Greetings,

Welcome back! It's wonderful to see your children's smiling faces and that you have returned healthy and ready for a joyful year ahead.

For those who are new to St Patrick's, my name is Jacqueline Fletcher and I am the Religious Education Coordinator and one of the Year 4 classroom teachers.

St Patrick's is a very 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 guidance 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 minds to new friends. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our learning and give us courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence. Jesus, inspire each and every one to do their best this year!

Amen

Somersby Parish Family

We warmly invite you all to come along to the first Family Mass for 2017 which will be held at Somersby on the 19th February 2017 at 11.00am! We hope to make this a special day, where as a school and parish community, we gather together for Mass and enjoy each other’s company in a picnic afterwards from 12.00noon – 2.30pm.

We have organised a coffee van, a snow-cone van and a jumping castle for the day – you just need to BYO picnic lunch. Today a note has been sent home and I would ask you to return it to us as soon as possible indicating your attendance! Can’t wait to spend the afternoon with you and get to know the new families and children at St Patrick's!
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.

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.

Next week, I will distribute the Parish Sacramental Programme Information Booklet to all Year 2 and 3 children (and any other student who wishes to begin their Sacramental journey) 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 not yet be Baptised OR may have missed one of the Sacraments. If you fall into these categories, please contact the St Patrick’s Parish Office on 4325 1042. 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 enroll 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 10th February at 9.00am

W3: Whole School Parish Mass, Sunday the 19th February at 11.00am at Somersby (30 Lutana Road, Somersby) – followed by a picnic

W5: Ash Wednesday Primary Mass, Wednesday the 1st March at 9.00am

Ash Wednesday Infant’s Liturgy, Wednesday the 1st March at 10.30am

Go gently with Christ

Jacqueline Fletcher

Religious Education Coordinator
FROM OUR PRINCIPAL…………..

Dear Parents and students,

Welcome back to a new year. It was wonderful to see all the children return to school this week looking relaxed and ready to begin another year. Yesterday was the first day for our new Kindergarten students and they were so ready that they were lining up before they needed to.

A special welcome goes to all our new families, we hope that you have enjoyed your first few days at St Patrick’s and we look forward to welcoming you into our community.

I would particularly like to thank all the parents who spent so much time and money in ensuring that their children arrived back at school looking so wonderful in their school uniform. I do understand how expensive uniforms are and I am most grateful for the effort you have all taken.

Changes

Over the holidays there have been some new changes around the school. One of the most significant has been the installation of air conditioning in all classrooms. We were originally only going to start with the Primary Side but decided at the last minute to borrow the extra funds needed to get the Infants side completed at the same time. A special thankyou goes to all our parents who have helped to fundraise to enable this to happen. We’ll have another fund raiser event next term, to hopefully finalise the funds. I know that the teachers and students appreciated the air conditioned rooms this week with the extra hot weather.

There have been some changes to the Admin Building as well, so the next time you are at school call in and have a look. One of the more significant changes is the second door in the foyer area. Quite soon this door will be locked, for safety reasons, and parents will not be able to enter and walk through as they have in the past. The Admin Staff will be able to unlock this door for parents if needed, but if parents or students arrive at school in the morning at 8.10am before a teacher is on duty, they will not be able to walk through to the playground. Before school care is available from OHSC if you need to drop your child before 8.10am, their contact details are available on the website.

The other changes include a new ceiling in all Year 3 rooms and the veranda. The cola area at the back of the hall has been repaired and there have been other WH&S items rectified as well. The CSO has been responsible for these repairs and I am most grateful for their support.

New Staff members

I would like to welcome back the staff for another great year. There are there usual teachers, with some new faces as well. I would like to welcome Ms Therese Cohen, Year 2Gold; Mrs Jodie Kessler, Year 2 Blue with Mrs Brewer; Mrs Lisa Ellwood, Year 1Blue and Ms Kaitlin Crawford, Year 3Blue with Mrs Lewis. We hope that you enjoy this year with us at St Patrick’s.

Baby News

For those parents who don’t already know, Mrs McNally had a beautiful Baby boy on January 3rd. His name is Archibald Thomas (Archie for short) and both are well.
Meeting with Teachers

With the new year many parents will be anxious about their children and their new teachers. Each year as your child progresses through school, especially from Kindergarten to Year 1 and from Year 2 to year 3, there will be many changes for them.

I would like to remind parents that speaking with the class teachers is always your first option. It is important to remember to call into the office and make an appointment to meet with them. Trying to catch a teacher before school or after school is not always a good idea as the teacher may have duty or getting ready for the school day. Going to the classroom before or after school without an appointment is also not a good idea. Communicating with the teacher in the appropriate way is the best answer, please either make an appointment with the office or send in a note, that way you can be assured an appropriate time can be given to you.

We will be holding an information meeting with parents on 13th February where the teachers will be able to share some important information with you.

Opening School Mass and Welcome Morning Tea

Our opening school mass is on Friday 10th February. Our school leaders will receive their badges at this mass and we will welcome our new Kindergarten students to St Patrick’s. There will be a welcome morning tea after mass in the hall. Hopefully many parents will be able to join us for the morning. School assembly will follow the morning tea this week, again you are all welcome to stay.

Looking forward to a great new year.

Cheryl Walsh, Principal

Class Teachers 2017

K Blue: Jade Conwell  
K Gold: Melanie McCallum  
Y1Blue: Lisa Elwood  
Y1Gold: Kim Osling  
Y2Blue: Julie Brewer / Jodie Kessler  
Y2Gold: Therese Cohen  
Y3Blue: Lauren Lewis/Kaitlyn Crawford  
Y3Gold: Maureen Mandell / Jenny Jenkins  
Y4Blue: Steve Harris  
Y4Gold: Jacqui Fletcher/Christine Ryan  
Y5Blue: Cherriene Turnbull/Libby Howard  
Y5Gold: Jan Shanahan  
Y6Blue: Fiona Bolton/Christine Ryan  
Y6Gold: Mark Dobb

Your 2017 School Fees have been emailed.

Please check and if you have not received this please let the office know on 4325 1159.

Swimming Carnival Year 3 –6

14th February 2017
Dear Parents, carers and families,

We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and all families are making a smooth transition back into school. Welcome to the new families and staff who have joined our school community this year. We look forward to getting to know you and wish everyone the best of experiences at what is a great school and community.

The aim of the P&F is to recognise and value the role parents and carers play in the education of their children. We aim to strengthen the partnership between family, school, parish and the wider community for the benefit of the children in our school. All parents and carers of the school community are members of the P&F.

Term 1 is shaping up to be a busy term – a great way to start a new year!

Upcoming events include –

**School Disco**

Our first school disco will be held on **Friday 24 February** in the hall on the Primary campus. Our regular DJ has returned and the evening will start with the INFANTS disco at 5.30pm until 6.45pm. The PRIMARY disco will commence at 7.00pm until 8.30pm. Entry fee is $2.00 per school aged child which is donated to our Minnie Vinnies. A canteen will be available on the night selling snacks, juice and glow sticks.

We need lots of volunteers to ensure the disco is fun filled and safe. If you can volunteer your time to help on the evening, please contact Michelle on 0408 412 408 or michellecormack@bigpond.com. We need help in the canteen, entry table, supervise the disco floor and exit areas just to name a few. Our school discos are run by the P&F, so parent help is needed for the evening to go ahead.

**Shrove Tuesday**

To celebrate Shrove Tuesday on the **28 February** we are asking all families to send in pancake supplies so that we can serve delicious pancakes at recess for a gold coin donation. Monies raised from this event are donated to Project Compassion. Again we will need lots of helpers to ensure this morning is a success. If you are free from 8.30am until 11.30am on this day, please contact Michelle on 0408 412 408 or michellecormack@bigpond.com to volunteer your time. It's a great morning spent cooking and serving pancakes to our children whilst supporting a wonderful cause. (More information regarding what to send in will be published in the next newsletter).

**AGM and Term 1 meeting**

The P&F AGM will be held on Thursday 9 March at 7.00pm in the LARC primary campus. At the AGM all P&F executive positions will be declared vacant and nominations and voting will occur to elect the P&F executive team for 2017. Our term 1 meeting will follow the AGM.

All welcome – it’s a great chance to hear firsthand what is happening in our school. Please save the date and come along. We welcome all parents and carers at our school and we love new faces!

**Canteen**

Our canteen is run purely by volunteers. Ange coordinates the roster, Michelle orders the food and supplies and Annabel pays all the bills. HOWEVER without your help there is no canteen! Working canteen is fun, busy (at times!) and your child will love you for it! No experience necessary – we will train you. If you can work canteen this term please contact Ange Stitt on 0409 362 217

Please note –
- The canteen is only open Wednesdays for recess and all day Friday.
- The 2017 menu will be issued next week

**A special shout out of thanks to …**

- Angela Gibbs for taking on the role of co-ordinating our second hand uniform shop. Thanks Angela, we really appreciate your time and efforts with this important service.
- Nan Moffatt for giving the stools in the infants canteen a new lease of life. They look great with their bright new covers. Thanks Nan!
FROM THE MUSIC ROOM with Mrs Suzie Morris

There is lots happening in the music room with great opportunities for students to further develop their music skills:

ST PAT’S TRAINING BAND

We are so excited to be starting our St Patrick’s Training Band next week! Open to Years 3-6, there are lots instruments on offer from woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone) to brass (trombone, trumpet, euphonium) and various percussion instruments. No experience necessary as we are beginners. Band members would have received information from me this week regarding band rehearsal, tutorials and instruments. Please let me know if you have any questions.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Training Band please let me know (susan.morris@dbb.catholic.edu) and I will send you an information pack.

KEYBOARD LESSONS:

We have a keyboard/piano tutor from the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music (Gosford) in our school every Monday for one-on-one lessons – open to all ages. If you are keen to learn to play the keyboard please contact the Conservatorium via http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/contactus

GUITAR LESSONS:

There are two options for guitar lessons at St Patrick’s:

- Greg (private tutor) is available for one on one and small group tuition at St Patrick’s. Please call Greg on 0405 359 840 for more details and available times.

- Steve from the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music (Gosford) runs small group guitar lessons on Wednesdays at St Patrick’s. There are some places available in these rotating groups (so students do not miss out on class and/or lunch time each week). For more details please call Steve on 0410 039 556 or the Conservatorium via http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/contactus

CHOIR:

Choir for Year 3 to 6 will commence again on a Thursday from week 2. We have lots of fun singing and look forward to a range of performances throughout the year from local nursing homes and preschools through to joint ventures with other schools and public performances later in the year sharing our voices with each other and the community.

Any questions regarding any of these opportunities please contact me at school Tuesdays to Thursdays on susan.morris@dbb.catholic.edu.au
Gymnastics

Children will be required to wear their sports uniform 2 days per week in Term 1 as our students will be participating in the Gymnastics Program.

The following classes will be required to wear their sports uniform on Monday and Friday

5B, 5G, 6G, 6B, 1B & Kinder

The following classes will be required to wear their sports uniform on Thursday & Friday

4B, 4G, 3G, 1G, 2B, 2G, & 3B

School Banking starts Wednesday 8 February
Help Needed for the Disco

Please contact Michelle on 0408 412 408 or michellecormack@bigpond.com.
The SCHOOL NEWSLETTER is published every SECOND FRIDAY and is the school’s most important communication to parents. The newsletter includes important dates and information about activities and events at the school.

Newsletters are sent to you via email. There are many advantages to this method of receiving your newsletter;

- reduced paper and administration costs to the school
- supporting the environment
- your child can’t forget or lose the newsletter
- you still have access to the newsletter if your child is absent

In order for you to receive your newsletter you will need to register your email address by going to the school’s website at www.spegdbb.catholic.edu.au. Registering is a very simple process and will not take long to complete.

- click on ‘Newsletter’ which can be found at the bottom of the home page, then click ‘subscribe now’, complete your details and click the button ‘subscribe’

A confirmation email will then be sent to you, click ‘Activate Now’ in the email that you are sent

An iPhone/iPad app is also available and can be downloaded at http://ios.schoolenews.com.au.

This process only needs to be completed once. You will then receive the newsletter each week via email unless you unsubscribe yourself. If you change your email address then you should re-subscribe via the website.

If you have any questions please contact the school office for assistance.
# 2017 School Calendar

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan/Feb 1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31 Years 1-6 Students Return</td>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>2 Yr6 Parish Mass</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
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<td>Jan/Feb 1</td>
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<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>6 10am Kerri</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>9 Overviews due</td>
<td>10 School Mass 9am Welcome Morning Tea followed by Assembly</td>
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<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>13 Parent Info night 6.30pm Primary Hall</td>
<td>14 Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>15 Stage 2 Mass</td>
<td>16 Early Stage 1/1 Mass</td>
<td>17 Infants Water Fun Day</td>
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<td>19 11am School Mass Somersby</td>
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<td>Feb 4</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>22 Stage 3 Mass</td>
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<td>24 Radio Broadcast &amp; Breakfast Assembly Disco</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 Fr. Tadeusz 50th Birthday</td>
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<td>Feb/March 5</td>
<td>27 CC Swimming</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1 March Ash Wednesday Primary Mass 9am Infants Liturgy 10.30am</td>
<td>2 Bishop meets Yr 6 Leaders</td>
<td>3 P &amp; F meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>12 2nd Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>March 6</td>
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<td>9 P &amp; F meeting 7pm</td>
<td>10 Cross Country</td>
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<td>12 2nd Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>15 Back up Cross Country</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 St. Patrick’s Day Mass 9am</td>
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<td>19 3rd Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
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<td>22 Harmony Day</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>26 9am Mass Yr6 &amp; Kinder 4th Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>Mar/Apr 9</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 Parent Info for 2018 6.30-Tours 7.15- Info night</td>
<td>30 School Photos</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>2 Daylight savings ends 5th Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>6 CC Cross Country</td>
<td>7 Holy Week Liturgy Assembly</td>
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<td>9 Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>Last Day of Term</td>
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<td>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 Holy Thursday</td>
<td>13 Good Friday</td>
<td>14 Easter Saturday</td>
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**Term 1**
**St Patrick’s Canteen Roster Term 1 2017**

ONE volunteer is required on Wednesdays for each canteen and TWO volunteers are required for each canteen on Fridays. Please call Ange Stitt 0409 362 217 if you would like to help. First timers will have someone to help them! Thank you 😊

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<tr>
<th>Term 1 Wk 1</th>
<th>Infants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1st Feb</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<td>Fri 2nd Feb</td>
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<th>Infants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 8th Feb</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>Annabel Cockerton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10th Feb</td>
<td>Lauren Campbell (Training) Katie Talbot</td>
<td>Michelle Cormack Ange Stitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 15th Feb</td>
<td>Danielle Ramirez (Training) Julie Black (Training) Fiona Verolin</td>
<td>Lisa Nix</td>
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<td>Fri 17th Feb</td>
<td>Jennifer Madden NEED X 1 Deidra Robertson Jo Ford</td>
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<td>Nan Moffatt NEED X 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 24th Feb</td>
<td>Judith Andrews Emma Paulley (Training) Lorraine Hughes (Training)</td>
<td>Hanji Kevi Joslyn Botelho</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1st March</td>
<td>Kelly Reynell NEED X 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 3rd March</td>
<td>Ange Stitt Lisa Haynes Jo Ford Julia Conroy</td>
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<td>Wed 8th March</td>
<td>Jade Nicole Smith Annabel Cockerton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10th March</td>
<td>Jennifer Madden (Training??) NEED X 2 NEED X 1</td>
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<td>Wed 15th March</td>
<td>NEED X 1 Ange Stitt</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
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<td>Fri 17th March</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
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<td>Wed 22nd March</td>
<td>Nan Moffatt NEED X 1</td>
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<td>Fri 24th March</td>
<td>Judith Andrews NEED X 1</td>
<td>Hanji Kevi Joslyn Botelho</td>
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<td>Fri 31st March</td>
<td>NEED X 2 Katie Talbot Ange Stitt</td>
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<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Infants</th>
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<td>Wed 5th April</td>
<td>NEED X 1 Annabel Cockerton</td>
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<td>Fri 7th April</td>
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Important Information Regarding Opal Cards

1. **For students entering year 11 at a New School**
   At the End of this year you will need to go online at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)
   And update your information to “New School”. Print the 2 page document, sign and return to the Administration Office of your New School.

2. **For students entering year 11 at a Current School**
   At the End of this year you will need to go online at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)
   And update your information to “Year 11”. Print the 2 page document, sign and return to the Administration Office of your School.

3. **For students entering year 7 at a New School**
   At the End of this year you will need to go online at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)
   And update your information to “New School”. Print the 2 page document, sign and return to the Administration Office of your New School.

4. **For students entering year 7 at Current School**
   At the End of this year you will need to go online at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)
   And update your information to “Year 7”. Print the 2 page document, sign and return to the Administration Office of your School.

5. **For students entering year 3**
   At the End of this year you will need to go online at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)
   And update your information to “Year 3”. Print the 2 page document, sign and return to the School Administration Office.

6. **For New Enrolments**
   For Students who don’t have a school Opal Card or are Starting Kindergarten go online at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)
   And apply for a School Travel Pass. Print the 2 page document, sign and return to the School Administration Office.

7. **For students who have lost, Faulty or had their Opal Card Stolen**
   To replace Lost or Stolen Opal Cards go online at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)
   And apply for a replacement Opal Card.
   NB: Students are required to pay a fare whilst waiting for delivery of new Opal Card.
   Error Codes 93 & 85 - Card Not Valid, if your card shows any of these error codes the Opal Card needs Updating or Replacing.
   Error Code 65 – Card not approved for this service, if your card shows this error code the Opal Card needs updating or replacing.

8. **For students not eligible for free school travel**
   Log online at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students) and purchase a School Term Bus Pass.

9. **Student Travel Eligibility**
   To be eligible for subsidised travel under the SSTs, school students must be:
   
   1. An infant student; i.e. attending Kindergarten, Year 1 or Year 2 classes, irrespective of the distance from home to school; or
   2. a primary student (Year 3-6), and reside more than 1.6 kilometres (straight line distance) from the school attended, measured from the centre of the school site, or 2.3 kilometres or more by the most direct practicable walking route to the nearest point of physical entry to the school; or
   3. a secondary student (Year 7-12), and reside more than 2.0 kilometres (straight line distance) from the school attended, measured from the centre of the school site, or 2.9 kilometres or more by the most direct practicable walking route to the nearest point of physical entry to the school; or
   4. Parents/guardians of students deemed ineligible by their school or local transport operator on straight line distance grounds may apply to TINSW for a review of the determination on walking distance or pedestrian safety grounds.
   5. Should TINSW, after carrying out the review, not approve subsidised travel and the applicant(s) considers that there are special circumstances, such as pedestrian safety and/or hardship issues associated with their case; they may appeal the TINSW decision.
   6. Appeals are heard by an independent SSTs Appeals Panel which considers each case on its individual merits.

   For more information [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)
The Dollarmites are bringing the future to your school.

Since 1931, CommBank’s School Banking program has been offering engaging ways for Australian children to learn the value of saving and develop lifelong money skills.

For our 2017 theme, a futuristic adventure is in store. Students will join the new-look Dollarmites as Future Savers, making their way towards the Savings Hover Park – a fantastic playground up in the clouds of a hi-tech metropolis.

Encouraging savings habits with great rewards
School Banking will continue to reward children who demonstrate regular savings behaviour, and this year we’re introducing an exciting new range of reward items. Two are released every term, and available in Term 1 are the Cyber Handball and Colour Change Markers. Your child can redeem one of these reward items, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.

Visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to download and print this year’s Rewards Card. On our website you’ll also find a fun activity sheet and a Savings Tracker your child can use to keep track of their School Banking deposits throughout the year.

Dedicated savers get a chance to win a trip to Tokyo Disneyland
The Future Savers Grand Prize competition will take one lucky student on a family trip to Tokyo, Japan. Up to two adults and three children will get tickets to explore Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea, including the futuristic Tomorrowland attractions. This prize includes:

- Return economy airfares from the winner’s nearest capital city to Tokyo, Japan
- Five nights’ accommodation at the Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel
- Three-day Magic Pass to Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea
- AU$1,000 spending money

To enter, your child simply has to make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3, 2017. This will automatically enter them into the competition for a chance to win.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

Walking the Way team meeting

Date: Thursday 9th of February
Time: 10am-12pm
At: 239-243 The Entrance Rd, The Entrance

R.S.V.P
Jo Spek 0413171110 or jo.spek@dbb.catholic.edu.au
(Meeting will be in the two story building behind the church, parking available)

Morning tea will be provided, Looking forward to seeing everyone!