

## Our Vision

An inclusive community committed to high levels of learning for all.

## Our Mission

In the spirit of Saint Mary Mackillop, we strive for excellence with love, dignity, integrity and justice.

## Feeling Safe

Our School Student Protection Contacts are:

**Ms Donnelly  
Mr Blaikie  
Mrs Jennifer Fenn**

## Reminders

### **Uniform Days**

#### **Sports**

Wednesday, Friday.

#### **Formal**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.

### **Summer Uniform**

Please remember that we are a...

**'Nut Aware' School.**

**Church Times - Celebrations are up and running again with social distancing measures in place. Times for Masses are as follows:**

**1st Sunday - 9am  
2nd and 3rd Sunday - 5.30pm**

**4th & 5th Sunday Liturgy of the Word with Communion - 9am**

Dear Families

### Legends of St Patrick's Ready to Retire

Two generational teachers from St Patrick's School, Mary Donnelly and Lesley Telford are looking to new horizons and different challenges as they embark upon that elusive gap year or should we say, retirement. Over a combined period of 60 years, both ladies have instilled a love of learning in hundreds of students from the Allora district.

At the heart of Mary Donnelly's expertise in the classroom is her ability to foster and build, respectful and professional relationships with all of her students. It is this genuine and authentic relationship that has improved the engagement levels of all her students over the course of her career which has been extensive. Her longevity and enthusiasm in the Year 5 and 6 classrooms at St Patrick's is testament to this fact. She will be greatly missed by both teachers, students and parents who often talk about the 'Mary Donnelly' experience where students are not only educated but thoroughly engaged by her wit and intelligence.

Lesley Telford's connection with St Patrick's began in the early 1980's when she commenced as the school's private music teacher. After 24 years as the school's music teacher, Lesley feels that the time is right to move on. Lesley is extremely proud of her contribution where the music program has expanded to include the recorder, marimba, ukulele and various choirs. To quote one of Lesley's past students. "We thank you for your time and effort put into organising our music sessions. We've learnt not to blow too hard on a recorder or we'll make deaf people even deafer".

On behalf of the St Patrick's Parish and School Community we wish both of you good health and eternal happiness in the next phase of your lives. Because ultimately, it is the St Patrick's way of life.



*Dr Pat Coughlan joined with the St Patrick's School Community on Friday 25 November to celebrate the retirements of Ms Donnelly and Mrs Telford.*

### Wake up to Summer and Advent – Angela Travers TCSO

Summer is upon us and at last the jacarandas are in bloom. This heralds too the start of the Advent season which is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. Advent calls us to wake up to ourselves as Christians, to shake ourselves out of apathy, powerlessness, and taking life for granted. Knowing that God is with us, we can make a difference and reach out into the darkness of war, poverty, ecological imbalance, domestic violence and greed, and shape a different world. How do we make a change in the world you might say? By reflecting on our own personal relationships and asking are they characterised by warmth, goodwill and 'healthy dialogue'?

Advent wreath and lighting of the candles during the Advent season is a ritual which we observe in our Churches and homes, helping us to reflect on how we can make a change. The wreath holds four candles. The 1st, 2nd and 4th candles are purple and represent faith, hope and love. The 3rd rose candle stands for joy and is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. A white candle can be added to the centre on Christmas Eve and is lit in anticipation for Christ's coming, as the light that pierces into our world. As the first purple candle of Advent is lit this Sunday, the following questions may help us to reflect.

- What does this light remind me of?
- What room can I make in my heart for yearning and longing for a better world?
- How can I prepare for Christmas so that I am awake to the presence of God within me and others?

Reclaim some sacred time and space, to connect with God. Give thanks for the year that has been, for the lessons learned, the laughter and challenges, for the good you have done for those you teach or work with and the camaraderie shared with colleagues. Close the door of the year gently and graciously and honour it well in the story of your life this Advent.

## St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal

Many Australian families are struggling to survive the increasing cost-of-living pressures this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas, and give them hope for a better future. As a result, the community of St Patrick's School will once again support the annual St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. The school will be accepting non-perishable (Christmas-themed) food items. Please drop them into the baskets provided near your child's classroom. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## Glengallan Camp to Tallebudgera Creek

Please enjoy reading the reflections on camp supplied by some of our students in Glengallan.

*On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, the Year 5 and Year 6 excitedly went to school camp in Tallebudgera on the Gold Coast. When we arrived, we changed into our swimmers and went canoeing. We needed a lot of teamwork and strategies to get us through safely. We practised capsizing (flipping the canoe) which was one of my favorite things because the water was so refreshing. At 7:30pm we went to a pool party where we caught the footy a lot. The second day came, and we tried our skills at rock climbing. If you go halfway up the first few courses, you can see the ocean. After rock climbing, we did Aboriginal orienteering where we learnt a lot of new things like Jerlugal which is mountain and Bunburra which is ocean. That night we did a newspaper fashion show. We dressed people up into some made up things like a duck knight! On the last day we learnt a bunch of new tricks while bodyboarding. When we came home from camp, we were very exhausted but we all really enjoyed our time at Tallebudgera. (Douglas—Year 6)*

*During Week 8, students from Glengallan went to school camp. We went to the beautiful coast of Tallebudgera. Our instructor Jordy was amazing and knew lots about Indigenous culture. We learnt a lot from him about the land we walked on at Tallebudgera. We had an amazing experience and took many life skills from it such as:*

### **How Indigenous Australians lived and continue to live off the land.**

*We had the experience to eat bush tucker and learn valuable life lessons about it. We ate a fruit that tasted like a lychee and had seven oranges worth of vitamin C in one bite!*

### **To work together as one big team [Teamwork]**

*To work together we had to be patient and wait our turn. We played a game where we had to step on our number one at a time but two people cannot be in the circle at the same time. At the end of the day, we did it eight seconds over time and we were a little bit frustrated but we had so much fun.*

### **Responsibility**

*We were responsible for our own items and we had to have a clean and tidy cabin (a hard mission for some of us!) There were room inspections every day with a chocolate as a prize! There were multiple people in a room so you had to respect each other's belongings. You had to also make sure you had everything you needed for the activities.*

*We had an amazing time filled with fun experiences! We loved every minute of camp from the bus ride to the journey home! (Amelie—Year 5)*





## Arrangements for Week 9 – 2022

### Graduation Mass - Thursday (1 December)

#### **Sports Uniform during the day. Formal Uniform required for Mass (Years 1 to 6)**

- BBQ dinner will be provided for students and their families from 5:00pm until 5:45pm. Tea and Coffee will be available for adults.
- Students to meet their classroom teacher at 5:45pm near the Church.
- Glengallan students and all families enter the Church at 5:50pm.
- Graduation commences at 6:00pm. There will be a 15-minute break between Mass and the Awards Ceremony for a water and toilet break.
- Graduation Ceremony concludes at approximately 7:30pm.
- **All students need to be collected from the Church at the conclusion of the ceremony.**

### Thanksgiving Liturgy and Academic Awards Ceremony - Friday (2 December)

#### **Formal Uniform (All students Years 1 to 6).**

- Students need to bring their morning tea to school.
- Year 6 Graduation Cake will be cut and shared amongst the school community at 10:00am prior to the Thanksgiving Liturgy and Awards Ceremony. Morning Tea for parents will be held near the tuckshop. All are welcome!
- Thanksgiving Liturgy and Academic Awards Ceremony commences at 10:30am in the St Patrick's Parish Church.
- **Students are to be collected by their parents from classrooms at the conclusion of the ceremony.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, students and parents for a wonderful year of learning at St Patrick's. I would especially like to acknowledge Mrs Andrea Lewis and her contributions to the school community over many years in her roles of WH&S and School Officer. Andrea concludes her employment with St Patrick's this week and we wish her all the best in her new career. I would also like to wish you all a very merry and holy Christmas. Please find time during the seafood, ham, plum pudding and backyard cricket to reflect on the real message of Christmas and be thankful every day for living in such a blessed country.

Kindest regards

**Keith Blaikie—Principal**

## ICEBLOCKS this Thursday



### DATE CLAIMERS

#### Term 4—2022

- 1 December—5pm BBQ with Graduation Mass commencing at 6:00pm
- 2 December—Final Day Assembly 10:30am with concluding at 12:00pm

#### Term 1—2023

- 23 January—9am Office reopens
- 23 January—Book Drop and Uniform Shop from 9:00 to 1:00pm
- 24 January—School commences at 8:40am with a whole school assembly. Morning Tea will follow to welcome our new parents.
- 26 January—Australia Day Public Holiday  
School Closed