Welcome

We would like to welcome you to our parent information night. We invite you to explore the classroom with your child asking them to show you some of the things that they have done so far this year. There are several activities for you and your child to complete this evening.

- Table 1 – Ribbon activity.
- Table 2 – Me and my parents activity {printing}
- Table 3 – Puzzles
- Computers – Reading Eggs

As part of our Prep program we are learning to always tidy up after ourselves before move on to the next activity and at the end of each session.

If you have any questions regarding the Prep program, please feel free to ask your child’s teacher. If you wish to discuss your child’s development contact us either in person, by phone, email, a written note in your child’s homework folder, or to arrange a suitable time before or after school.

At St Patrick’s we follow the curriculum as set out by Australian Curriculum for Religion, Maths, English, Science, History, and Geography (Semester 2). We are also using the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines for the remainder of our program. More information on the Australian Curriculum and what Prep will cover this year can be found at the Australian Curriculum website http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/

Religion

Term 1 – How do I know what is good or bad?

In this unit we will learn about some Old Testament and New Testament stories that tell of a God of love and God’s plan to help each other to live safely and happily together, for the good of all.

Student’s listen to, read and view stories of his teachings about love, compassion and forgiveness that challenged people about the way they were living; and of his suffering, death and resurrection. They learn that Christians believe God created people with the freedom to choose between good and bad, right and wrong. They explore examples of times, from familiar texts and their personal experience, when people make these choices.
Term 2 - Prayer and Who is Jesus?

This unit will look at Jesus, his family, his followers and his life.

Term 3 - God the Creator

God the creator of all, the goodness of God’s creation and God’s special relationship with all of creation.

Term 4 - The Birth of Jesus

They listen and respond to stories of and about Jesus in the Gospels that tell of Jesus’ life as a Jew, his mother Mary, his friends and family. They recognise ways in which believers pray using images and symbols. They describe ways in which believers pray together during special celebrations and rituals that mark important times in the life of believers and in the Church year.

English

The English program in Prep is supported by Jolly Phonics, Caterpillar Handwriting, Study Ladder, Reading Eggs, Sunshine Online, Bug Club, Magic Words and First Steps.

In Prep children develop their English skills through hands on play based activities and structured table-top tasks.

Each week we will learn a new letter and sound following the Jolly Phonics program. The children will have their Sound Book in their Homework folder each day so they can practice them at home.

Reading plays an important part in children’s development at this age. It is essential that children experience many opportunities to read both for enjoyment and requiring knowledge. Some of the opportunities offered in Prep include; guided reading lead by a teacher or a parent and online story reading; such as Bug Club. These are offered in an individual, small group and whole class context.

Children will be taking home Home Readers, Sound Books and Literacy Packs to develop their language skills. It is important for a regular time to be set aside each day for parents to assist children in these reading and literacy tasks.
Show and Tell

- **Formalised** - timetabled, all children will get an opportunity to share once each week.
  - **To start with** Our first topic is Me. So children can bring in things that are special about them such as favourite sport/movie/book/character.
  - **No toys**: either for show and tell or for playing at breaks.
  - **Special** show and tell if discussed with teacher e.g. birthdays.

Maths

Children will have a solid understanding of numbers in digit and written form to ten. They will also explore 2D and 3D shapes, informal measurements, location and movement and data collection.

Science, History and the remainder of the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines will be covered as part of integrated units and stand-alone activities. This term our connected curriculum is about ourselves: Amazing Me!

Specialists Lessons

- Social Skills and Music - Tuesday [PALS and Program Achieve]
- PE - Thursday.
- Library - Friday
  - Bring red library bags into school on Friday and put library bags in the tray.

Mornings - classroom opens at 8.30am. This is depending on teacher availability.

- Main Playground supervised from 8.20.
- **No playing on school equipment before or after school** unless teacher on duty.

Afternoons - if any changes to their usual routine please let one of us know.
Late or leaving early - please got office to sign in (receive a late slip) and out.

Homework - Tuesday to Tuesday (to be assisted by a parent)

- Reading: library books, levelled home readers
- Literacy Packs
- Magic Words
- Jolly Phonics sound practice
- Show and Tell
- Star of the Week - only once a year and children will bring home guidelines and some when it is their turn.

Parent Classroom Helpers

Activities every Monday and Wednesday 9-9:30 a.m. starting in week 4. These activities will focus on developing their numeracy and literacy skills.

Healthy Food

- Healthy Food Break - fruit, vegetables, cheese, yoghurt.

- Please help us but having your fruit or vegetable cut up into bite sized pieces and spoons if they need one.

- Lunch - Eating time. Sandwiches or similar. Save chips, cakes etc. for afternoon tea.

Please no lollies or nuts!
➢ **Tuckshop** - Monday, Wednesday and Friday

The tuckshop boxes are in each classroom. It helps if having afternoon tea to use 2 bags; one for lunch and one for afternoon tea.

Handwriting and pencil grip is important to get right to enable confidence and fluency when in older grades.
If you wish to discuss any concerns you may have or your child’s development, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher to arrange a suitable out of school time to meet. You can phone the school, write a note or send an email.

Best contact by email – checked once daily Monday to Friday.

➢ Charmaine – cfrancis@bne.catholic.edu.au
➢ Jess - jpara@bne.catholic.edu.au