

1 December 2015



*In a Christian way we learn today for tomorrow*

*“Use your voice for KINDNESS, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth and your heart for LOVE.”*

Dear parents, pupils and parishioners,

We welcome **Ava Mitchell** to A3 as she starts her journey at St Patrick’s School. She joins big sister Ella here.

**COOL AT SCHOOL**

Congratulations to **Reid McGrath**, a Year 6 pupil who is certainly ready to be a fantastic senior next year as he has a great attitude towards others, is caring, thoughtful and responsible. (Gets it from his mother?)

**JOIN OUR SENIOR SYNDICATE TOMORROW**

- 1) **FINAL MASS – 9AM** in the school chapel as they celebrate their time at St Patrick’s and pray for the year’s ahead.
- 2) **SENIOR ATHLETICS – 10am** (following Mass) on our sports field. Athletics and field events as they compete for their house team as well as for school honours. Bring water, a hat and your support.

**GOSPEL VALUE FOR DECEMBER – KINDNESS**

Our final value for 2015 is “**Acting With Kindness.**” How do we show our kindness to others? A wonderful thing for us to practise as we prepare for Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Christ.

**NEW STAFF IN 2016**

We are currently in the process of appointing three quality teachers for 2016 to replace Ms Sutton, Miss Ennor and Mrs Somerville. We hope to have this completed by next Tuesday.

**FAMILY PICNIC**

Thank you to all those who joined together last Friday evening at school to “picnic.” A relaxed evening with talent from our guitar, dance, Kapa haka and Pasifika groups and a awesome choral item from the staff. Thank you PTA for your organisation – it’s on the calendar for next year.

**A MORNING TEA TO SAY THANK YOU TO “YOU”**

On **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December** our Year 8 pupils will be hosting a **MORNING TEA** for **ALL PARENTS, COACHES, HELPERS** to say thank you for all you have done for our school this year. If you have coached a team, helped in the classroom, helped with swimming, sports, transport, etc – **THIS IS FOR YOU** and it is our way of saying that we appreciate all you do for us. Mark it on your calendar and we will see you on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**

We thank our students who are “**altar servers**” for their dedication and for the important role they play during the Mass. It is wonderful to see them living out their faith in such a practical way. **This Thursday** we will shout them a **PIZZA LUNCH** to show them our appreciation and to say thank you.



**MORE SERVICE – OUR ROAD PATROLLERS**

Our “**Road Patrollers**” head off this Friday to Splash Planet for a “fun day” as a way of saying thank you for their service to St Patrick’s School and in particular the way they keep us safe. Have a great day out and ..... **THANKS!**

**THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

The twelve days of Christmas is actually a catechism song, which arose from a time when Catholics were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Without the regular liturgical celebrations or catechism lessons from the priests, the parents and priests needed a way to help the children continue to learn and keep the Catholic faith in their lives.

The ‘true love’ mentioned in the song, who gives all these gifts, refers to God himself. ‘A partridge in a pear tree’ is Jesus Christ. A mother partridge will fake injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings – the acts of the mother bird parallels with the sacrifice of Jesus for us.

**The symbolism continues throughout the song:**

- Two turtle doves – The Old and New Testaments
- Three French hens – Faith, Hope and Charity
- Four calling birds – The Four Gospels
- Five golden rings – The first five books of the Old Testament
- Six geese a laying – The six days of creation
- Seven swans a swimming – Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Eight maids a milking – The eight Beatitudes
- Nine ladies dancing – Nine choirs of Angels
- Ten lords a leaping – The Ten Commandments
- Eleven pipers piping – The eleven faithful Apostles
- Twelve drummers drumming – the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed



**TERM DATES FOR 2016**

**TERM 1 – Tuesday 2 February – 15 April**

(Good Friday 25 March – Easter Tuesday 29 March)

**TERM 2 – 9 May – 8 July**

**TERM 3 – 25 July – 23 September**

**TERM 4 – 10 October – 16 December**

**END OF YEAR EVENTS / PRIZEGIVING 2015**

10<sup>th</sup> December – End of Year School Mass – **9.30am St Patrick’s Church**

10<sup>th</sup> December – Year 8 leaver’s dinner

15 December – Syndicate Prizegivings / farewell Assemblies

**11.00am** – Middle Syndicate in School Hall

**12.00** – Junior Syndicate in Hall (stay for lunch)

**7.00pm** – Senior Syndicate at St Patrick’s Church

**16 December – End of Term. School finishes at 12.30 (No Afterschool Care)**



**LAST WEEK’S QUIZ**

Foreign Language

Regards & Blessings  
Jurek Wypych  
PRINCIPAL

**THIS WEEK’S QUIZ**

