Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last week I had the opportunity to speak with a number of teachers regarding their programming and planning for 2015. Our discussions revolved around the individual students and their needs in the classroom. Our teachers and school are in the process of developing data walls. Data walls are visual representations of an individual class in a particular area such as literacy, numeracy and Religious Education. Teachers are able to identify what each child’s level is and the progress they have made over a given period of time. This information is valuable, as it helps teachers to plan specific teaching strategies to cater for the needs of each student.

We have developed three goals for 2015 as a staff and as part of our Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) tool. These three specific components will drive our teaching and learning for 2015 and beyond. The three components are:

1. To develop and promote an Explicit Improvement Agenda
2. To analyse and discuss our data
3. Focus on effective pedagogical practice

The three components complement each other very well, and St Patrick’s is committed to making essential growth in all three areas.

At last week’s assembly I spoke with the students and parents about making our uniform a goal for the rest of the term. I emphasised that the boys grey shirts need to be tucked in and on sports days our runners need to be predominantly white. Our policy can be found on the school webpage: [http://web.stpatskatanning.wa.edu.au/uniform.html](http://web.stpatskatanning.wa.edu.au/uniform.html)

If you are having difficulty with items of uniform please make contact with your class teacher, so that we can support you in obtaining the correct items. I have included the full uniform note with this newsletter.

I was at the Directors Forum on Monday and Tuesday and the main point of discussion was the QCS tool and the Cyclic Review of all Catholic Schools. Our school will have its Cyclic Review by a four person panel in the near future. St Patrick’s is on the right path with our Annual School Improvement Plan and our QCS component tools.

**This Friday 27th February is a pupil free day.** We are collaborating with four other schools to have Professional Development on Google Apps for Education (GAFE) run by ICT consultants from CEOWA. We are lucky enough to have the PD at St Patrick’s.

Wishing you a safe and happy weekend.

Peace to you and your family

Christopher Smith
No Awards this week.

Pupil Free Day Friday 27th February.

Happy Birthday to ......

Samuel Wilhelm and Mr Smith

LEAD - Defining our Strategic Direction 2014-2016

Learning - Kindergarten has been buzzing with learning since Week 1. We have been learning all about each other and what makes us special. We understand that even though we may look and speak differently, we are all the same inside. We have explored each others families and understand that each family is unique. We have begun to understand emotions and can talk about the things that make us happy, sad, jealous or feel loved. We have created some beautiful work and would love you to come in and see it. Mrs Tomlinson.

Engagement – Student engagement is of vital importance to teaching and learning. At the Directors Forum, many Principals spoke of their highly accomplished teachers engaging their students in rich task which enlightened and promoted learning. Engagement theory states that students should be meaningfully involved in their learning through interactive and worthwhile tasks. Although the use of technology is not imperative, it is found that technology can promote engagement that is difficult to achieve otherwise. Engagement Promotes:

1) working collaboratively and supporting each other
2) project based learning focused on student needs and interests
3) students having an authentic focus and intention for learning

Teachers at St Patrick’s are looking closely at those practices which are highly engaging and best promote learning in their students. Mr Smith

Accountability - This term, in Italian, the children are learning about ‘Carnevale’. This is a festival that occurs two weeks before the start of Lent and involves parades, feasting, costumes and masks. The children have been involved in activities ranging from visual power point presentations, songs, reading and comprehending, writing, word searches and art (mask making). By offering a wide range of experiences, I aim to cater to different learning styles. By taking the time to talk to your child about their learning, you can help to consolidate the concepts we are learning in class. Grazie! Mrs Quartermaine

Discipleship- Ash Wednesday starts the Lenten Season, and its readings set the guidelines for our 40-day journey. The Gospel gives us our Lenten “marching orders”: pray, fast, and give alms, not for outward show but with hearts that are converted. We receive the sacramental ashes as testimony to our desire to do penance and bear our cross after Jesus. Mrs Robinson
ST PATRICK’S CHURCH
Celebrate Mass with Fr Peter Njau

Sunday 1st March at 10.30am
Altar Servers: Joseph Rose & Vincent Lin.

Pocket Angels is a Sunday School programme for children aged four and older. It is held each Sunday during Mass at St Patrick’s Catholic Church from 10.30am. Children should meet Mrs Sugg or Mrs Marino at the back of the church as Mass begins, or come to the meeting room on the right hand side of the garage door at Father’s house. Anyone who would like to help is welcome, and should see Mrs Sugg or Mrs Marino.

Evangelisation - The Good News

Jesus took Peter, James and John up a high mountain alone. A change came over Jesus and his clothes became shining white. They saw Elijah and Moses talking with him.

Then a cloud appeared and a voice said "This is my own dear Son; listen to him!"

Transfiguration describes something that changes. When Jesus transfigured, his appearance change to something glorious. The butterfly is a symbol of change. A caterpillar goes into a cocoon. When it emerges, it is transformed into a beautiful butterfly.

Father, You delight in Jesus and you delight in us. Turn our hearts towards you and transfigure our lives with the light of Jesus. Amen.

Moses and Elijah, pray for us.

God Bless
Mrs Marino

From the AP Desk.....

Libraries are something close to my heart, having spent 17 years working as a librarian at the Katanning Public Library before becoming a teacher. I believe the answer to just about anything can be found within the covers of a book; whether that is a question of how to do something, or how to spend a rainy afternoon. Some of my fondest memories are of books shared with my children - even if that did involve reading the same title over and over ... and over again!

School libraries are places which are able to foster a love, not just of reading, but of learning. They are constant havens within the ever-changing curriculum of a school day and can be a place of escape, adventure and exploration.

The support of parents is essential to the efficient running of many school libraries - and ours is no exception. A call has gone out for parents to man the volunteer roster and I really encourage you to consider putting your name down - even for just one session a term.

Duties are easily learnt and the benefits are great - not only in the efficient running of our library, but also in becoming part of our wonderful St Patrick's School community; which includes your child or children.

Children love seeing their parents helping out at school - and I know Mrs Anderson in our library will love to see you as well! Please consider putting your name down for our library roster - you will be very welcome.

God Bless
Mrs Marino

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Tuesday 24th February  Pre Primary Paraliturgy  
Wednesday 25th February  Kindy Paraliturgy  
**Friday 27th February  PUPIL FREE DAY**  
Monday 2nd March  Labour Day – Public Holiday  
Monday 9th March  Swimming Trials  
Thursday 12th March  St Patrick’s Faction Swimming Carnival  
Friday 13th March  Bishop Visit School Visit  
Monday 16th March  Year 6 Camp  
Tuesday 17th March  St Patrick’s Day Celebrations!!  
Friday 20th March  Year 6’s return home from Camp  
Tuesday 24th March  GRIPP Leadership Day Albany – Year 6  
Monday 30th March  Interim Reports Issued  
Tuesday 31st March  Mass of the Holy Oil Bunbury 10am Yr6  
Wednesday 1st April  Interschool Swimming Carnival  
Thursday 2nd April  Holy Thursday – Stations of the Cross  
Term 1 Concludes 3.20pm  

**TERM 2**  
Monday 20th April  Pupil Free Day  
Tuesday 21st April  Students return today  

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**Sound Waves Snippets**  

**Week Five  2nd March**  

Unit 4:  e, ea, a  

**egg, ready, many**  

Chant:  ‘Empty eggs – e, e, e.’  

Action:  Make cup shapes with hands to be empty egg shells.  

- /e/ is a quick sound.  
- This is a vowel sound, so nothing gets in the way of the air coming out.  

**Sound Waves Online**  

Students can access Sound Waves Online at;  

soundwaveskids.com.au  

with the student code for their year. Please see your classroom teacher if your child does not yet have their access code.  

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**Did you know?**  

- About 70% of an adult’s body is made up of water  
- A seagull can drink saltwater as it has special glands to filter out the salt  
- Water dissolves more substances than any other liquid  
- The same water that existed on the earth millions of years ago is still present today  
- 70% of the world’s surface is water  
- The drinking straw was invented in 1886  
- A litre of water weighs 1.01kg  
- Rats are the animal that can survive the longest without water  

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**Community Notices**  

There will be a Katanning milo cricket running for 4 weeks starting on the 27th of February from 4-5pm at the Quartermaine oval. Boys and girls from years 1-5 are welcome to come and join in. If interested please register at  
in2reg.cricket.com.au  

There is no cost but parent help would be greatly appreciated. Please call Sharon Haeusler for more information on 0428823749.