Dear Parents and students,

Welcome back to the new school year. For myself it has been a very busy and exciting time and I am loving being here with you at St Patrick’s. I am sure the students are all very excited to be back as well and that the parents are equally happy and excited.

Although I have not had the opportunity to meet every family, I would like to thank those I have met, the staff, students, Father Tadeusz, Father Roman and the Parish Community for your warm welcome to the School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Michelle Perry, our Assistant Principal, for her help and support and for her leadership of the school in 2015. Michelle is a great leader and St Patrick’s is very fortunate to have her on staff.

Today we had our opening school mass, where the captains and SRC received their badges and new students were welcomed to our community. It was great to see many families join us for this celebration and to stay for morning tea afterwards.

Thank you also for the effort that all families have made to ensure that the students returned to school in their full school uniform. I would like to draw attention to one aspect of our sports uniform, the students’ runners/joggers. There are a number of students who are wearing coloured runners/joggers. Our school uniform indicates that the students should be wearing predominately white ones. Can I ask parents to be mindful of this aspect of our uniform.
Prayers
Please keep those in our community whose family members are sick in your prayers.

Dogs on the Playground
Please be mindful that animals even when they are on a leash, should not be on the school playground before or after school.

Parent Information Sessions Kindergarten to Year 6—Monday 15 February 6.30pm Victoria Street Campus
We ask all parents to join us in the School Hall (Victoria Street Campus) at 6.30pm for a chance to meet our staff and your child’s class teacher.
There will be two sessions this year to allow families with more than one child parents to get to more than one class.
Session 1 starts at 6.50pm
Session 2 starts at 7.20pm (For Parents who have more than one class session to attend)

Class Pastoral Parent
Please contact your child’s class teacher if you would like to be the Class Pastoral Parent this year.

Catholic Schools Week
This year during Catholic Schools Week we will have open classrooms on Monday 7 March 9—10am. This will also be an opportunity for new families to pick up enrolment forms for Kindergarten 2017 and for them to look around our school.

Thank you for your support
God Bless
Cheryl Walsh
Principal

Greetings,
My name is Jacqueline Fletcher and I am the Religious Education Coordinator at St Patrick’s and one of the Year 4 classroom teachers.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all families, old and new; may this year be a successful one for all our students.

It is my second year here at St Patrick’s and I truly believe we are in a special place; one where we work together collectively to teach and nurture our children in spirituality and faith, which they will carry with them in the years to come.

Lord Jesus,
We ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings; for our students, our families and our teachers. Open our hearts and mind to new friends. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our learning and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends.
Jesus, inspire each and every one to do their best this year!
Amen

Ash Wednesday: The Beginning of Lent
Lent is the season of preparation for Easter. It starts on Ash Wednesday (next week) and ends on Easter, lasting for 40 days. We prepare for Easter by fasting, praying, asking for forgiveness and reaching out to others in need. We reflect on the sacrifices made by God and His only Son Jesus. Lent is a time for “spring cleaning” our lives whilst giving thanks to God and strengthening our relationship with Him.

We invite you to join us on Wednesday the 10th February 2016 as we celebrate Ash Wednesday. A Mass for Year 3 –6 will be held in the Church at 9.00am and a liturgy for our Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students will be in the Infant’s Library at 10.30am. At the Liturgy and Mass Father Tadeusz and Father Roman will distribute ashes to our Catholic community. We receive a sign of the cross on our foreheads from ashes; the ashes from the blessed palms used on Palm Sunday.
Over this weekend talk to your child/children about their Lenten promise. In my family we choose one thing to take up (to help someone else) and one thing to give up (fasting). We also strategize about the ways we can support each other throughout Lent so we have greater success keeping our Lenten promises.

During Lent our school community reaches out to others. We support Caritas Australia, a Catholic Organisation by raising money for the disadvantaged all across the world. Project Compassion boxes are placed within our classrooms, both canteens and one will be in our Office foyer for donations.

Sacramental Programme
The Sacraments are an important part of our Catholic life and faith. They are opportunities to personally encounter God.

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. If you or your children have not been Baptised and wish to receive this Sacrament please contact St Patrick’s Parish Office on 4325 1042 or please pop in and see me at school!

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 Programme Information Booklets to all Year 2 and 3 children (and any other student) 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 Cheryl, Michelle or myself to have a chat about this matter.

What’s on:
W2: Whole School Mass, Friday the 5th February at 9.00am
W3: Ash Wednesday Primary Mass, Wednesday the 10th February at 9.00am
Ash Wednesday Infant’s Liturgy, Wednesday the 10th February at 10.30am
W5: Whole School Family Mass, Somersby Parish, 11.00am followed by a picnic

God Bless
Jacqueline Fletcher
Religious Education Coordinator

SPORT REPORT, Ms Fiona Bolton
The school's annual swimming carnival will be held next Tuesday, 9th February at Gosford Pool. This carnival is for students in Years 3 - 6. Those children in Year 2 who turn 8 this year and can competently swim 50 metres freestyle are also invited to attend if interested.

The students will walk down to the pool with their teachers after the morning bell and will walk back to school at the conclusion of the carnival. The students will wear their sport uniform with their swimmers on the day.

Please remember to make sure your child has sunscreen and knows how to apply it, as well as a hat, towel and food and drink. If it rains on the day only those students competing in races will be attending. Those students in the novelty event will remain at school.

Parents are invited to attend this day. If your child goes home with you please see their teacher to have their name marked off.

Please refer to the carnival note for other details.
Parents and Friends 2016

We have a committed but small P & F association who work closely with the school to promote parental engagement and involvement in our school community. We warmly welcome our new Principal Mrs Walsh and new staff members and all new families to St Patrick’s and encourage you to be involved in our activities and term meetings. By us all working together we continue to build on the great community spirit that our school is known for.

Upcoming events -
Bunnings BBQ Sunday 14th February at West Gosford Thank you you to all those who have volunteered their time to help run the BBQ. We truly appreciate your support. We still need 3 more people to help with the 12 noon to 2pm time slot. If you can spare a couple of hours, please contact Michelle on 0408 412 408 or email michellecormack@bigpond.com. We also encourage families to pop in and say hello and purchase a sausage sandwich and a drink (perhaps after Mass, nippers or soccer grading). We would love to see some friendly faces!

Save the date - Thursday 10 March - AGM and Term 1 meeting.

Our annual general meeting and term 1 meeting will be held on Thursday 10 March in the LARC (primary campus). Agenda will be issued early March. We encourage people to attend. Don’t be shy, it’s a great way to find what’s happening in our school, share ideas and meet new people. We even provide supper!

And thanks to those who have already volunteered to work in the canteen - it cannot open without your help. We welcome mums, dads, grandparents, aunties and uncles to lend a hand. No experience necessary and it really is a rewarding experience. The kids love seeing you in the canteen and all profit made is returned to the school. Please contact Adrienne on 0414 509 547 to book in a date.

Netball team of girls turning 13 this year requires two players
A promising team of girls needs two players to have a full team plus a reserve for the Gosford Association Winter competition at Adcock Park on Saturday mornings.

Enthusiastic team with a ‘netball nut’ coach who has coaching accreditations from Netball NSW and a Working with children clearance.

The girls made the finals in 2015 and aspire to make the Grand Final in 2016. Our club has a lovely new uniform and coach has great plans for an exciting and fun season.

Any girls that have played before in the C or D grade will fit in nicely however girls brand new to our sport are very very welcome. As long as you’ve got a big happy smile, enthusiastic positive attitude and willing to learn, we’ll have you running and catching in no time!

If you want to join a team where you’re learning something new every week and where the coach gets in and runs around with you to show you, not just tell you how to do things, then this is the team for you.

Please call or text Fiona 0437 874983 or email fritchie@yahoo.com.au if you are interested.

Alternatively if you’d like to come and try it out, we’re at court 5, Adcock Park at 7pm on Tuesday nights for an hour of our “Skills, Fun and Fitness” preseason practice.

All girls turning 13 in 2016 very very welcome to come and try, just send me a message to let me know you’re coming. Bring a friend to combat any shyness or feelings of being new, however the girls are all very kind and inclusive.

If you have a younger or older daughter who would like to play please contact our club secretary on email : nvnccsecretary@hotmail.com as to available team spots. Our 9’s have vacancies at the moment for players and our social ladies divisions also have spots available.
Opening dates for 2016

02 Feb, 8 Mar, 5 Apr, 17 May, 7 Jun, 19 Jul, 9 Aug, 13 Sept, 11 Oct, 8 Nov, 6 Dec

8.30am – 9.30am

LOCATED NEAR THE MUSIC ROOM ON THE PRIMARY SIDE

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND CLEAN UNIFORM INTO

THE SCHOOL OFFICE, YOUR DONATION IS ALWAYS APRECIATED.

"CASH ONLY"

Call Fadia on 0412635371 OR THE SCHOOL OFFICE 43251159
# 2016 Term 1 Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Infants</th>
<th>Primary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10(^{th}) Feb (9.30-11.30)</td>
<td>Annie O'Shea</td>
<td>Michelle Greenwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12(^{th}) Feb (8.15 – 2pm)</td>
<td>Judith Andrews</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17(^{th}) Feb (9.30-11.30)</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19(^{th}) Feb (8.15 – 2pm)</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24(^{th}) Feb (9.30-11.30)</td>
<td>Marcus Hams</td>
<td>Rhonda Vallely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26(^{th}) Feb (8.15 – 2pm)</td>
<td>Angela Stitt</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aimee Sands</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2(^{nd}) March (9.30-11.30)</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4(^{th}) March (8.15 – 2pm)</td>
<td>Judith Andrews</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9(^{th}) March (9.30-11.30)</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
<td>Michelle Greenwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11(^{th}) March (8.15 – 2pm)</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16(^{th}) March (9.30-11.30)</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18(^{th}) March (8.15 – 2pm)</td>
<td>Angela Stitt</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa Haynes</td>
<td>NEED SOMEONE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please TEXT Adrienne if you are able to help on any of these days 0414 509 547 or email on mrspraz@gmail.com
## 2016 TERM1 SCHOOL CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan/Feb 1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Students Return</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Whole School Mass</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kinder photos 9am</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>ASH WED</td>
<td>SHROVE TUES Swimming carnival Y3-6 Pancakes for Infants</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Information Night : 6.30 Session 1: 6.50 Session 2: 7.20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Stage 1 Parish Mass Staff Diocesan Mass 5.30pm</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>CC Swimming</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kindy Liturgy Parent SEL night 6.30pm</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stage 3 Parish Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7 Catholic Schools Week</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>BB Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Feast Day celebrations</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Holy Week Harmony Day</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Holy Thursday Whole school Liturgy</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar / Apr 10</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Easter Mass</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1 Newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Last Day of Term Assembly</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Anzac Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>Back to school Term 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Small changes, big differences.

Mental Health and Parenting Program

Are you living on the Central Coast, parenting or caring for children 0-12 years old? Have you experienced Mental Health Problems? Would you like to develop a better relationship with your children, as well as learn some different strategies to assist in your parenting role? This program may interest you.

Area of support: To make parenting easier and more enjoyable.

The program offers suggestions, ideas and practice around positive parenting techniques. There is no single “right way” to parent. In this group we will be discussing a variety of ideas and strategies.

Topics covered:

- Positive Parenting - What is it?
- Possible Causes of Child Behaviour Problems
- Mental Health and Parenting
- Developing Positive Relationships with Children
- Supporting Children's Development
- Managing Misbehaviour
- Developing Healthy plans

The program is FREE and consists of six weekly group sessions (1 hour) and four individual follow up home visits to help implement new strategies. The program runs each school term in either Gosford or Wyong area.

Our next group:

Dates: Thursday 17th February – 17th March 2016
Times: 10:15am – 11:15am
Where: Level 2
A Maxx Street
Gosford 2250 (opposite Centralink)

Please are limited and booking is essential.

For more information or to book into one of our groups, call:
Ruth Pohlen 4328 7350 OR Joanne Irp 4328 7350
Children & Young People’s Mental Health

www.triplep.net

---

Free workshop for parents & carers of young people on the autism spectrum!

Wyoming - 24th February

Register your place:

positivepartnerships.com.au

---

Interested in learning the guitar or keyboard at St Patricks through private/group tuition?

We have a number of music tutors that visit St Patricks to hold one-on-one and group lessons for students.

Guitar and Keyboard/Piano lessons through the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music: make an enquiry online at: http://www.centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/contactus

For more information on guitar lessons call Mr Steve Smiley on: 0410 039 556

Guitar through private tutor Greg Taylor: call Greg on 0405 359 840 or at bbks@bigpond.com

---

Big Fun: Healthy Active Happy Kids

Do you have children 7 to 13 years old and you worried about their weight?

Go4Fun is a healthy lifestyle program to improve health, fitness, self-esteem and confidence in children above a healthy weight. The program consists of games, activities, tips on healthy food, label reading and portion sizes plus much more.

FREE ten once a week program for kids to become fitter, healthier and happier.

TERM 1 2016
27/1/2016-16/4/2016
Go4Fun programs will be held at:

Geoff Over Olympic Pool
Saturdays 1.30pm-3.30pm
Short Dates: 30/1/16
End Date: 2/4/16

Mingara Recreational Club
Saturdays 1.30pm-3.30pm
Start Date: 30/1/16
End Date: 2/4/16

Peninsula Leisure Centre
Thursdays 4pm-6pm
Start Date: 2/3/16
End Date: 2/4/16

Wyong Olympic Pool
Thursdays 4pm-6pm
Start Date: 2/3/16
End Date: 2/4/16

Go4Fun | FREE CALL 1800 780 900 | www.go4fun.com.au
SCHOOL BANKING
PLEASE SEND YOUR BANKING BOOKS IN ON WEDNESDAY!!
Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at St Patricks!

Gosford Tigers

Home Ground Adcock Park, West Gosford

We Play Sunday Footy
Auskick (Boys and Girls 5-7 year olds)
Boys: U9’s, U11’s, U13’s, U15’s, U17’s
Youth Girls: U16’s
Special team for children with disabilities.
For further information please contact Kelly Mott on 0425 267 665
Or head to play afl.com.au

BUS NEWS

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

Apollo Netball Club East Gosford was established in 1972 by mothers of students attending St Patricks primary school.

Our club offers qualified coaches and training for umpires. We foster a culture of family, fun and sportsmanship. This winter season we require players for the following age groups: 7's, 9's, 11's and 12's (turning these ages in 2016).

To sign up to play in this fun, family club, email apollonetballclub@gmail.com with your inquiry.