



St Patrick' Parish School

Opening Newsletter February 2020 New Decade...New School Year... New Beginnings...



St Patrick's School Family 2020

Back row: Kellie Summerville, Luaun Aldous, Melinda Barrett, Katrina Joyce, Glenyce Moxon, Bernadette Moser, Lou Mackay, Amanda Harris

Middle row: Mary-Ann Fraser, Rebecca Hain, Pip Daley, Kirsten Queck, Lisa Haines, Suzanne Stacey, Belinda Wilkins, Heidi Kelly, Emma Hill, Tim Lawley, Steve Summerville, Mike Introna

Front row: Kerrie Harris, Stefanie Cook, Miesje Blumer, Fr Mick, Kath Kovacs, Frances Robertson, Steven Joyce, Angie Introna, Greg Rick, Giovanna Davies, Sarah Hamilton, Jolanta Zieja.

Other staff not present on the day: Don Southwell, Dan Marks, Pam Fletcher, Rachel Dibley, Emma Kanowski, Alex Wood.

Our school motto: *Strength in Gentleness*



2020

New Horizons

at St Patrick's Parish School



2020 Annual Improvement Plan



All students to make measurable progress in key identified areas of literacy and numeracy.

All students will access quality differentiated learning based on clear learning goals and the 'language of learning'.

All students will have improved student engagement and learning outcomes through the co-creation of a culture for learning.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians, past and present, of this land of the Ngarigo (Nnn gur i go) people who long before us lived, loved and raised their children here.

We also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our community and acknowledge their deep physical and spiritual connections to their land.

We come together to learn, to share and to journey together.

Student Leaders for 2019

School Captains:

Lochlan Giuliani, Molly Brabham

Student Leadership Team:

Ava Barrett, Millie Blyton, Alex Elgey, Lachlan Hemphill, Matilda Mitchell, Andrea Bosco, Neeve Girling

Secondary House Leaders:

Terra: Millie Blyton, Olivia Bottom
Ignis: Cheyenne Nelson, Andrea Bosco

Caelum: Lachlan Hemphill, Neeve Girling

Aqua: Charlee Bromfield, Darcy Luton

Primary Leaders:

Emelia Greville, Willow Joyce, James Burke, Tom Lloyd

Primary SRC Leaders:

Ben Porter, Neveah Filiga

Primary House Leaders:

Terra: Jake Williams, Susie Spiller

Ignis: Kaitlyn Bosco, Oliver Wood

Caelum: Bronte Mitchell, Oscar Lehrmann

Aqua: Kalim Khoury, Neveah Filiga

The theme for 2020 at St Patrick's is 'New Horizons'

It is closely linked to the words taken from Pope Francis' book called *On Hope*.

'Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable'.

This acknowledges that we are people of faith and, therefore, people of hope. We can support each towards new growth; academically and spiritually.

We also remember **St Brigid** (feast day 1st February) and the **Brigidine Sisters** who served in our Parish for over 100 years. It is their charism that we uphold. They brought love and the light of Jesus into the lives of so many in our community.

St Brigid, You were a woman of peace.

You brought harmony where there was conflict.

You brought light to the darkness.

You brought hope to the downcast.

May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious.

And may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.

Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.

Strengthen what is weak within us.

Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit. Amen

The School at a Glance

CONTACT

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Email: office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au

PARISH PRIESTS

Fr Mick MacAndrew (Pres Ph number: 83317609)

PRINCIPAL

Mrs Frances Robertson

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Mr Steven Joyce

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Mrs Kath Kovacs

CURRICULUM & PASTORAL COORDINATOR-PRIMARY

Mrs Stefanie Cook

CURRICULUM & PASTORAL COORDINATOR- SECONDARY

Mrs Lou Mackay

LITERACY/NUMERACY SUPPORT

Mrs Kellie Summerville

OFFICE STAFF

Mrs Sarah Hamilton (Office Manager) Mrs Jolanta Zieja (Finance Manager)

Mrs Rachel Dibley (Clerical Officer P/T)

The Kindergarten to Year 6 classes are:

KD - Mrs Giovanna Davies		1- Mrs Mary-Ann Fraser
KHQ- Mrs Emma Hill and Mrs Kirsten Queck		
2 - Mrs Belinda Wilkins		3 – Mr Gregory Rick
4 – Mrs Katrina Joyce		5I - Mr Mike Introna and 5M -Mrs Bernadette Moser
6 - Mr Steve Joyce and Ms Stefanie Cook		Library - Mrs Melinda Barrett
Additional teacher for ICT, Sports skills and representative sport - Mrs Glenyce Moxon		
Mrs Heidi Kelly will continue providing a German language experience for the K-6 students.		
Mrs Angie Introna - Learning Enrichment and Support Teacher		
Secondary teacher	Homeroom	Subjects
Mrs Luaun Aldous	Year 8	7 History, 7 Mandatory Technology, 8 Mandatory Technology, 7 Art, 8 Art, 8 Geography, Elective 9/10 Industrial Arts, 9/10 Visual Arts,
Ms Pip Daley	Year 10	8 Maths, 8 Science, 8 Mandatory Technology,
Mrs Pam Fletcher	Year 8	7 Science, 7 Mandatory Technology, 8 RE, 9 RE, 10 RE, 10 Geography, Elective 9/10 Commerce
Mrs Kerrie Harris	Year 7	7 Learn2Learn, 7 English, 7 Maths, 9/10 Maths, 9 History
Mrs Kath Kovacs	Year 7	7 Music, 8 Music, 7 RE, 7 Learn2Learn
Mr Tim Lawley	Year 9	Rep Sport, 7 PE, 8 PE, 9 PE, 10 PE, Elective 9/10 PASS
Mrs Lou Mackay	Pastoral care	Band, 9 English, Librarian, Homework Club, Learning Support, ATSI
Mrs Suzanne Stacey	Year 8	7 English, 8 English, 9 English, 10 English, 8 Japanese 9/10 Drama
Mr Steve Summerville	Year 10	7 Science, 8 Science, 9 Science, 10 Science, 9/10 Maths,

SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs Kath Kovacs (Student Well-being Support)

Mrs Miesje Blumer (Learning Enrichment Support– Yr5-10, ATSI support K-10)

Mrs Lisa Haines (Learning Enrichment Support-K-4)

Mrs Rebecca Hain (Classroom Support-Secondary)

Mr Don Southwell (Grounds/Maintenance)

Mr Dan Marks (ICT Support)

Safety first at St Patrick's

1. We want our students to be **safe users of the internet**. There is an **Internet User's Agreement, which** outlines the expectations and guidelines. Students in K-6 have a modified one for you to see and sign. In Years 7-10, students will re-sign their previous document after some discussion and reminders about their responsibilities. New students will receive a new form, which parents will be required to sign.
2. **Carparks are for cars**, not people. Please do not walk through them, especially with children.
3. **Pedestrian crossings are for people**. Please use them and do not cross the road at random spots. When driving, slow down and watch out for our precious students.
3. **Arrival time for all students is after 8.30am**. The gates will still be closed before then, as there is no supervision available until 8.30am.
4. **Leaving time is after the last afternoon bell at 3.25pm** or until the last bus leaves. Students should not be on school grounds outside of these times, unless it is a designated school event.
5. **Bus zones are for buses**. Secondary students must not exit the side gate unless accompanied by an adult. There are other exits via Soho St and Vale St.
6. **Bikes and scooters must be walked** around the school area and stored in the designated places.

Using Technology at School

St Patrick's Parish School believes that students should have the opportunity to access various technologies to:

- prepare our students for further education, employment and social awareness
- provide access to a range of resources to obtain information
- enable electronic communication, both on a local and global level.

Our aim is to develop independent learners who are able to:

- define the purpose for which information is required and locate the appropriate sources of information
- understand and appreciate information from several sources
- present work in an appropriate fashion
- acknowledge the work of others through quotations and citations
- evaluate their own learning.

While the use of technology makes a positive contribution to learning at St Patrick's Parish School, it must take place according to the School guidelines for appropriate use. These guidelines are based on the need for safety for each student, as well as courtesy and respect for others. However, they are also based on laws that have been established to protect against such things as invasion of privacy, harassment or bullying of others, breaking copyright.

Students are responsible for their own actions and face disciplinary action or sanctions if guidelines are not followed.

In Secondary, the use of mobile phones needs to be reasonable, respectful and responsible.

It is not *responsible or respectful* to have phones on during class time when the focus is on learning.

It is not *respectful* to have phones on during conversations and activities on the playground.

It is not *reasonable* to expect others to listen to personal calls in shared spaces. It is, however, *reasonable and respectful* to explain a situation to a teacher and ask to send a message to a parent if, for example, there is a change of plans for after school. Taking photos with mobiles or logging a reminder can only happen with a teacher's permission.

It is *not reasonable, nor respectful*, for parents to make calls to their children during class time and expect a response. Messages should be left at the Office.

The Students from Year 6-Year 10 are part of the Bring Your Own Device program (BYOD).

This means that students use their own devices (laptops) at school and access the St Patrick's WiFi network. The device must meet the specifications outlined by the school.

Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of their devices, including labelling, protective casing, maintaining up-to-date anti-virus software and legally licenced operating systems on their device, data protection, insurance coverage of their own device to protect any accidental damage, theft or loss and daily battery charging prior to the school day.

Prior to bringing their device for the first time, students and their parent/caregiver must **read and sign the BYOD User Agreement** which sets out the responsibilities and expectations relating to the use of the personal devices. Students must follow teachers' directions as to the appropriate use of their devices during class.

St Patrick's Parish School's Expectations

At St Patrick's Parish School, we believe that **learning**:

- is founded on the Good News of Jesus Christ
- has purpose and meaning
- encourages and develops a broad range of communication skills
- develops independence and confidence
- is enriched as a result of team work
- is best supported when students feel safe to explore and take risks
- gives rise to creativity
- encourages awareness of global citizenship
- is life, and life is learning

At St Patrick's Parish School, the **safety** and well-being of all members of the school community is important and everyone's shared responsibility.

At St Patrick's Parish School, we **belong** to a school and Parish community that is proud of its heritage and its reputation.

This school is	Our community has the responsibility to:
A place of learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Come to class prepared to learn• Recognise the right of others to learn• Make a positive contribution in class and listen to all instructions• Develop our skills and knowledge• Choose appropriate times to speak and to listen attentively• Bring all necessary equipment to school• Be punctual to all classes and school activities• Attend school regularly• Complete all work on time and to the best of our ability• Reflect on our learning, using effective feedback on our progress
A place of safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow directions given by leaders• Follow the 'hands off' policy• Follow WHS requirements and teachers' direction about use of equipment• Respect the personal space and safety of others• Keep the school grounds and classrooms clean and tidy• Use personal electronic devices appropriately• Create a culture where all we are encouraged to appropriately express an opinion and take sensible risks
A place of belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively participate in the prayer and contribute to the liturgical life of the school• Always be honest and truthful• Relate positively to others and if needed, to restore relationships• Respect the personal space of others• Respect the property of others• Wear the uniform correctly• Be polite and inclusive to all within the school community• Speak to others with courtesy• Actively participate and engage in all classes, school events and activities• Make visitors welcome to our school



Important dates

4 -2 Primary swimming carnival

5 -2 Secondary swimming carnival

6 -2 Playgroup 9-11am

St Patrick's Family Gathering 4-6.30pm

14 -2 Opening School Mass 10am

25 -2 Infants swimming carnival

26 -2 Ash Wednesday

27 -2 Year 7 Adventure day

29 -2 School Working bee

Your family is

INVITED

St Patrick's Parish School Comm

Strength in Gentleness

TO ATTEND THE

**St Patrick's Family
Community Gathering**

Thursday February 6TH
4 PM UNTIL 6:30 PM

INFANTS PLAYGROUND

Dear St Patrick's Community

There are few sounds nicer than the chatter of children and the cheerful greetings of young people, gathered excitedly at the start of the year. Their exuberance and energy are a wonderful reminder of the importance of the role of educators in shaping and guiding them.

This opening newsletter is to give you an overview of the important aspects of St Patrick's and the direction for the year.

I invite you to come on the 2020 journey and explore new horizons together!

Frances Robertson
Principal

Reflection from Fr Mick

Well, it's been one hell of a start to the year. There is no let up from the crippling drought and the fires which encircle us. Lives have been disrupted and there is no end in sight, it seems.

We surely need a new horizon to see our way forward, beyond the bare dirt paddocks, empty dams or the charred and twisted trees. We need to know in our hearts once more that there will be new life.

Our faith needs to be strengthened - we need trust. And for that to happen, we need to look to a new horizon. New horizons are both a given and a desire. We welcome any signs of new life, of healing. But we must look for them amongst the devastation.

In last Sunday's gospel, we had Jesus calling the first apostles. Christ offered them a new horizon and they responded. They left their nets, gave up everything and followed Jesus, allowing him to be their teacher and saviour.

We need to be prepared to do the same in order to be able to see the new horizons that Christ is offering us as we begin a new year.

God desires of us to be his instruments of peace and compassion, love and mercy in our daily lives. He knows and trusts us that we can deliver. Let us be up for that challenge.

Let our hearts be as one with the heart of Jesus. Let us be his apostles, taking the Good news with us each day. Let each of our children trust that we are leading them to see the new horizons God is offering. Let us together become a community of loving and learning, open to the Holy Spirit's guidance and united in a common purpose of advancing in becoming the people God wants us to be.

God desires that we live in His light and give up any darkness. The bare and charred landscapes will become lush once rain and light do their job. Let us allow God's love and light into our own lives, more and more, so that we will become a new horizon for others to discover the gift of faith.

Let's make this year heavenly... by overturning the hellish beginnings.

Fr Mick

Mission Statement of St Patrick's

We share the Good News of Jesus Christ and promote the kingdom of God and its values, reflecting a spirit of "Strength in Gentleness".

We endeavour to treat each person with gentleness, dignity and respect, realising each of us is made in the image of our loving God.

We strive to challenge each other to become Independent, creative co-learners through a self-disciplined search for academic, emotional, physical and spiritual fulfilment.

We aim to develop each person's unique gifts and talents so that our community and world can be a better place.

