Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education Coordinator, Jacqui Fletcher

This Sunday is the first in the season of Lent. What is Lent? Lent is the forty days (not counting Sundays) leading up to the celebration of Easter. It is a time when we pray and think about all that Jesus has done for us. Some people observe Lent by giving up something that they like very much such as eating candy, playing video games, watching TV, or going to the movies. Others observe Lent by trying to concentrate on doing good for other people such as giving to the poor, visiting the sick, collecting canned goods for the Church food pantry, or doing chores for a neighbour. These are good things to do, but most of all, Lent is a time when we focus on the call of Jesus when he said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

Just as Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry, Lent is a good time for us to draw closer to God and dedicate ourselves to following Jesus.

Ash Wednesday
On Wednesday we reflected upon the meaning of Lent and received the ashes on our foreheads. Our Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students participated in a Liturgy in the Church with Father Tadeusz. Years 3 – 6 partook in an Ash Wednesday Mass with Father Dariusz. Thank you to the parents, carers, friends and parishioners who joined us.

Stage Masses Next Week
Stage 1 Parish Mass on Wednesday at 11.30am.
Stage 3 Parish Mass on Thursday at 9.00am.

I warmly invite you to come along to these Masses to celebrate the Eucharist with us.

Sacramental Program
The Sacraments are an important part of our Catholic life and faith. They are opportunities to personally encounter God. I reflect back to when I made my Sacraments, shared with my family and Catholic faith community, with great fondness and spiritual enlightenment.

The first of the Sacraments is Baptism and it is needed before a Catholic can continue with the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

For families and children who have been Baptised, the Sacrament of Confirmation is offered to children in Year 2. Children who have been Baptised and Confirmed are then eligible to proceed with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist in Year 3.

Today I will distribute the Sacramental Program to all Year 2 and 3 classrooms outlining the dates and requirements for each of the Sacraments. We are mindful however that some children (and parents) new to our school and Catholic community may have not yet received the Sacrament of Baptism or may have missed one of the Sacraments. If you fall into this category, please contact the St Patrick’s Parish Office. I am always available to discuss the Sacraments with you!

It is important to be mindful that when transitioning from a Catholic primary school into any of our feeder Catholic high schools that a commitment to the Sacraments demonstrates your Catholic life and faith in action and is considered in the enrolment process. I would encourage any families who are wishing to enrol into a Catholic high school, whose child/children have not received the Sacraments to contact Paul, Michelle or myself to have a chat about this matter.

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**Golden Jubilee Mass**

Please come along and celebrate the Golden Jubilee Mass for St Patrick’s Catholic Church on Sunday the 1st March 2015 at 10.00am. Bishop Peter will be co-presiding with Father Tadeusz and Father Dariusz; and we have some Year 6 students who will be participating by way of a liturgical movement. After the 10.00am Mass we will have a morning tea and face painting on the school grounds.

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**Shrove Tuesday**

A big thank you Adrianne and all the parents and friends who helped us celebrate Shrove Tuesday! A thank you to everyone who brought in pancake mix, jam and cream! The money raised will be donated to Caritas Australia through Project Compassion.

**Facebook**

I encourage you to like the “St Patrick’s Parish Gosford” Facebook page. Father posts Parish Notices and Daily Reflections that feed the soul.

**Paddies Youth Group**

Paddies Youth Group occurs twice a month on a Friday at 7pm. It is on this Friday night in the hall between 7.00pm and 9.00pm for kids in Years 5-8.

**Reunion Mass**

A special reunion Mass will be held on Sunday the 15th March 2015 for all the children who made their First Eucharist last year. This applies to those children currently in Year 4 and any other students in years above who made the Sacrament of First Eucharist in 2014. Parents are asked to bring a plate and share in morning tea in the Jordan Room after Mass. We are seeking readers for that Mass. If you are attending, please contact the parish office so that your child may be allocated a reading.
FROM OUR PRINCIPAL...........

Morning Tea with the Principal

About 25 parents joined together to share their thoughts, ask questions and listen to each other and me about the school and its future. It was a fruitful conversation that was very well-received. I would like to thank all parents who joined us and hope they will come together again next term to share their thoughts.

Interactive Whiteboards

Year One have had IWBs installed this week and Kindergarten will have them installed next week. I look forward to sharing with you the benefits and direction we are heading with technology in the coming months.

Central Coast Swimming Carnival

Next Monday a selection of our students will join together to represent St. Pat’s at the annual Central Coast Catholic Schools swimming Carnival. We wish them good luck and hope that all children achieve personal bests.

P & F Meeting

Our first P & F Meeting for this term will be held on Thursday, 12th March at 7.00pm in the LARC on the primary campus. Please come along!

Coming Up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 Feb</td>
<td>CCC Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Feb</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Mar</td>
<td>50 year Parish Mass Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>7.00pm P &amp; F meeting in LARC</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day Mass and Celebrations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regards

Paul Toomey, Principal
Reading is a complex process, it involves messages expressed in language, which requires a knowledge of the conventions of print and visual patterns. In order to help your child achieve greater success in reading the teachers send home your child's instructional level reading book so that they can practice the reading strategies that are being taught in the classroom.

Your child will bring this book home with them each night and return it the next day. As this is the instructional book that your teacher is using to teach your child reading, it is imperative that the book be returned each day for your child to receive their reading lesson. We understand that due to family activities you may not have the opportunity to hear your child read on a particular night but it is extremely important that you return the book the next day so teaching can continue. Your child has been allocated a particular number that corresponds to their book so we can monitor their return. We hope that you will support your child with their reading development by listening to them read every night and ensuring the book is returned to school the following day. Reading at home can assist and accelerate the acquisition of reading strategies, improve vocab and comprehension, and help develop fluency. Next term I will hold an information session for parents/carers on how to assist your child with their reading, but until then the following table may assist you in helping your child with their reading.

Michelle Perry, Assistant Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting your child with Reading at home.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>If your child makes a mistake and corrects the error...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Offer praise or support for making the correction</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>If they are likely to know the word, ask them to go back to the beginning of the sentence and have another go at it.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ask a question which will give a clue to the meaning eg: “How do you think Sam feels?” “Angry”</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FROM THE MUSIC ROOM with Mrs Suzie Morris

Year 2 students tried their hand at composing and playing rhythm patterns this week. They were using one beat notes, taa, ti-ti and zaa (silence) which is a little tricky as ti-ti has two sounds but only goes for one beat (lost? ask your kids to explain 😊). They composed their own 16 beat rhythms and then spent time playing these for a friend and then playing each others. Lots of fun in the Music Room with composing and body percussion.

FROM OUR P & F EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pancake Day
Thank you to all wonderful children and their families for supporting Pancake Day. We had an exceptional response to our call for donations. Thank you for providing pancakes, shaker mixes, jam, syrup and cream. The children had a great recess celebrating this feast. In the words of our school captain- “They were awesome pancakes!” Thanks to the volunteers for giving up their morning to cook, prepare and serve the pancakes. We raised over $450 for project compassion. A fabulous community effort!

Disco – Friday 27 February
Thanks to all our mums, dads and grandparents who have volunteered to supervise next week’s disco. We look forward to hosting a great evening of fun for the children. A couple of house rules to remember ...

- The primary gates will remain closed to cars for the safety of our children. Please park on the street or in the public car park across the street.
- ALL children must be signed in and out by an adult aged over 18 years. No drop offs please.
- Entry fee is $2.00 per school aged child. All monies raised will go to the Mini Vinnie’s.
- The canteen will be operational on the evening, selling glow sticks, chips and sweet treats. We do provide a free water station but in this warm weather it may be a good idea for children to bring a water bottle as well.
- Infants disco start at 5.30pm. Pickup at 6.45pm. Children must be signed out
- Primary disco starts at 7.00pm. Pickup at 8.30pm. Children must be signed out

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Trivia Night
Our annual trivia night will be held on Saturday 21 March. Tickets are $10 each and are available for sale at the office (Maria would love to see you!). Tables of 6, 8 or 10 available. Don’t have a table? No problem – buy a ticket and we will find you a great table! First table to book AND PAY in full will receive 3 extra points towards your trivia tally. Get in quick! We are also in need of some donations for prizes/raffles on the evening. If you have a local business that could provide us with a donation we would gratefully accept your support. We also would love some wine or chocolates to present on the evening – so if you can spare a box or a bottle, once again we would be extremely grateful.

Looking forward to meeting lots of new faces at the disco and trivia night!
School Backpacks

All students requiring a School Backpack need to put an order into the uniform Shop By the 27th February
Payment can be made at the time of the order or on collection of the bag.
All students are Required to have a school Bag by the start of term 2 "ORDER NOW"

DONATIONS FOR TRIVIA NIGHT
21 MARCH 2015
If you have a business or are able to donate a prize for our Trivia Night it would be very much appreciated
(New unused items (Gifts)

SCHOOL BANKING
PLEASE SEND YOUR BANK BOOK IN ON WEDNESDAY

SCHOOL BANKING AWARD WINNERS
To encourage School Banking, each week we will have a Primary and Infant Canteen Reward
Winners for This Week
Alex Camilleri & Ruby Wylie

To tie in with the International Year of light yesterday was Alessandro Volta’s 270th birthday!
Count Alessandro Volta (1745 - 1827)

Born in Como, Italy, into a noble family, Count Volta was a physicist and pioneer in the study of electricity. "Volt," named after Count Volta, is a measurement of electricity. Count Volta also made discoveries in electrostatics, meteorology and pneumatics. His most famous invention, however, is the first battery.

Dr John Irvine
Managing the Pre-School Years

"There's no more challenging time than the pre-school years. Get this part of children's lives under good management practices and it sets the pattern and tone for the rest of their growing years.

In Dr John's talk on 17 March at 6-7pm, he will give parents and carers practical tips, lots of reassurance and lots to laugh about. One of his key messages is if you want good kids you get there by training good behaviour rather than trying to tame bad behaviour. Dr John will also be referring to his latest book “Helping Young Worriers Beat the Worry Bug” and giving parents some practical strategies to help you deal with your little "Worrybug"
T – teach the behaviour you want rather than yell at the behaviour you don't want
R – reflect the problem back to the kids – what can we do to fix the issue
A – assert what you want rather than becoming aggressive
I – infuse clear rules and routines – get the kids to help make them up so they have some ownership
N – nurture the kids with lots of cuddles, so when you need to discipline, they think remorse, not revenge."

Dr John Irvine will be talking at a free community event being held at the Green Point Christian College, on behalf of the Little Coasties Kindergarten.
To register for this event please go to www.littlecoasties.com as seats are limited so please get in early!

St Peter’s Catholic College
Tuggerah Lakes

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week
BYO DRINKS, FOOD, CUPS & PLATES!

$10 per ticket
Tickets on sale at the office.
First fully booked and paid for table receives 3 BONUS POINTS to

COIN TOSS SILENT AUCTION PRIZES

Saturday 21st March

7.00pm for a 7.30pm start in the Hall

THEME: ST. PATRICK’S DAY / IRISH / GREEN
Prizes & bonus trivia points for best dressed
We are looking for Volunteers for the 2015 School Year.
We need Volunteers to ensure canteen will remain open during the year.

If you can help out we would love to hear from you. If you have a date in mind, let us know and we will slot you in.

Contact Adrienne on 0414 509547 or mrspraz@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.
Mrs P is contactable anytime, so check your 2015 calendar and if you have a date in mind, even if its months away, let her know your availability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| WEDNESDAY 25th February  
(Recess only 9.30am -11.30am) | Annabel Cockerton | Michelle Greenwood |
| FRIDAY 27th February  
(ALL Day – 8.15am – 2.00pm) | Katie Talbot  
HELP NEEDED  
0414509547 | Katie Ercan  
Justine Collings |
| WEDNESDAY 4th March  
(Recess only 9.30am -11.30am) | Nan Moffat | Jane Farrugia |
| FRIDAY 6th March  
(ALL Day – 8.15am – 2.00pm) |  
HELP NEEDED  
0414509547  
HELP NEEDED  
0414509547 | Jan Gilmartin  
Adrienne Prazauskas |
| WEDNESDAY 11th March  
(Recess only 9.30am -11.30am) | Michelle Greenwood | HELP NEEDED  
0414509547 |
| FRIDAY 13th March  
(ALL Day – 8.15am – 2.00pm) | Kate Habgood  
HELP NEEDED  
0414509547 | Alison Haig  
HELP NEEDED  
0414509547 |

Please also check out the new Menu for 2015. There has been some price rises, but please note, we have not raised prices for many years. Our prices are now in line with most schools on the Central Coast.
**St. Patrick's Term 1, WELCOME BACK Disco – Friday 27th February**

**DISCO ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>INFANTS</strong></th>
<th><strong>PRIMARY</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DUTIES</strong></td>
<td>5.30 - 6.45pm</td>
<td>7.00 - 8.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Music</strong></td>
<td>Scott McKinnon</td>
<td>Scott McKinnon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supervisor</strong></td>
<td>Rachael Brady (ph: 0478 473 975)</td>
<td>Michelle Cormack (ph 0408 412 408)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canteen</strong></td>
<td>Sadie Mawad</td>
<td>Sonia Costa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sophie McCrone</td>
<td>Justine Collings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anna Rott</td>
<td>Lenora Byrne-Bates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supervising stairs going up to Y3 and basketball court area</strong></td>
<td>Kylie Russotti</td>
<td>John Malicki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Stephenson</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sign in and sign out table</strong></td>
<td>Jackie Forrester</td>
<td>Lisa Haynes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marcus Hams</td>
<td>Adrienne Prazauskas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon Bevan</td>
<td>Tracy Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supervising stairs going up to top playground</strong></td>
<td>Ashleigh Magann</td>
<td>Kylie Russotti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katie Talbot</td>
<td>Karen Stephenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supervising toilet area</strong></td>
<td>Melissa Faunce</td>
<td>Annita McMenniniam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jess Donnelly</td>
<td>Aimee Sands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supervising Hall and stage area</strong></td>
<td>Rachael Brady</td>
<td>Michelle Cormack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mark Cockerton</td>
<td>Ken Warrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tom Sands</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water Table</strong></td>
<td>Maddie &amp; Jack Conroy</td>
<td>Maddie &amp; Jack Conroy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*If you are unable to make it please contact the Infant or Primary Supervisor on the above numbers*

*Infant helpers needed at the school hall between 5.00 - 5.15pm please.*

*Primary helper can you please be at the school hall by 6.45pm for hand over.*
The P&F of St Patrick’s is proud to host the WELCOME BACK DISCO!

**WHEN:** Friday, 27 February

**WHERE:** School Hall, Primary Campus

**TIME:**
- Infants 5.30pm – 6.45pm
- Primary 7.00pm – 8.30pm

**COST:** $2.00 per child

All monies collected will be donated to Minnie Vinnies

The disco is organised, run and supervised by the P&F (not the school) and relies on parent volunteers to go ahead. If you are available to assist with supervision or canteen on the night please fill in the slip below and return to school or contact Michelle on 0408 412 408 or email michellecormack@bigpond.com

Unfortunately, if we do not get enough parent volunteers the disco will not go ahead.

- I can assist with the Infants’ Disco 5.30 – 6.45pm
- I can assist with the Primary Disco 7.00 – 8.30pm
- I can assist with both Discos 5.30pm – 8.30pm

Name __________________________ Contact No ___________________