FROM THE PRINCIPAL

During the storm of December 1, the day before the end of Term 4 of last year, and after more than one hundred years of cool shade and spectacular beauty, our Royal Poinciana Tree fell.

As we stood in the dark and rain beside the tree there was great sadness, and a sense of shock, that there could be an end to something that had seemed so timeless.

On the following morning, the last day of school, people came to St Pat’s – past students, neighbours, members of the school and parish community, to look at the magnificent ruin of the dying tree and to ask for a piece of the tree, or a seed pod. To hear their memories and experiences of the tree and to see them depart with a part of it gave a sense of continuity and renewal.

The children spoke of their love for the tree and the peace they found in sitting beneath its protective shade. The tree is gone but lives in the hearts and memories of the community.

Many seedpods were gathered before the tree was removed. If you would like a seedpod from the Poinciana to grow, or to have as a memento please take one from the office area.

We thank Mr Shane Lutton, our P & F president for 2016, who will be stepping down from the role due to work commitments. We will miss Shane’s commitment, hard work, humour and strong support for the school community and wish him well in his future endeavours.

We also thank Mrs Amy Malone, who will take on the role of P &F President.

Funded by our P & F, we now have air conditioning throughout all school buildings – a much cooler start to the new year.

The removal of asbestos, repainting and a new roof have rejuvenated our beautiful Heritage Building. We are grateful to Mrs Kathy fuller, the previous Principal for her talented strategic planning and work that have brought this project to fruition.

Family Contact Details

If your contact details have changed could you please correct your information with the office staff? It is important for us to keep an updated record of your details in case we need to contact you at any time. If you have any queries or need any clarification please do not hesitate to contact the office to discuss this further.

Susan Geaney
Principal
Welcome back to the start of a new school year at St Patrick’s

It was wonderful to witness the excitement and enthusiasm of the children as they arrived back at school on Tuesday morning. I hope everyone had a happy and peaceful start! I look forward to working with the students and with you throughout the year and being of any assistance possible.

We all gathered in the hall at 10am for a short welcome, which included saying the school prayer together and the singing of the school song, Let Your Light Shine on Us. It was great to hear and see the student’s enthusiasm as they joined in singing the song and performing the actions. It was wonderful to see the new Prep students following the lead of our year 6 students and trying hard to join in the actions.

School Prayer

Dear Jesus
Please bless our school and all who are part of it.
Guide us this day in our work, prayer and play.
and help us to make our school a happy and safe place.
May we treat others with love and respect.
Show us how to live the way you call us to live,
to do our best and to let our light shine.
Amen

We also spent some time going through the procedures for students arriving at school in the morning and departing school the school grounds at the end of the day. Some of the key points are outlined below.

There are 4 main ways, other than being picked up at 3pm from outside classrooms, that students can arrive or leave the school each day and these are explained in detail in the brochure attached to the Newsletter. For all of these methods, there are teachers on supervision duty and there are set procedures in place to ensure that children are kept safe. These procedures are also in place to help alleviate the congestion, which occurs each day as the students of St Patrick’s School, and the College leave our school zone.

The main ways that students depart the school grounds are:

- Students walking home, using supervised crossings to cross the road.
- Being picked up at the supervised designated Church Street Pick Up area
- Being picked up at the supervised Bligh Street Car Park
- Crossing Calton Hill, under teacher supervision, to St Patrick’s College to catch buses or meet older siblings at the college

If you pick your child up from outside the classrooms and on any occasion, you find yourself running late, the children are asked to move and wait at the office or one of the supervised areas: the Bligh Street or Church Street pick up areas.

Students are not to wait outside of these supervised areas on footpaths or areas adjacent to the school grounds as this creates supervision and safety concerns for your child. Your assistance is necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students.

Arriving at school in the morning

Formal supervision begins at school at 8:20am and so it is preferable for children not to arrive at school before this time.

If students arrive at school before 8:20am they must sit and wait on the front verandah of the Trinity Building until playground duty starts. The students are supervised in this area until 8:35 when they move to take their school bags down to their respective classroom. After they have taken their bags to the classroom the students can either stay in the classroom with their teacher or come back out to play on the main playground. After 8:35 all students who are at school should either be out on the main playground or in the classroom with their teacher.

The first bell rings at 8:45am and the second bell rings at 8:50am. It is very important that all children are in their classrooms ready to begin the day’s activities by 8:50am.

As we begin the journey of another school year together:

Lord,
we ask that you open our eyes to the love of God that is present within each of us. As we journey together, may we minister to each other as well as to the young people you have entrusted to us as parents and teachers. Lead us to grow in appreciation of one another, in acceptance and support, and with understanding and generosity.

Holy God, Help us to grow in awareness of the feelings and needs of others, and inspire us to look beyond
ourselves in building community, in offering kindness and hospitality to others.
Amen

On Friday February 3 at 9am, all families are invited to join us in the church for our 2017 welcoming liturgy. We hope that you are able to join us.

I hope you have an enjoyable week at St Patrick’s and please feel free to approach me if you need more information about any of these subjects mentioned in the newsletter.

Peter Campbell
Assistant Principal Religious Education

From the Guidance Officer

Starting school involves a big change for children. It is normal for children to have strong feelings as they start to think about these changes, such as excitement about the prospect of going to school as well as nervousness about what lies ahead. Children may also be feeling sad about leaving their early learning education or their previous class. This includes letting go of relationships formed with previous teachers and other children, as well as a change to their familiar routines. Some common feelings children have during transition to school can include excitement, sadness, anger, anticipation, fear or anxiety. Understanding that these feelings are normal and helping your child to handle the feelings will help to reduce their stress and can provide them with positive coping strategies.

Simple things you can do to help the first few weeks go smoothly

http://raisingchildren.net.au/

- Try to drop off your child before the bell goes in the morning. Also, pick your child up on time. If you are late, it could make your child feel very anxious.
- Try to make after-school time a bit special, with a snack and time for you to chat.
- Be patient if your child wants to blurt out every little detail about school, or clams up completely. You could try something like, “Tell me one good thing about your day”, rather than asking lots of questions.
- Try to be flexible with snacks and meals. Your child will probably be very hungry after school so a healthy snack straight after school may be helpful.
- Don’t expect too much academic progress too soon. If your child is happy and seems to be enjoying school, that’s a real achievement. The rest will come later.
- It is normal for children to play with lots of different children, and even to play on their own sometimes. It takes a while before they settle into a group of friends.

- Your child may be very tired after school for the first few weeks. You may decide to judge after school activities for this time and stick to a bedtime routine if possible.
- Think about how you can manage your feelings. Even if you are feeling sad or worried, it can help to keep these feelings from your child. Instead, try to see your child off with a happy, confident goodbye.
- If your child doesn’t seem to be settling well speak to their class teacher.

Karen Holmes
Guidance Officer

SPORTS NEWS

GYMPIE ZONE SPORTS TRIALS – Nominations due various dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE/S</th>
<th>DAY/S</th>
<th>EVENT/ACTIVITY</th>
<th>TIME/S</th>
<th>VENUES/S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7/02/ 2017</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Gympie District Cluster 1 Trials Softball / AFL</td>
<td>9.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Softball – One Mile Ovals AFL – Gympie West SS</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15/02/ 2017</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Gympie District Swimming Nominations due (10 – 12 yrs)</td>
<td>By 3:00pm</td>
<td>Sheeren Moy at Gympie South SS</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>25/02/ 2017</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>State Aquathlon 10 – 12 yrs</td>
<td>Hervey Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7/03/ 2017</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Gympie District 10 – 12 yrs Golf nominations due</td>
<td>By 3:00pm</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/03/ 2017</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Gympie District Cluster 2 Trials Tennis / Soccer / Hockey / Rugby League / Netball</td>
<td>9:30am – 12 noon</td>
<td>Various venues Tennis – Reg English Soccer – One Mile Ovals Hockey – Hockey Centre R/League – Albert Park Netball – Excelsior Courts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/03/ 2017</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Gympie District U11 Rugby League Trials</td>
<td>12:30pm – 3:00pm</td>
<td>Albert Park</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
SWIMMING LESSONS
Term 1 2017
Swimming will be held this term for Grades 4 to 6. More information will be included in next week’s Newsletter.

Dance Fever – Gymnastics
If you wander past the hall on Mondays or Tuesdays of this term, you will notice a great deal of action happening inside. This term we are once again engaging the students in gymnastic lessons as part of our HPE program. The program was a huge success last year and I am sure will once again be well received by students and staff.

Gymnastics is one of the most technical and safety conscious sports taught in primary schools. Classroom teachers are not properly trained to teach gymnastics and most schools cannot provide the equipment and the time required to plan, set up and deliver a gymnastics lesson.

The gymnastics program provided by Dance Fever teaches the students more than the “Dominant Movement Patterns” which the syllabus requires. Their program is a “school based” gymnastics program rather than “club gymnastics” which allows them to engage all students as they incorporate “fundamental movement skills” and “ball sports skills” into a gymnastic program. Dance Fever Gymnastics is endorsed as a “Quality Assured Provider” by Gymnastics NSW for providing accredited teaching staff and engaging and student centred lessons.

Have a great week!
THE ST. PAT’S SPORTS TEAM

SCHOOL NEWS

Medical /Medication Information
For existing students:
If there have been any changes to your child’s medical condition since the end of 2016

AND
For new students:
Please complete the form or forms to be found here in the newsletter under;

FORMS AND DOCUMENTS
2017 Medical Information Form
2017 Medication request

Please return the form or forms to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Student Banking
Students may bring in their Commonwealth bank books on any day. Each time you bank you receive a token. Collect 10 tokens to receive your free gift.

Information Packs were sent home on Tuesday to classes Prep to Year 5. Further packs are available from the office if required.

Happy Birthday
We would like to wish the following children a very Happy Birthday for this week:

Morgan F
Julian R
Lily L
Hayden C
Hannah O’D

Uniform Shop Hours
The Uniform Shop will operate from the Tuckshop
Please note that Opening hours have changed this year ....

Thursday 8am – 9:30am

2017 Tuckshop Assistance
The school is in need of volunteers to help with the running of the Tuckshop. Without your help it will be impossible to have Tuckshop at St Patrick’s.

Tuckshop operates Monday, Wednesday and Fridays.
Whether you can help ½ day, a full day, once a week, fortnightly or monthly, your help will be greatly appreciated.

If you can volunteer your time in any way, please complete the form below and return it to the school Office before Friday February 17 2017, and I shall get back to you.

Thanks
Tracy Frazier
COMMUNITY NEWS

HOT SHOTS TENNIS EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Gympie and District Tennis Association Coaches Brett Cottrill & Matt Watkins will commence the HotShots Tennis program on Tuesday 7th February at Saint Patricks Primary. Lessons will be held Tuesday mornings (grade Prep to 2), Wednesday mornings (grade 4 to 6) and Thursday mornings (grade 2 to 4) from 8.00am to 8.40am for a minimum block of 7 weeks. Costs will be $75.00/pupil, $140.00 for 2 children or $190.00 for 3 children in the same family.

To register for the program please contact Brett Cottrill on 0417746795 or return the completed form back to the office by Tuesday 7th February.

We accept the Get Started Sporting Vouchers.

Cash or Cheques made payable to Brett Cottrill please.

Direct Deposit BA COTTRILL BSB 014585 ACCT 583359786 students name as reference please.

Join our Excellence Program and our weekly Hot Shots Competition for 1 child $140, 2 children $200 or 3 children $250 per term. Our Hot Shots Competitions start Thursday 2nd February at The Reg English Tennis Centre on Cartwright Rd from 3.30pm. Every player that registers receives FREE Gympie Junior Tennis Membership and Tennis Australia Membership.

Gympie Regional Art Gallery News

We look forward to a new year of fun for kids with ART STARS creative sessions for kids starting on Saturday 4 February at the Gympie Regional Gallery.

Two sessions:
- 10am-12noon for children aged 5-9yrs and
- 1pm-3pm for young people aged 10 years and up.

Costs $2 to cover materials. Simply turn up. Facilitated by Sandra Ross. Also Tiny Tots Artplay for little kids with their parents begins on Friday 24 February from 10am-11am, for littlies aged between 18 months and 3 years. Facilitated by Sabine Gaber. Please book for this one as numbers are limited. Phone 5481 0733 for any further information.

GYMPIE JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

Sign On Days

February 4th and 5th at Jack Stokes Oval Monkland
9:00am – 2:00pm

New players need a birth certificate

Games to be played on a Friday night

HEAT GIRLS CRICKET LEAGUE

Gympie Heat Girls Cricket League
Where: Sundays starting - Saturday Night of February (6 weeks)
Where: Raceview Oval, Gympie
Cost: $66 per person Ages: Girls aged 11 to 17
Contact: Rob & Brenda 0499 500 264 - gympieheatcricket@gmail.com
Register at playcricket.com.au/team “Gympie Heat Cricket”

Gympie Hockey

2017 SIGN ON

Now is the time to play hockey!!!

Get Started! Teachers accepted

‘Just Hockey’ for all your Hockey equipment needs - sticks / shoes / bags etc

Friday Feb 17th from 5pm (Bar/BBQ/Games)
Saturday Feb 18th - 10am to 2pm

Free - sausage sizzle / ice blocks / have a go

U7 (Hook in2 Hockey), U9, U11, U13, Youth & Seniors (Men/Women)

A Safe. Fun & Affordable Sport for the Whole Family

Need to know more? Tony 0407 642 054 or Ben 0440 094 420
Website - www.gympiehockey.org.au - Email - secretary@gympiehockey.org.au

www.flierbox.com/gympiehockeycricketAdvertisement