From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have had the pleasure of starting Week 4 with our talented Zone Swimming Squad at the Murwillumbah pool on Monday. Mr Davis and I were very proud of the efforts, sportsmanship and conduct of our swimmers. Congratulations to all students who participated in the Zone carnival, you were wonderful ambassadors for our school. Special congratulations and best wishes must go to those students who excelled and are off to Coffs Harbour to the Diocesan trials (see inside for details). Once again, I must acknowledge the parental support on the day, as time keepers, supporters and general team organisers! Thank you.

We look forward to Thursday morning at 9.15 a.m. when we will be celebrating our first school Mass for 2013. Our Year 6 students will be inducted as leaders of our school community. All parents are welcome and encouraged to join us.

We held our Parent Information sessions for Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 classes last Wednesday. I was impressed with the interest and enthusiasm with which these meetings were attended. Keeping abreast of your child’s learning journey is imperative to their optimal success as learners, if they witness you valuing their education they will too! I look forward to welcoming our Stage 2 and Stage 3 Parents and Carers this Thursday evening at their information sessions.

On Ash Wednesday last week the school community came together to celebrate the beginning of the season of Lent. As each person was marked with ashes they heard … “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel”. A simple phrase that we can make a concerted effort to uphold during the season of Lent, not to say that as Catholic Christians we should be making a concerted effort each day, every day!

A thought for your day… ‘How will I live today as a child of God? When I pray, will I ask God what he wants of me and not simply focus on what I want from God?’

Peace and blessings,

Jason Clarke
Principal
Welcome New Parents

Most of our new parents were able to join us for the Welcome Morning Tea last Friday. Thank you to Jo Gresham and the wonderful helpers who always give their time to make our school the special place it is.

Welcome to Jenny, our new Year 1 parent, (Archie), Kinder parents , Rachael (Amarae), Belinda(Toby), Nicole (Lillian) Annette (Bailey) and Brooke (Alex).

Not to forget our wonderful existing parents Bec (Vann), Sarah (Ben), Sheree (Ty), Gianetta and “King” (Asher), Tania (Castro).

Unfortunately work commitments prevented some from attending but they were all in our thoughts: Gloria (Axle), Justin and Kathrin (Charlie), Penny (Tony and Jim) and Kate (Tom and Liam).

School Leaders Induction Mass

Our school Induction Mass will be held in the church this Thursday February 21st at 9:15 a.m.

All invited and encouraged to attend.

You Can Do It Awards

Kindergarten
Castro Pearson Organisation
Charlie Twohill Organisation

Year 1
Caleb Smith Persistence
Zali Grennan Confidence

Year 2
Sasha Hendrikse Confidence
Lachlan Shoobridge Persistence
Tazman O'Keefe Getting Along

Year 3
Bree Chisholm Resilience
Rory Flynn Resilience

Year 4
Riley Skelly Confidence
Tiani Brooks Getting Along
Ellee Farrell Confidence

Year 5
Sarah Stuart Confidence
Sarah Cook Confidence

Year 6
Chloe Quinn Persistence
Ruby Livesey Confidence

School Fees

A reminder that the Resource, Technology and Numeracy Levies are due by the end of February.

Direct Debit, BPay, Centrepay and EFTPOS facilities are available.

Parent Information Nights

Stage 2
Thursday 21st February Week 4 6 p.m.

Stage 3
Thursday 21st February Week 4 5:30 p.m.
Over the next few weeks information regarding our library and how it works will be published in our newsletter.

ABOUT OUR LIBRARY

Overview:

Here at St Joseph’s our library is dedicated to encouraging a life long love of reading and learning. Our library can be a quiet learning place yet at other times it may be a hub of activity full of colourful art work, displays, fun and reading adventures. We believe reading is not limited to school and believe any time is a perfect time to read. Reading to and with your child can be a very special time spent together.

Students are encouraged to borrow from our School Library every week and to participate in all our literacy activities throughout the year.

OUR AIM

To foster a love of reading:

Our library has a large range of books on offer to students to suit all reading tastes and to encourage reluctant readers. We place importance on students’ needs and matching children to books. We have the following locations in our library:

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Junior Picture Books
- Senior Picture Books
- Graphic Novels (comics)
- Beginner Chapter books
- Interactive eBooks (on iPad)
- Audio books (on DVD)

- Purchase of the Australian Standing Orders books throughout the year. (This is a subscription service to school libraries which offers the best new releases complete with teacher notes from all publishers.)
To provide an aesthetically pleasing learning environment:

- Displays to promote new books and series
- Information posters on how to use our library
- Promotion of events such as ANZAC Day, etc
- Displays of students art work during Book Week and assignments during the year
- Computer based interactive Book Week activities
- Research help for class assignments which includes all available resources such as DVD’s, posters, websites, info packs, etc.

Activities during the year:

- Our library celebrates Book Week each year with a Book Fair in August. (Our major library fund raiser)
- Book Week study of this years short-listed books
- Competitions and prizes
- Book character dress-up day
- Buddy reading
- Author visits and workshops
- Excursions to our Town Library
- Reading circles
- Participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge for Year’s 2-6
- Participation in the National Simultaneous Story time for Infants
- Acknowledgement and reward for consistent readers and respect of library and rules

HOW OUR LIBRARY WORKS:

Our library is open between 8:30am and 3pm Monday - Friday. Each class has a weekly borrowing session of 30 mins.

BORROWING:

**How many items can I borrow and when is my borrowing day?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>BORROWING DAY</th>
<th>BOOKS ALLOWED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>2 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Year 3</em></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Year 4</em></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Year 5</em></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Year 6</em></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3 books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Unless permission is given by class teacher for an extra book as a home reader.
*
3rd book is to be a home reader
Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the Hull family, with the recent death of Wynette’s grandmother Louise. Great Grandmother of Nathan, Year 5.

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers at this time of loss.

Canteen

Wednesday 20/02 Kim Stephan
Helper Urgently Needed
Friday 22/02 Nelle Flynn
Kate Ferguson
Helper Needed
Wednesday 27/02 Penny Obst
Debra Borg
Friday 01/03 Aylia Brown
Helpers Needed

We still need helpers for canteen, so if you can spare a few hours each term on a Wednesday or Friday, please contact Nelle Flynn on 0438982688 or email: nelle@spiritlevelhealing.com.au

A menu will go home as soon as we are able to update prices. Please continue with the 2012 menu at this stage.

Zone Swimming Carnival

The weather held off long enough for all the swimmers to compete in the Zone Swimming Carnival yesterday in Murwillumbah. To their credit all the students competed extremely well with many achieving PB times. Congratulations to Mt St Pats who took out the day as overall points score winners.

Congratulations to the following swimmers who have been selected to represent the Tweed Zone in the Diocesan swimming trials in Coffs Harbour on the 8th March:

Elijah Devlin 50m free (3rd)
Liliana Evans backstroke (2nd)
breaststroke (1st)
Dylan Marshall backstroke (1st)
Mac Mehrtens IM (2nd)
butterfly (3rd)
Jacob Chandler breaststroke (2nd)
Lily Rainford butterfly (2nd), IM (3rd)
Jacob Chandler butterfly (3rd)

Book Cub

Order forms for Issue 1 of book club went home last week.

Money and orders need to be returned to school by Tuesday February 19th.
**Parent Assembly News**

Hello again! Just a few reminders this week. The annual family Retreat is on soon with the first being at Evans Head from 23rd March (Midday) to 24th March (afternoon) so book now! Ring 1300557874 to register. For more details see the flyer (school office) or ring Leanne Robbins on 0407143975.

Book reviews from our Parent Library are coming soon. Please feel free to borrow these books / DVD’s in the school foyer, just see Kay at reception to sign them out.

Also, thanx to our parents who attended a very insightful presentation last night by Dr. Gerard O’Shea (Innocence and Puberty). It was great to see you there despite the rain.

God Bless,
Alison and Jo.

**School Forum and P & C Meeting**

Our first Forum meeting for 2013 will be held next week, Tuesday 26 February at 7p.m. in the school library.

All parents are most welcome to attend.

Some of the items for the Agenda are:
- Bi-annual Fun and Food Fiesta
- Welcome dance
- Fundraising year planner
- Suggestions

**Free to Good Home**

We have two lovely tabby male kittens who are now 8 weeks old and looking for a new home.

They are fully litter trained.

Ali is laid back and quiet while Darcy is a funny, affectionate little fellow.

If you or someone you know would like a new little friend, please call Nelle on 0438982688.

**2013 Sacramental Program**

The following dates are for the celebration of the various Sacraments in 2013.

**First Reconciliation Parent Meeting**
6 p.m. February 19th in the Parish Hall

**First Reconciliation** - 7 p.m. March 21st

**First Holy Communion** - June 2nd

**Confirmation** - August 27th

Further information will be sent home closer to the dates.

**For Sale**

3 girls school uniforms. Good Condition, size 6. $10 the lot.

Please contact the school office

**Mowing**

A volunteer is needed to mow the school grounds this week-end.

If you can help please contact the school before Friday. The school supplies the mower, edger and petrol.
STATE FUNDING CUTS TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND STAFF

Considerable uncertainty and anxiety arose among Catholic school communities in the latter part of 2012, created by announcements from the NSW Government of cuts in funding for NSW Catholic schools. This occurred despite the Government’s March 2011 election promise to Catholic school parents not to reduce recurrent or capital funding for Catholic schools. This circular explains the nature of the NSW Government’s funding reductions and their likely impact on Catholic schools over the period 2013 to 2017.

1. Recurrent Grants

Recurrent grants help fund the ongoing operation of Catholic schools, most of it used to help pay the salaries of staff. Grants are adjusted each half year in line with cost increases in NSW Government schools in the previous half year. At present, the grants for each student in Catholic systemic schools is $946.14 for primary and $1,267.81 for secondary. The grant levels for Congregational schools vary according to the school’s assessed category of financial need.

From projected cut in grants to actual freeze

In early September 2012, there was a major public outcry when the NSW Government, as part of its current cost-cutting exercise, proposed an immediate and significant reduction to the per capita grants for non-Government schools. At that stage, the proposed cut in the grants for Catholic systemic schools was $67m per annum. The quick and effective response of parents and principals forced the Government to reconsider its method of seeking to make savings in non-Government school grants, resulting in the announcement on 11 September of a four-year freeze in grants from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2017.

Modifying the freeze for special cases

The Catholic Education Commission (CEC) and the Association of Independent Schools (AIS) jointly requested the Government to modify the impact of this freeze by providing ongoing indexation of grants for two particular categories of students: (1) students with a disability, and (2) students in new schools. On 19 December 2012, the Premier of NSW, Barry O’Farrell, and Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, advised the CEC and AIS that it had accepted this modification.

Managing the shortfall

For Catholic systemic schools, freezing grants from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2017 means an overall reduction of $273 per primary student over the four years and $365 for each secondary student. The exact amount for each congregational school will vary. Making up for this shortfall over the next four years will be a matter for each school and/or diocesan authority. What parents may expect to see is some reduction in services to schools, reductions in levels of school staffing, or an extra rate of fee increase, or some combination of these.

The Government plans to keep Government school expenditure cuts ‘outside the school gate’, that is, in the administrative and central services provided by the Department of Education and Communities. This is not possible for Catholic schools that have far fewer centralised support services. So some impact on schools is unavoidable.
2. Capital Grants

State Government contribution to capital

Most of the cost of building and refurbishing Catholic schools is met by parents and parishioners through donations to building funds and contributions to repaying loans. The NSW Government has long eased the burden by subsidising, for up to 20 years, the cost of interest paid on a school building project. This Interest Subsidy Scheme was replaced in 2007 by a Building Grants Assistance Scheme (BGAS) which has been growing annually by funds transferred into it from expiring interest subsidies.

Freezing the Capital grants

On 12 June 2012 the NSW Government included in its Budget papers for 2012/13 a cap on the capital grants, but only on 10 December did the Government confirm that it had frozen the BGAS for four years at its current value of $11m. The NSW Government has still not made any public announcement about this additional cut to Catholic school grants. This is the first official notice of this cut to Catholic school communities.

Modifying the freeze

Following requests from the CEC and AIS that the Government rescind its decision to freeze the capital program, the Government advised on 21 December 2012 that it would continue to index the $11m annually by (a) movements in the relevant Building Price Index and (b) increases in non-Government school enrolments. Otherwise the cap remains.

Impact on Catholic school communities

The CEC has emphasised to the NSW Government that freezing the BGAS will put pressure on capital funding decisions: some communities may be required to borrow more, some new schools or extensions to current schools may not be built or built soon enough and some essential upgrades may be deferred. Moreover, it is the worst time to be reducing capital funds because the school age population in NSW is expanding rapidly.

3. Teacher Development

On 16 October Minister Piccoli announced that $2.2m would be provided for Teacher Development for the new NSW curriculum for all non-Government schools in 2013. CEC and AIS objected that this amount was grossly insufficient and did not reflect the relative proportion of NSW teachers in non-Government schools. The Government has now agreed to increase the funds it is making available for the non-Government sector from $2.2m to $8.6m to make it proportionate with the Government sector.

Conclusion

The CEC appreciates the right of the NSW Government to reduce expenditure on schools in what it sees as difficult financial times but regrets the fact that the Government felt the need to do so without adequate warning or consultation. Since education is the most significant, influential and long-term investment a State Government can make, reducing expenditure on schools is a risky and short-sighted measure. The CEC also appreciates the NSW Government’s response to its submission in December 2012, the processes instituted to monitor the cuts and the public assurances of the NSW Premier that the Government will restore funding to schools as soon as it returns to a more favourable and predictable economic environment.

Finally, the major issue for Catholic schools in 2013 will be the uncertain impact of the new Gonski funding model which is sure to become a key issue at the Federal election on 14 September. Your active participation may be called on again in the public debate on Catholic school funding in the context of the September election.

Bishop Anthony Fisher, OP
Chair

Brian Croke
Executive Director
Murwillumbah Hockey Club Sign-On

Saturday 23rd of February at Brothers Leagues Club, Dorothy Street, Murwillumbah.

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  Ages 5 and up.

Contact Matt Palmer on 0410 031 802 for further information.

MURWILLUMBAH
Netball 2013

Local Sport: Same time, Same place

Enjoy yourself at Murwillumbah Netball Courts
every Saturday

Sign on Saturdays, February 16th and 23rd
11am to 2pm
and
Play March to September
Ages from 5 years to Open
(boys welcome)

For further information contact:

Sue O’Connor
0266722235
0419722235

Maree Deller
0414379880

ST PATRICK’S
CONCERT

THURSDAY 14TH MARCH
IN CATHOLIC HALL
COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.

FEATURING ITEMS PRESENTED BY:

- Students from: Mt St Patrick College,
  Mt St Patrick Primary School and
  St Joseph’s Primary School
- Murwillumbah Philharmonic Choir
- Sue Gallagher
- Ben Reynolds
- Peter Garrett
- Nina Baumer
- Licorice Allsorts
- Duet - Beth Brooks & Tony McKerrow
- Margaret Peate School of Dance

ADMISSION: Adults - $5.00  Family - $10.00

Supper will be served at 9.00pm following the concert.
**BFMP**

- ALL OUR MEAT IS LOCALLY GROWN
- ALL ORGANIC
- WE DON’T JUST SELL RED MEAT
- COME IN & SEE THE VARIETY.

**Brett & Bec O’Keefe**

Telephone: (02) 66771491

**Tweed Fruit Exchange**

The Fruit and Vegetable Specialists
103 Main St, Murwillumbah
Paul & Maree
Fax: (02) 6672 1393
Ph: (02) 6672 1155

Every Wednesday 7a.m. – 11 a.m.
Murwillumbah Showground
All weather shopping at the Showground Dairy Pavilion. Locally grown: fruit & vegetables
meat | eggs | cheese | coffee | honey | + more

Know your farmer, know your food

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**MURWILLUMBAH FAMILY DENTIST**

Dr Michelle Ng
3/17 Church Lane, Murwillumbah
Ph: (02) 6672 7620

Dr Victoria Skitt
Email: mail@mfdentist.com.au

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

Sacred Heart Church

Saturday 6:00 p.m.  Sunday 8:00 a.m.