.B. two more teaching positions are still to be filled.

Y6 Graduation
Last night we celebrated Y6 graduating from Primary School. It was a beautiful ceremony where the Y6 students carried out their ministries in the mass in a most reverent and moving fashion. I’m sure the Y6 parents and family present last night were as proud of their children as we are.

The recipient of the Samantha Metti Citizenship Award for 2013 was Charlie James. Well done Charlie!

Following the ceremony we had a sumptuous supper in our hall, which was once again transformed into a fairy land. The supper was provided and organised by the Y5 parents. This event is not only a rite of passage for the students but a truly memorable occasion which comes together as a result of a lot of hard work by the following people:

Y6 teachers (Fiona Bolton and Damian Mitchell): general organisation and preparing the children
Damian Mitchell photostory and booklet
Kevin Coote liturgical movement
Maria Smith much “behind the scenes” organisation and work
Scot Frazer leading the music at mass
Christine Williams, Adrienne Prazauskas coordinating food and decorations for the supper
Peter McLean putting up hundreds of fairy lights
Y5 parents providing food & drinks for the supper
Grad Committee Christine Williams, Adrienne Prazauskas and Kassandra Mansell
Lollie Boxes Katie Erkan, Angela Cohen and Sharon Molloy
Receiving food Adrienne Prazauskas, Kassandra Mansell, Gay Peters, Karen Hayhurst, Julianne Hickman and Katie Erkan
Balloons Patti Cox -
Set up Yvette Zocher, Sharon Molloy and Carmel Robinson, Adrienne and Kassandra.
The cake Joanne Vella
On the night Adrienne Prazauskas, Kassandra Mansell, Carmel Robinson, Katrina Biscan, Natalie Irwin, Debbie Walter, Helen Cameron, April-lee Sanfilippo, Barbara Beilharz, Vanessa Magill and from St Edwards College - Chaz Schram, Darcy Schram, Liam Seymour and Noah Tooby
**Market Day**

Congratulations to our Y6 students who ran a very successful Market Day today to raise funds for a farewell gift for the school.

**Concert**

Our annual end of year concert is on next Tuesday 9th December at St Edward’s College in the ERC. **A photostory will begin at 7pm with the concert starting at 7.30pm.** Doors opening 6.45pm. The concert normally only goes for an hour. It is the expectation that EVERY child is present and participates in the concert. The children have put many hours of preparation into their dances and it is not fair on them or the rest of the grade if they do not turn up on the night.

You may pick your child/ren up from school at lunch time on Monday & Tuesday if you are able, as the children do get very tired and we would like to have them “fresh” for the concert on Tuesday evening, 9th December 7pm.

**We ask for a donation at the door to assist with the significant costs associated eg. hiring hall and sound company.**

**Thank you to all the parents who made sure their child/ren had their concert outfits at school today for our dress rehearsal.**
Thank You Morning Tea
Next Friday, 12th December, at 10.55am we are holding a THANK YOU morning tea for all parents and friends who have volunteered this year at our school. Without your valuable contribution we could not achieve a lot of what we do. Please come along! It will be held in the hall.

Academic Excellence Award Assembly
Also next Friday, 12th Dec, at 11.30am we will hold our Academic Assembly. In this final assembly for the year we acknowledge the top achieving students in each class and give out the final PBL awards for good behaviour. Parents are most welcome to attend.

End of Year Mass
Wednesday, 17th Dec, is the students’ last day for 2014. On this day students are told which class they are in for 2015 and participate in a “Step-Up” session where they go to their next year’s class with their new teacher. Following recess at 11.30am we will have our end of year mass, where we will farewell those leaving and announce the student leadership team for 2015. Parents are encouraged to attend this mass to celebrate with us another successful year. At the conclusion of mass children may go home.

Lifts
A reminder that NO children are allowed to ride in the lifts to cross the bridge. It regularly gets stuck, and besides that walking the stairs is good exercise!

P & F Christmas Party
Thank you to all who attended the P & F Christmas Party on Tuesday night and THANK YOU to our P & F for the marvellous job they do for our school all year through.

Coming Up
8th Concert practice at St Edward’s College 9am-1pm
9th Concert practice at St Edward’s College 9am-1pm
12th 10.55am Thank you morning tea for volunteers
11.30am Academic Excellence Award Assembly
15th Reports sent home
16th Y6 Fun Day
17th Last Day for 2014
10am Step Up session
11.30am Final Mass
*children may go home at the conclusion of mass

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.

Nic

ST PATRICK’S PARISH NEWS

Greetings from Fr Tadeusz

CONGRATULATIONS
A wonderful Graduation Mass was held on Thursday evening for the Year 6 Classes shortly to graduate from St Patrick’s School. The children are to be congratulated on their respectful manner throughout their final School Mass. St Patrick’s Parish wishes our outgoing Year 6 students well in their futures, and they take with them our continuing prayers for success.

YOUR 2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION FOR ADVENT @ ST PAT’S
Monday December 22 at 7.30pm

PINT Sized Paddies
Fridays Dec 19, 7pm for the Christmas Night! At the Hall.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH at ST PAT’S PARISH
Open to all, but especially anyone who would otherwise be alone. Do you know anyone like that? Perhaps you may like to help out? Just call the Parish Office on 4325 1042. Soft Drinks provided. No Alcohol.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PLAY—Christmas Eve [6pm at the St Edward’s College]. Bring your kids to practice after Sam Mass this
Both Year 1 classes went on an excursion to Henry Kendall Historic Museum last Monday. When we got there we got put into groups. I was with my best friend and first we went into a house. Inside there were heaps of old things like candles because in the past there weren’t any lights. Then we went into the museum with lots of interesting things. There were guns and all sorts of things. We went into a shed it had all horse things and machines that get used outside. After we had sack races and I won my race. Then we played tug-o-war and 1MS won the boys. It was time to go home, it was a fun day.

By Emily Shaddock

On Monday I went with my class and 1 CM to Henry Kendall Historic Museum. First we saw old irons and there was a big bell from under water years ago. I saw lots of interesting things that I did not know about before. Then we went into a shed and I had never learnt about farms in the past so I learned a lot of new things. Then we went into a real old house, it looked nothing like my house. Next we had lunch and after that we played lots of games but I never won any races. The other class won the tug-o-war for the girls and 1MS won the boys. We had sack races also and I came second. It was fun.

By Elaouise
St Patricks School Choir spread the Christmas message as they raised the roof off Erina Fair with their beautiful voices this week. Thank you to our wonderful families who were able to come and support and sing along with us! We are very proud of you choir - and you represented St Patricks so well!

A reminder that choir has been invited to sing at the St Patrick’s Parish Christmas Carols at 6pm on Sunday 14 December - please let Mrs Morris know if you can make it.
NEWS: Have you voted for the St Pats Christmas Tree at Erina Fair yet?

As reported in the newsletter last week, Year 5 have been busy crafting decorations for the St Patrick’s Christmas Tree on display at Erina Fair (between Rebel and Kmart). The public are invited to vote for their favourite Christmas Tree and make a gold coin donation to Erina Fair’s nominated charity the RSPCA. The three schools who receive the most votes will be given a $300 book voucher! Below is a photo of the choir with the St Pat’s Christmas tree on Monday - the students wanted to vote but we didn’t have enough gold coins! Trees are on display from 24 November to the 24 December. Don’t forget to vote for our tree next time you are at Erina.

Coming in Term 1, 2015 …

St Patrick’s Annual Trivia Night

Saturday 21 March – 7.00pm

Mark this date on your calendar … a fun night guaranteed!
**Mini Vinnies News**

This term Mini Vinnies would like to help make Christmas a much happier day for families in our community who are not as lucky as us.

We have placed a hamper in every classroom and we ask that every family donate a non-perishable food item eg. tinned food, chips, lollies, rice, pasta, etc or a new toy to give to the St Vincent De Paul society to distribute to the needy in our community for Christmas.

We thank you for your donation and for supporting all our events through the year.

Mini Vinnies Team

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**If candy canes are given out with cards at school they are NOT allowed to be eaten at school.**

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**Year 7 St Josephs Uniform for Sale.**

- Girls size 10-12. Blazer, Shirt, Skirts (X2), PE shorts
- Worn one year only.
- $100
- Ph: Carolyn 0404516282

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**PBL Focus for this week**

*At St Patrick's we are respectful & responsible learners*
SCHOOL BANKING

FINAL BANKING DAY, WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2014

SCHOOL BANKING AWARD WINNERS

To encourage School Banking, each week we will have a Primary and Infant Canteen Reward Winners for This Week Emma Cormack & Thomas Voesenek

Congratulations!

Update on prizes
To any child who ordered a projector cup from Commonwealth Bank and received a note in their bank book saying they were no longer available. They are. They will be placed on back order but won’t be available until first term 2015. so please leave the order slip in the bank book wallet.

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL TO OUR NEIGHBOURS BY NOT PARKING IN/ OR BLOCKING THEIR DRIVEWAYS
(Unless you have made arrangements with them)
The school will be hosting a “thank you” morning tea on **Friday 12 December**. We would love all of our canteen volunteers in 2014 to join us so we can say “Thank you” for giving us your time to work in the canteen. We truly appreciate the support of our volunteers because without you – we would have no canteen.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The final day of canteen for 2014 will be **Friday 12 December**. (The canteen WILL NOT be open on Wednesday 17 December). Some items may be low in supply or out of stock next week as we wind down stock for the holiday period. The canteen will re-open next year on Wednesday 4 February.

**Farewell**

- To our enthusiastic and helpful Year 6 students, thank you for your assistance in the canteen this year. We hope you enjoyed your “retail” experience, we certainly appreciated your help. The P&F wishes you all the very best on your journey into high school.
- To our Year 6 canteen mums - thank you for your help and assistance in the canteen over the years. We wish you well as your association with St Patricks canteen comes to an end.

**News for 2015 ....**

- We welcome Adrienne Prazauskas back to organising the canteen roster in 2015. (Thanks Adrienne!) Anyone interested in working in the canteen next year is encouraged to contact Adrienne on adrienne@80series.net or 0414 509 547.
- A new look menu will be released in Term 1, 2015. Please note that due to supplier increases we have found it necessary to increase the price of the majority of our best selling items. We certainly do our best to keep our prices low and we have not had any major increases in the past three years. Any enquiries can be directed to Michelle or Adrienne.