Welcome

Mrs Kathy Fuller

2014 is a unique year for us with 2 year levels leaving at the same time.
WELCOME TO ALL PARENTS HERE TONIGHT FROM YEAR 5 & 6

SPECIAL WELCOME ALSO TO

IAN DAVIS – FROM BRISBANE CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PROJECT OFFICER YEAR 7 to SECONDARY 2015
KAREN HARRISON – PRINCIPAL of ST PATRICK’S COLLEGE
And other staff from St Patrick’s College

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Our Year 6 and 7 2014 Working GROUP

PARENTS: Rosie Crumblin, Kerri Crawford, Nicole Steel and Anita Ferguson

Mark Jabore – Guidance Counsellor St Pat’s College

STAFF – Debbie Albion, Damien Lynch, Marg Cumner, Vicki Major, Sarah Skuse, Karen Holmes, Peter Campbell, Eric Ellems, Kathy Fuller
“I am with you always.”

Matthew 28:20
This word of God is a promise from Jesus to be with us forever. This promise will never be broken, because the Spirit of Jesus is already deep in our hearts and will always be there. Nothing and no-one can ever take Jesus Spirit from us. Being quiet and still is one way of feeling the peace of his Spirit in our hearts. Jesus’ spirit is with us in so many ways including the love and care we receive from others, and in the beauty and glory of creation.
There is nothing we could ever experience; no place we could ever go, where God is not already there. God is always and everywhere present to us, but we are not always present to God!
Prayer is all about becoming present to God. This means that – when we pray – we need to bring an openness in our hearts to more than just our own thoughts and feelings. In prayer we become aware of the Holy One, of God. This time with God helps us become more LIKE God!
There are many ways to pray. Sometimes we pray with other people in Church. Or we can pray all by ourselves. We can pray prayers from memory such as the Lord’s prayer, or we can talk with God in our own words, just like with a friend. Our prayer does not need to be fancy or pretty. It needs to be honest and humble. And sometimes we pray without words at all, just sitting quietly in God’s presence.
We can pray anywhere: outdoors, indoors, standing, kneeling, sitting, even on a bicycle! Sometimes we might pray out loud, or other times just in our heads and hearts. We don’t usually hear God speak back to us with words. But we can learn to sense how God does come to us: sometimes in silence, perhaps in a gentle nudge in our hearts, maybe in a new way of thinking, or just simply in knowing that we are in the loving presence of someone other than ourselves.
No, prayer does not mean that the world around us will always change in the ways we are wishing. But we can be sure that God is with us, and hears us when we pray. When we seek God, we will find God!
Let us take a few minutes now to seek God in the gentle sound of silence; let the silence of our hearts and minds open us to the wonder of Jesus’ presence as we walk through this evening together...
Loving father
Loving mother
God of new life
Creator God
God our friend
All-knowing God
God of wonder
God of compassion
God our teacher
This is the story of the prodigal.
It should have been called the prodigal daughter.
Really, he should have run to his father and said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired men."
But when he saw him from a long way off, he ran to him and hugged him and kissed him.
God who listens
God of justice
God of nourishment
God of reflection
God our guide
God of enrichment
God of resourcefulness
Almighty One
Gentle God
We Pray Together:

God of listening, Make me aware of listening to the wisdom of others, especially when it is affected by noise, stress or confusion. Help me to listen with all my heart so that Your Words are heard clearly and without doubt.

God of reflection, enable me to hear Your Voice not only with my ears and in my heart, but to hear deeply what You want me to do with my life.
God our guide guide people to me who can name the gifts and talents that I offer the world. Help me to hear Your message of using this life of mine in Your service and in the service of others.

God of enrichment in hearing Your invitation to help others, may I also respond to You in a way that will bring true life. For in listening deeply, I begin to understand.

AMEN.
Queensland Government announced that, from 2015, Year 7 will become the first year of high school in Queensland.

According to Qld Government, moving Year 7 is a significant reform that will benefit students at all Queensland schools. They consulted widely before introducing this change, which is supported by Queensland's state, Catholic and independent school sectors.
This move follows the successful introduction of a Prep year in 2007. In 2008 the entry age for Year 1 was raised by six months, bringing Queensland into line with other states.

By 2015, South Australia will be the only state to have Year 7 remain as part of primary school.
Increasing the school starting age by 6 months means that by 2015 more than half the children in Year 7 will turn 13 and will be in their eighth year of school, which is the right time to start high school.

Year 7 students will be better positioned to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the new Australian Curriculum as it is rolled out over the coming years.
Moving Year 7 to high school is part of wider improvements to our education system.

From 2013, Years 8 and 9 will become Junior Secondary in all state schools, with Year 7 becoming part of Junior Secondary in 2015.

Catholic and independent schools will also ensure Year 7 students moving to high school are well supported.
St Patrick’s College have indicated that they will be looking at a cohort of Years 7/8/9 as a middle phase.

There will be a strong emphasis on pastoral care for students, and parents will be encouraged to become even more involved in their children's schooling in the high school years.
In order to plan for the transition, a Working Group comprised of parents and staff has been meeting over the past year. Areas discussed have included:

- Organisational Structures
- Learning & Teaching
- Student Well-Being & Personal Development
- Leadership
- Calendar of Events
Also considered by the Working Group were the following non-negotiable aspects:

- Enrolment numbers
- Both Years 6 and 7 are leaving the school at the end of 2014
- All students to experience opportunities usually offered for students in final year of primary at St Patrick's
- All Year 6/7 students will be sharing all leadership roles
Organisational Structures

❖ Possible options for class groupings based on projected enrolments were discussed with pros and cons of each considered.

❖ 3 possible options based on numbers:

➢ 2 Year 6, 2 Year 7 and a 5/6 multi-age
➢ 2 Year 6, 1 Year 7 and a 6/7 multi-age
➢ 4 multi-age 6/7 classes
1 x Year 7, 2 x Year 6 and 1 x Year 6/7

PROS -

- Similar structure to what we have had in the past (2011)
- Curriculum planning would be simpler except for the one 6/7
- Continues to rely on a team approach to cater for needs of senior students

CONS -

- Single year 7 class could be seen as elite senior class,
- Would be difficult to organize activities for two distinct groups - year 6 or year 7
- Curriculum difficult to manage for the one 6/7 multi-age class

OPPORTUNITIES

- Enables us to have 3 year 5 classes
2x Year 6, 2 x Year 7, 1 x 5/6 multi-age

PROS -
- We would be offering some Year 5’s the opportunity to work with Year 6 and 7
- It would provide us with a 5th teacher to enable year level specific curriculum
- Similar structure to what we have had in the past (2011)

CONS -
- difficult to manage rotations, split lunch breaks very hard to coordinate - can't have 3 senior classes out at once and can't have 5/6 out when year 5's are not,
- lunch breaks would be a major issue
- more difficult for 6's in 5/6 to have same leadership opportunities as the other year 6 and 7 classes
- The year fives in this group could become isolated
- rotations would involve 6 classes trying to organise timetables
PROS -

- rotations easy to manage, added flexibility
- can operate as senior school with no perception of an 'elite' class
- encourages teachers to form professional learning team,
- facilitates all students’ involvement in Leadership program
- encourages all students to feel equal as leaders
- incorporate personal development and leadership into rotations
- Easier organisation for buddies
- students more easily identify themselves as seniors of school
- The 6/7 cohort build relationships they can sustain into college setting as they move across together
really addresses the unique situation which exists in 2014 and provides opportunities to meet the needs of all students
Giving all students in Year 6 and 7 a very real opportunity to work in teams in an equal opportunity
Year 7 can support Year 6’s as they develop into leadership roles
All students will be leaders in an equal way.
Increased flexibility in using support across the classes
Establishes closer relationships in preparation for bus trip to Canberra
Students share playground space more effectively as they have better relationships
Preparing students for the college's vertical pastoral groups where they are learning to have a voice among students of different year levels.
CONS –

❖ Sometimes there is some anxiety around the set-up of multi-age classes with parents
• The Year 7’s and 6’s having to share leadership role / activities
• organisation of buddies activities
OPPORTUNITIES

- enables us to have 3 year 5 classes
- planning time together using specialist lesson times
- a unique situation exists in 2014 so requires a creative / unique response
- how the curriculum will be planned across the 2 year levels
- Being able to offer to all students a greater opportunity to differentiate the curriculum
- how a year 6/7 arrangement here will translate across to the college for year 7 & 8 in 2015
- Sometimes there is some anxiety around the set-up of multi-age classes with parents - differentiate curriculum
- Ensure 6 and 7 have an independent identity
- Able to continue their year level identity through their interactions in science, history and geography
- Senior class photos and Year 6/Year 7 photos then originals
Discussion led to belief that under the circumstances regarding numbers, etc the students would be best served by having multi-age classes

In 2014, there will be 4 Senior classes – each will be a multi-age 6/7 class

Classes will be named Senior Blue, Senior Gold, Senior White and Senior Green
Learning & Teaching

- Each class will have its own Home Room and Class Teacher

- Classes will work at various times as:
  - Senior Home Group
  - Senior Rotations
  - Year Level Rotations
Senior Home Group

- English
- Maths
- LOTE
- The ARTS - Music
- PE
- Technology – integrated across all Curriculum areas
- The ARTS – Dance (DanceFever)
Senior Rotations

- The ARTS – Drama, Media, Visual Arts
- Religious Education
- Reading Strategies - streamed
- Spelling – streamed
- Committees
- Leadership Formation
Year Level Rotations

- History
- Geography
- Science
- SOSE
- NAPLAN (Year 7)

Due to numbers, Year 6 will be split into 3 groups for Year level rotations with a 3rd teacher allocated.
Student Well-Being & Personal Development

- Leadership Formation
- Buddies
- Committees
- Playtime
Leadership Formation

- Week 1/2 – Own class getting to know you time, setting routines, building identity
- Week 3 – Ration Shed visit
- Week 4 – Project Hatch Leadership Development Day – 19th February
Week 5 – Follow-up on Ration Shed and Project Hatch

Week 6 – Commissioning Liturgy – possibility of a day of activities culminating in the Liturgy

Other activities planned:

- Caritas Program – 25th March
- BCE Team – 3rd last week Term 3
- Ongoing activities – Play is the Way, etc.
Examples of the leadership formation topics include:

- What is leadership?
- Behaviours and qualities of a leader
- Developing the leaders role at the school
- Applying leadership outside the school
- Friendship, peers and leadership
- Combining schoolwork and leadership
- Creating a vision now and for the future
These are some of the activities that will help us to develop these qualities.

- Project Hatch
- Play is the Way
- Program Achieve
- Ration Shed
- Caritas
- Leadership Day/Liturgy
- Smarter Choices
- College Transition Activities
Leadership Shirts

- SP Senior on the front with all students’ names on the back.

- Order forms will go home to parents shortly

Leadership Badges

- Senior 2014
Buddies

- We will be continuing with Buddy system and looking at options for structuring buddies to allow for the best experience
Committees

- Options being discussed for committees but they will continue on Thursday afternoons

- Villa interaction important to continue
Playtime

- Senior School will share available play space rather than have separate 6 & 7 areas
- Student Welfare Officer to look at ways to facilitate lunchtime interaction with Senior School
- More game markings & facilities where possible – Volleyball, Handball, etc.
Calendar of Events

- St Patrick’s Day – all senior students would have a role in planning and managing the day

- Variety Show – to continue with modifications to format

- School Photos – separate Year 6 and Year 7 Originals, separate Year 6 and Year 7 group photos, class photos and whole senior group photo proposed
O’Flynn Award for Christian Character and Individual Excellence – double the number of recipients for 2014

Year Book – Senior Year Book with some separate Year 6 and Year 7 pages

Rite of Passage – Recognition of finishing primary and transitioning to secondary symbolism will remain but format of night may need to change

Leadership handover at end of 2013 will be to current Year 5 and Year 6 students
Canberra

- **Saturday 19th – Saturday 26th July**
- **Kangaroo Bus Lines – 2 coaches, 4 drivers**
- **Copy of Itinerary available**
- **Sydney, Blue Mountains, Canberra and Perisher Valley**
- ANZ Stadium
- Scenic World
- Parliament House
- Australian War Memorial
- Zone 3 Laser Games
- Day in the snow – Perisher Valley
- Electoral Education Centre, Old Parliament House
- Australian Institute of Sport
- Questacon
- National Maritime Museum
- Sydney Harbour Ferry
- The Rocks Walking Tour - Sydney
Accommodation

- 4 nights accommodation at the Greenhills Camp & Conference Centre
- 1 nights accommodation at Naamaroo Uniting Conference Centre
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner daily
- Linen, blankets and towels provided
Costs

- 2013 cost to students - $868
- Less any shared fundraising
- Less any individual fundraising
- Less $60 Federal Government rebate which is forwarded to the school following the visit and is credited to Term 4 school fees

- Monthly Direct Debit can be set up through school office
Fundraising

- Opportunities are offered to families for both shared and individual fundraising activities
- No obligation for any family to participate in any fundraising
Shared Fundraising from:
- Discos
- Easter Raffle
- Mothers’ Day Stall

Individual Fundraising from:
- Chocolate Drive
- Pie Drive
- Speedway Canteen
Transition To College

Some examples of activities:
Year 8 drama students performing for year 4 students.
Science Expo - The science department at the college ran activities for the year 7 students.
Combined Primary and College celebration where we welcome all those students who make up our community and celebrate the growth of our community.
Peer support activities - lunchtime activities for providing the opportunity for student interaction.
College HPE students providing supervised PE skills support for primary classes.

If you need further assistance or have any questions, feel free to ask!
Question & Answer Session