Greetings,

As we move towards Christmas, the coming of our Saviour you can feel the excitement and momentum building to the crescendo of Christmas Day. Travel gently; treat each other with kindness and prayer for others who may not be as fortunate as us. Whilst this is a wonderful time of the year, for others they can feel isolated and their crosses can be heavy to carry. Often our prayer is for ourselves, however as we make way and prepare for the Lord, let’s think of others!

Reflection on Sunday’s Gospel: Second Sunday of Advent
Preparation for Christ’s Coming

Christmas is coming. What an exciting time of year. It is often a time when company comes. Maybe it is grandparents or a favourite aunt or uncle who will come for Christmas! I love it when company comes, don’t you? I love it, but it also means that there is a lot of work to do; cleaning the house, preparing beds for them to sleep and organising food!

This Sunday we hear about how John the Baptist foretold the coming of Jesus and told people to prepare for the coming of the Lord. When John told people to prepare for the coming of the Lord, he didn’t mean that they should go and clean their homes or make their beds; he meant that they should prepare their hearts. How? By repenting of their sins and turning toward God.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is coming again and, just as in the day of John the Baptist, it is important for us to make sure our hearts are clean and ready for the coming of the Lord. We do that by confessing our sins and asking God to forgive us.

We must spend time each day in prayer, reading his Word, and asking God’s forgiveness for those things that keep us from being ready to welcome Jesus’ return.

© Sermon for kids (Adapted by Ms Fletcher)

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal

We will be continuing our annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal! This week your child will bring home a slip of paper with an item they need to bring in for their class hamper. Each classroom will be making their own Christmas Hamper which will be passed onto St Vincent de Paul to be allocated to a family in need this Christmas. John McCrae from St Vincent de Paul will be attending our end of year Mass to collect our Hampers and speak to the children. I thank you in advance for your generosity and compassion!
St Vincent de Paul Christmas Toy Appeal

This week you will have also received notification that we will be supporting the St Vincent de Paul Christmas tab/present label. The youngest child will have brought home a small Christmas Present Tag. If you wish to support this appeal, please purchase a present for a child between the age of 1 and 16 years. Write “boy” or “girl” on your tag as well as the appropriate age for the gift and send it into school. We will have toy collection points at the Hall on the Primary side, outside the Staffroom on the Infant’s side and an additional collection point at the Christmas Concert at St Edward’s College.

Sacrament of First Eucharist

Blessings to all the children who made their First Holy Communion in the past week; it was such a special occasion! Father Dariusz spoke about how they all dressed up for Mass wearing their Sunday bests for this special occasion. Sharing in the Body of Christ is like no other meal. It’s special, nourishing and draws us all in closer to God and the mystery of our faith. A special thank you to Mrs Toomey, Ms Conwell and Mrs Jenkins who were program facilitates for the children within our Parish. Mrs Eadie, our Sacramental Program Coordinator did a wonderful job in ensuring the children were prepared. Mr Fraser and Mr Coote also supplied us with live music for our Eucharistic celebrations and Emma Cormack and Lucy Fraser were altar servers for this special occasion. We are blessed to have such dedicated people in our schools and parish.

What’s on:

| Week 10 | Year 6 Graduation Mass, 10th December 2015, 6.30pm |
| Week 11 | End of Year Mass, 16th December 2015, 11.30am |

May Christ’s peace be with you all!

Jacqueline Fletcher

FROM OUR ACTING PRINCIPAL, Michelle Perry

Academic Award Ceremony

Next Friday, 11th Dec, at 9am 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.

Thank You Morning Tea

Next Friday, 11th December, straight after the final assembly (approx.10.15am), 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.
**Principal’s Award**

Congratulations to those students who have received a Principal’s Award this year. Your ability to make good choices all the time makes our school a great place to be! The final awards will be presented at the end of year Assembly on Friday 11th December at 9am.

**Last Day**

Wednesday, 16th Dec, is the students’ last day for 2015. On this day students are told which class they are in for 2016 and participate in a “Step-Up” session where they go to their next year’s class with their new teacher. There will be absolutely NO CHANGES to classes once they are announced so please don’t ask.

Following recess, at 11.30am we will have our end of year mass. Parents are encouraged to attend this mass to celebrate with us as we pray with gratitude for another successful year. We also farewell our Year 6 students as they finish one stage of their lives and get ready to begin another.

The student leadership positions for 2016 will be announced at the conclusion of this mass.

Students may leave at the conclusion of mass. If your child is leaving with another parent etc… a written note is to be sent to the class teacher stating such.

**Class Teachers 2016**

Please find class teachers below....

K Blue: Jade Conwell  
Y1Blue: Clare McNally  
Y2Blue: Julie Brewer  
Y3Blue: Rhonda Jenkins/Jenny Jenkins  
Y4Blue: Steve Harris  
Y5Blue: Cherriene Turnbull/Libby Howard  
Y6Blue: Fiona Bolton

K Gold: Melanie McCallum  
Y1 Gold: Kim Osling  
Y2: Adele Toomey  
Y3 Gold: Maureen Mandell / Lauren Lewis  
Y4 Gold: Jacqui Fletcher/Suzi Morris  
Y5 Gold: Jan Shanahan  
Y6 Gold: Mark Dobb

**Y6 Market Day**

It is a tradition that every year the students from Grade 6 fund raise in order to purchase a leaving gift for the school. This year a market style day has been organized for Monday 7th December to enable the Year 6 students to raise money for this gift. The Y6 students will be responsible for organizing activities such as cake stalls, craft stalls and fun activities. Students from each grade will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for 50c each/3 for $1 which they will use on the day for the activities. The market will take place between 11.30am and 1pm on Monday 7th December.

**MAI (Mathematical Assessment Interviews)**

Thankyou to the families who have made their child/ren’s MAI booking. The site will stay open until Monday for those who have not yet made an appointment time, please make this a priority! Please remember to select the appropriate Teacher (eg Teacher X) when making your appointment.
School Enews
If you’re not receiving the newsletter via Enews (some Big Pond users are having problems) the Enews App maybe something to download on your phone and then all Enews emails are shown on there. Download at http://ios.schoolenews.com.au

Y6 Graduation
Next Thursday we will celebrate Y6 graduating from Primary School. It is always a beautiful ceremony where the Y6 students carry out their ministries in the mass in a most reverent and moving fashion. Following the ceremony we have a sumptuous supper in our hall, which will be once again transformed into a fairy land. The supper is 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 Jacqui Fletcher): general organisation and preparing the children
Christine Ryan photostory and booklet
Cally Witt liturgical movement
Libby Howard Art work
Maria Smith much “behind the scenes” organisation and work
Mr Magill &Patrick leading the music at mass
Tricia Williams, Cherl Frazer, Adrienne Prazauskas, Carolyn Beverly and Alysia Murray for coordinating food and decorations for the supper
Peter McLean putting up hundreds of fairy lights
Y5 parents providing food & drinks for the supper

Photos/Videos
Just a reminder that parents do not have permission to take photos and/or video footage of children other than their own. They particularly do NOT have permission to put such material on Facebook or any other social media. There are legal ramifications to doing such. The DVD of the concert will hopefully be sent home on the last day of school. If this is not the case, they should be available for pick up on the Thursday 17th at the office from 8am – 12noon).

Farewell
This year we have two very special staff members retiring, Mrs Duckett and Mrs Carey. Mrs Veronica Duckett has worked at St. Patrick’s for the last sixteen years as our learning support teacher and has been a tremendous asset to our school. Veronica always goes above and beyond for our children. Her dedication and commitment to them and their families has always been outstanding and there are many from the past and present who thank her for helping them achieve success in school and life. Mrs Colleen Carey has worked in our school office for the last 23 years and has been a St.Pat’s parent for even longer. She is the very special lady who answers your calls, sends out your bills and bandages your child, all without fuss. Both these ladies will be greatly missed by all the staff, children and families. We thank them for all the years of dedicated service to St. Pat’s and wish them every happiness in the new chapter of their life as they pursue their travel adventures and grandchildren. What a life!

Important dates to remember........
10 December Year 6 Graduation
11 December Final Assembly—Awards at 9am followed by our Thank you morning tea for parent volunteers.
14 December St. Patrick’s End of Year Christmas Concert at St Edward’s 6.30pm
15 December Year 6 Fun Day
16 December Last Day of school, Step Up 10am and Final Mass @ 11.30am

Return to School Dates—2016
Mathematical Assessment Interviews Thurs 28 & Fri 29 January 2016
“ “ “ Monday 1 February Kinder 2016
Year 1—6 start back to school Monday 1 February
Kindergarten start school Tuesday 2 February
End of Year Concert

Our end of year Christmas Concert is just around the corner and preparations are in full swing here at school. Each grade will be singing two Christmas carols and we have a few surprises in stall for you. As this is a school event all students are expected to attend. As in previous years, it will held in the hall at St Edwards on Monday 14 December 2015 with doors opening at 6:30pm and the concert commencing at 7:00pm.

‘Costumes’ this year have been kept simple so please refer to the table below for each classes requirements - if you have any questions please see you class teacher or email susan.morris@dbb.catholic.edu.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>COSTUMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Aussie beach wear eg swimmers, nippers gear, thongs, board shorts, rash shirt, sunnies, hats etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Singlet/t-shirt, shorts/skirts and thongs (in Christmas colours/style) PLUS Christmas accessories: Santa hats (no brim), Christmas headbands, ribbons, tinsel in hair etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Girls: ½ leggings (white, green, red etc) and plain white t-shirt. We will provide sparkly skirt. Boys: Shorts (white, green, red etc) and plain white t-shirt. PLUS Christmas accessories: reindeer antlers, ribbons, headbands etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Pyjamas - Christmas if possible Teddy bear/soft toy you would take to bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>T-shirt/singlet and shorts/skirt (red, white, green etc) PLUS Christmas accessories: Santa hats (no brim), Christmas headbands, ribbons, tinsel in hair etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Green t-shirt Black shorts/leggings/skirts PLUS hair accessories: Christmas headbands, ribbons, tinsel in hair etc (no hats please 😊)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Aussie beach wear eg swimmers, nippers gear, thongs, board shorts, rash shirt, sunnies, hats etc. PLUS other specifics as sent home in note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>Simply wear your class ‘costume’ (as listed above) – we will supply other pieces required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opportunities to give

There are a couple of opportunities to give to families less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas. Please note this is voluntary and only if you are able.

**Toy Drive:** At the Concert we will have a Giving Tree where you can place your wrapped toy with label sent home this week, please state gender and age that the toy is suitable for, or you can send to child’s classroom.

**Vinnies Hampers:** We will be continuing our annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal! This week your child will bring home a slip of paper with an item they need to bring in for their class hamper. Each classroom will be making their own Christmas Hamper which will be passed onto St Vincent de Paul to be allocated to a family in need this Christmas.

**Leaving**

It is a legal requirement that you notify the school in writing if your child/ren will be leaving the school and advise us which school they will be going to. We have a legal requirement to confirm with the next school your child’s enrolment, in case of truancy. It is also very important as we have waiting lists for many classes and families anxious to try and get their children enrolled for next year. Therefore, I ask that you PLEASE let us know IN WRITING immediately if your child will not be continuing at St Patrick’s next year.

We will send our final Newsletter & Class Requirements List on Wednesday 16 December
SPORT REPORT, FIONA BOLTON

Despite being the last term of the school year, Term 4 has still been busy with sporting activities such as the year 5 and 6 Touch Gala Day, surf fun days and Years 1 and 2 swimming program. During this last week the school was extremely lucky to participate in a community project run by the International Football School. Year 9 students from this school worked with our students from Stage 1 to 3, practicing soccer skills and having fun. We hope they come back next year.

Congratulations to Ashley Treacy in Year 6 who won an Outstanding Sports Achievement Award at The Broken Bay Primary Schools Sports Council on Tuesday night. Ashley won this award for athletics coming first in the state for 100m and for doing well in high jump and 200m. As you can see, Ashley is a very talented sports person not only at athletics but in any sport she plays.

As this will be the last sport report for the year, I would like to thank all those people who have helped to make my job a little easier. Firstly to the students who enthusiasm and love for sport make it all worthwhile; to all the staff who assist with the training of teams and the organisation of carnivals, to the parents who helped coach and manage teams and transport their children to the various sporting venues all over the coast, to the P&F who supplied the school with extra representative sport uniforms this year and lastly to that great bunch of sport captains who willingly give up their own time to assist me with anything to do with sport. I appreciate everyone’s efforts.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM with Mrs Suzie Morris

CHOIR: Choir parents please note that due to only a small number of choir members being available for the St Patrick's Parish Christmas Carols and the Fairhaven Service Christmas Carols Event our school choir will not be participating either.

We performed today at the Presbyterian Aged Care Centre, East Gosford and will be singing at The KindiClub on Tuesday (photos next newsletter). You should be very proud of the efforts and commitment shown by your child/ren this year - they are a beautiful group of singers and we look forward to showing you what we can do at the End of Year Christmas Concert on Monday the 14th December.

END OF YEAR CONCERT: We have been very busy in music and in our classrooms practicing our songs for the end of year concert on Monday 14th December. Each grade will perform two Christmas songs, I'm sure you have heard a bit of humming/singing going on at home! We are really looking forward to showing off our talents.

St Patrick’s Christmas Concert

The children of St Patrick’s invite you to celebrate our Christmas end of year concert.

6:30pm doors open | 7:00pm start
Monday 14 December (Week 11)
at St Edwards School Hall
Russel Drysdale Street, East Gosford

Bring your family and friends
Gold coin donation at the door to cover hall hire and equipment
Silent Night | Christmas Day | Joy to the World | Rudolph | Aussie Jingle Bells
Deck the Shed | Away In a Manager | Starry Night | 12 Days of Christmas
From the P&F ... 

Canteen

Thank you to all the families who supported the canteen this year. We thank all our wonderful volunteers and hope to see them at the “Thank you” morning tea next Friday. Stayed tuned for the new roster for 2016.

A reminder of the canteen hours for next week (Week 10) –
Wednesday 9th December – recess only (Infants & Primary)
Thursday 10th December – recess only (Infants & Primary)
Friday 11th December – Lunch only (orders and snacks Infants & Primary) – Final canteen day for the year.

Please note that as we are winding down for the year, there will be NO chicken wraps, burgers or toasted sandwiches on Friday 11th.
Best to list 2 options on your order just in case we have run out of some things

Thanks to Jo Singh and Sue Magann for volunteering to maintain the Primary Tropical Slush machine next year. Thanks to these ladies the primary kids will continue to enjoy icy cold slushies.

Thank you Adrienne for bringing back the slushies this year – it was a great success


Canteen Balance as of 4/12/2015$14,629.89
Canteen income down as Canteen has not been opened on both side every Wednesday and Friday this term. School camps and excursions have also been held on Fridays which has impacted lunch orders.

All outstanding invoices to be paid by Wednesday 16/12/15

P & F Balance 4/12/2015$34,245.90
P & F Committee have purchased new sports uniforms for Rep/gala sports events.

Received a cheque from Community Audit for $250 as a donation.

Funds to be transferred to school for payment of infants playground. Work to commence during summer holidays.

P&F and canteen 2015 accounts to be audited in January.

Finally ...

On behalf of the P&F Committee we wish everyone a safe, happy and holy Christmas and we look forward to doing it all again next year!
CHRISTMAS CONCERT DVD

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO ORDER A DVD OF THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SEND ORDER TO SCHOOL OFFICE ON MONDAY THE $10

DON’T MISS OUT

Please do not drop your children off in the driveways of our school. There was a near miss recently when a child was nearly hit by a reversing 4 wheel drive after they had dropped off their own child

THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!

DO NOT DRIVE INTO OUR DRIVEWAYS

Also—Please consider our neighbours when parking or dropping off your children we have had complaints about cars parked across driveways making it impossible for them to get out.

The Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon is the biggest kids triathlon in the world and continues to grow with over 35,000 kids in Australia and New Zealand taking part this year.

The Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon inspires children aged 7 -15 years to get moving in a friendly and supportive environment where the emphasis is on enjoying an active lifestyle. Kids of all abilities cross the finish line a champion and everyone who participates takes home a medal.

The Central Coast TRYathlon will be held on Sunday 7 February, 2016 at Woy Woy. TRYathletes will swim at the fantastic Olympic-sized pool in Peninsula Leisure Centre, cycle through the surrounding closed suburban streets and run on James Browne Oval! Everything will be marked out and well signed to make it easy to follow.

Parents, for more information or registration, head to http://try.weetbix.com.au/

Registration closes 31 January 2016. Early bird discounts apply so get in quick!
A huge thank you to Year 5 and Mrs Turnbull for hand making decorations to adorn the St Patrick's Christmas Tree at Erina Fair.

Next time you are doing a spot of shopping check out our Christmas tree and those from other schools from across the Central Coast.

You can vote for our tree (gold coin donation with each vote) with all proceeds donated to Coast Shelter. Last year we were one of the top 3 schools with the most votes and won a $300 Erina Fair gift voucher which has assisted in purchasing costume and prop supplies for this year’s Christmas concert.

Merry Christmas!
BUS NEWS

OPAL CARDS WILL BE GENERATED FOR ALL STUDENTS WHO HAVE A PASS THIS YEAR AND WILL BE SENT TO THE OFFICE IN THE NEW YEAR FOR DISTRIBUTION

The exception to this is for Year 2 students going to Year 3 a letter and information pamphlet from Transport NSW has been sent home.

If you wish to apply for an Opal pass for your child please go online to apply at transportnsw.info/school-students

PRIVATE MUSIC TUTORS @ SCHOOL
At St Patrick’s we have an external music tutors who come to school to conduct small group music tuition. If you would like your child to learn an instrument through a music tutor please refer to the adjacent flyer or contact The Central Coast Conservatorium of Music directly via http://www.centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/contactus. Please note these lessons are separate to the normal music class your child attends each week. All tuition fees are handled directly with the private tutor or the Conservatorium and timing of the lessons will be determined by the music tutor in conjunction with your classroom teacher. If you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact Suzie Morris (Tues-Thurs) or at susan.morris@dbb.catholic.org.au
SCHOOL BANKING

Last day of banking 9 December
School banking award winners
Sandor Torok
Elsie Grogan
Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at St Patricks!

USED CLOTHING POOL

Next open
Tuesday 8 December
8.30 – 9.30am

Collaborative Partnerships

Diocesan Parent Council 2015
Seminars Resources
Parent Meetings Online Learning
See what your DPC did this year
... and who is presenting in Feb 2016
(HINT Australia’s No.1 Parent Educator!)
www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com
Your School - Your DPC

The Uniform Shop

Uniforms for 2016

All students requiring any new uniforms for 2016 are required to either visit the shop during opening hours or make an appointment for a uniform fitting during Term 4, 2015.

Families can purchase or lay-by uniforms at the time of fitting. The uniform shop will be open in January 2016 for lay-by collection and size exchanges (if required).

Please make your Term 4 uniform fitting appointment as soon as possible.


2. Email The Uniform Shop: sstpprimary@alinta.com.au (the shop manager will either call or return your email to arrange a suitable time)

Extended Shop Hours 2016

St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School

Friday 22nd Jan 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Friday 29th Jan 2.30pm – 4.00pm
Tuesday 2nd Feb 8.30am – 10.30am
Not long till the school year finishes. The kids enjoy seeing family members in the canteen. If you can help out, let us know.

We need Volunteers to ensure canteen will remain open during the year. Contact Adrienne on 0414 509547 or mrspraz@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Adrienne on mrspraz@gmail.com
or 0414 509547

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 4, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DATE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 9(^{th}) December (Recess only 9.30am -11.30am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY 10(^{th}) December (Recess only 9.30am -11.30am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 11(^{th}) December (Lunch Only )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If for any reason you are unable to do canteen on the day you have volunteered, please contact Adrienne on 0414 509547 asap so she can try and arrange a replacement.

If you are able to VOLUNTEER next year, please let me know. If you have any dates in mind please give them to me and I will slot you in.

Huge Thank You to all the volunteers this year in the canteen. Without your help we wouldn’t be able to run the canteen.

Don’t forget to put in your calendar the Morning Tea next Friday 11\(^{th}\) December in the school hall for ALL VOLUNTEERS at the school at 10:30am after the final school assembly.

Thank You!