Principal’s News

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school for what we trust will be a very fruitful and enjoyable year. My sincere thanks for the ‘warm’ welcome staff, parents and students have given to all new and returning members of our school community. I would like to extend a special welcome to Mrs Miller (Jan) our new canteen manager, and to our new families who have joined us, I am sure you will find St Patrick’s school a very friendly and welcoming community.

Thank you for your support of the drop off and pick up timelines. I understand this can try our patience at times, but I am sure you would all agree the safety of our students is far more important than any small inconvenience caused.

School Improvements

These holidays were once again a time for major maintenance occurring around the school. The school simply did not close over the holidays, and a great deal was achieved. We’ve had trades people in renovating, cleaning, putting in new blinds, replacing air conditioners and installing computer equipment. My sincere thanks to Mr Dean Borserini for organizing the tiling and co-ordinating the renovation of the toilet blocks. Dean was able to help keep our costs down through his generosity both in time, labor and materials and we are very grateful. The painting of the ceilings to finish the job will occur over the next two weekends so as not to disrupt the children.

Parent Teacher Meetings

The Parent Information Evenings are a valuable way to begin building a close working relationship with your child’s class teacher, and to gain insight into the teaching and learning that’s planned for the year ahead. We have rostered the meetings to minimise the number of parents who will have to have ‘one parent at one meeting, and one at another’. We apologise if this is the case. The meetings will start and finish on time, and we encourage every parent to be in attendance. If you can’t be in attendance, please let your child’s teacher know and collect the handout materials from them.

Dates and times

Tuesday 9th February
5.30 – 6.15pm Years PP, 1, 3 and 5
6.15 – 7.00pm Years 2, 4 and 6

Pre Kindy and Kindergarten meetings were held at the end of last year. Please feel free to contact your teacher if you have any queries.

John Ryan
Principal

Thoughts for the week

“Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall.”
- Confucius

“Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.”
- Oprah Winfrey
Email Contact List
Each family has today received a hard copy of this “mini” newsletter. From now on, newsletters will be published on our school website every second Thursday that are even weeks (ie. week 2, 4, 6 etc). We will only send out hard copies to families if requested.

If you did not receive an email this afternoon providing the link to the newsletter on our website, then we do not have your email address and we ask that you provide your email address to school administration. Quite frequently we need to send out short messages to the school community that cannot wait for the next newsletter, so if we do not have your email address on this list you could be missing out on important information.

School Fees—Health Care Cards
Health Care Card holders receive a discount on tuition fees. If you have a Health Care Card, please pop into the office this week to see Susanne or Amy so we know to reduce your fees before they are sent out.

It was fantastic last year to see so many parents take advantage of our payment plan option to pay fees. If you have not set one up before, I strongly suggest you take advantage of this stress free way of paying the school fees. We offer a Direct Debit and Credit Card option which allows you to pay Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly or Quarterly payments. The bank forms and information will be sent home with the fees in week three.

The time it takes to fill in a form, is well worth not having to think about them for the remainder of the year!

New Bell Times
Please note the following class times:

- First bell: 8.30am
- Recess: 10.30am to 11.00am
- Lunch: 1.00pm to 1.40pm
- Final Bell: 3.00pm

Sacrament Dates
Information about the sacrament dates was sent home earlier this week with all students who are involved in Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Please note that all liturgical dates (including sacrament dates) can be found on the school website at http://stpatsfremantle.wa.edu.au/pdf/parentinfo_liturgicaledates.pdf

New Calendar System
Please copy the link below into your favourites on your computer, tablet or smart phone. It is the most up to date way of staying in touch with school events.

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=stpatsfremantle.wa.edu.au_icfdroqati5hqjbj392gbqro%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Australia/Perth
Lent begins on 10th February (Ash Wednesday). Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence. Ashes are placed on our forehead in the sign of the cross as the words; “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel” are spoken to us. These words emphasise our call to continual conversion (leaving behind an old way of living and acting in order to embrace new life in Christ) and the need for ongoing repentance (turning our lives more completely over to Christ and his way of life).

On Wednesday 10th February, the Basilica will begin the special season of Lent. There will be two Masses during the day. Children in Yr. 3, 4 and 6 will attend Mass at 9am in the Basilica. Children from Yr. 2, and 5 will attend Midday Mass in the Basilica. The Yr. 1 children will receive the ashes in their classroom. The Lenten season extends over a forty-six day period, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on the eve of Easter. The six Sundays in Lent are not actually a part of Lent and therefore the Lenten season itself is forty days. Parents and friends are more than welcome to come along to the two Masses. On Thursday 11th February, each child will receive a Project Compassion Box to take home.

This Year Project Compassion celebrates 50 years helping bring renewed hope to the world’s poorest people, empowering them to learn more and create change. All monies collected through the Project Compassion Boxes will need to be returned to the school by the end of term and we will forward the donations to Caritas Australia.
Don’t forget “Hot Summers Night”, the first P & F event of 2016. It will be a great way for families to catch up after the long holiday break and for new families to meet others in the school community.

Hot Summers Night

Friday 12th February 2016

5.30pm – 7.30pm

St Patrick’s Playground

P&F Committee would love you to come along and help us celebrate the start of the new year.

Great opportunity for the school community to come together particularly new families to the Basilica Campus.

Live Music by the amazing duo – Beats Working

Wood fired pizza will be available to purchase on the night or pack a picnic hamper and bring along some drinks to enjoy the night.

Bring along the whole family and friends, picnic rugs, chairs and of course your dancing shoes

Lock the date in your diaries!!!