Dear families and friends,

During the past week I have spoken to the students about being a “bucket filler”. Essentially this is about reaching out and using encouraging words to build each other up. Through daily “bucket filling”, we are transforming into being better persons by putting the wellbeing of others first, building community and a culture of care. We are also mindful of people who take from another’s bucket; people who put others down with hurtful words and gestures. We encourage students who see someone putting others down to do something about it. This takes courage and skill.

Showing care and concern for others is a big part of transformational leadership; and this is the leadership we strive to equip our students of the 21st century with. At St Patrick’s we aim to build leaders who have the capacity and courage to strive for the common good of our community. As I mentioned last week, St Patrick’s can be based on 3 foundational pillars; Building Community, Building Capacity and Building and Celebrating Catholic Culture.

Last weekend the Good News Gospel presented the Transfiguration of Jesus. Essentially the message here is all about change; and change is something that can be quite a challenge for some of us. However, in the Gospel we are urged to transfigure, to grow in our capacity to show care and concern for others, to meet new challenges, and through this journey of change, we may see things in a new light. This really is a good news story. It expresses the hope and desire in all of us to be good people. To be the change we want to see in this world (Gandhi).

Last Thursday evening, the Community Council met and filled all positions. I must congratulate the Community Council on an enthusiastic and focused start to the year. I’m confident that this will be a very successful and productive leadership team and I am looking forward to working alongside the Council for the good of our community.

In regards to building the learning capacity of our students, I wish to congratulate our teachers, parents and students for achieving great results in last year’s NAPLAN. I would like to share some snapshots of St Patrick’s 2015 NAPLAN results which affirm this. Our Year 3 were ranked in the high achievement range, (% in the top 2 bands above the State average), for Reading, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. They were additionally graded in the very high achievement range in Writing. Our Year 5 ranked in the achievement above State, (% in the top 2 bands above the State average) for Reading and Grammar and Punctuation; with a very high achievement range in Writing. Outstanding results which continue to display a growth trend in academic achievement. Obviously the challenge is to maintain this growth trend but also, and most importantly, to identify and target those students needing support so that they are enabled to move forward in their learning.

One of the great qualities of the teachers at St Patrick’s, is that they strive to know your children and how they learn. This standard of quality teaching engages, challenges, supports and affirms the growth of the whole child allowing the students to move forward along the learning continuum.

Take care and try to fill someone’s bucket this week with words of encouragement.

Vincent Powell
Principal

NRL COME TRY DAY has been postponed due to the expected heat this week and has been rescheduled to Wednesday, 16 March.
The Good News

Leadership Liturgy
Congratulations to our school leaders. Wednesday’s Liturgy was an empowering experience for all present. Our leaders, SRC, Year 6 students, student body and parents/teachers/parishioners all made commitments to each other. The Year 5 students lead the liturgy confidently and competently and Fr Jiss kindly accepted our invitation to attend. This Wednesday’s liturgy will be focused on the Infants and is the first opportunity for the kindergartens to join their classmates from the Infant classes in the Church to pray together. Please come and join our Infants Liturgy on Wednesday at 12.

As a leader in St. Patrick’s school this year I accept my role and will help the teachers and children to keep our school a happy and safe place where Jesus is our leader and care is in our hearts for all.

Theological Thoughts
What is Lent good for? ...During Lent, many Christians try to stop filling up with ‘stuff’ and make room for God again. ‘Stuff’ includes all the clutter of our daily lives: TV and technology, treats, desirables but not essentials, trying to keep kids busy and entertained, indulgences, and so on. If we can de-clutter and get rid of some ‘stuff’, we can feel near to God again. If we clear away some of our comforts for a time, there will be more room for God.

Some ways to remember what God did.

Decide as a family what you can do to remember how much Jesus gave up for you. Try to give up something each week. You could have a dessert-free day, or a dessert-free week! How about a TV-free week? If you give up desert, or videos, or anything that costs, you could take the money your family saves, and help someone who is less fortunate. Can you think of other things you can give up for a few weeks?

Fill up with something good: spend some time learning about the days before Jesus died. Read in your Bible about how Jesus was arrested and crucified. Imagine what it would have been like to be with him at that time. Do the people who were with Jesus help him? Do they understand what is happening? Right before Jesus was arrested he was sad and wanted to pray, but the friends he brought with him fell asleep. Would you have been able to stay awake?

Easter in a Box – shoeboxes needed!
This Easter the children will be participating in an ‘Easter in a Box’ activity to create tangible reminders of the Easter journey during Holy Week between 20-27 March. Each child will need a shoebox; so before the boxes from new school shoes are thrown out – please hang onto, send into school and start collecting any other shoeboxes ready for this important event. Many thanks for the ones already coming in….but we need lots more!

Gospel Quiz
Jesus takes three of his disciples aside and reveals himself to them in his glory as the Son of God. His aim is to strengthen their faith in him as they make the difficult journey to Calvary. Jesus does something similar for us in the Eucharist. He invites us to step aside from our daily chores to pray, to listen to his word and be nourished by him. Strengthened, we go out from Mass ready to take up our journey along the way of the cross. This week’s question relates to the Gospel story of Jesus. Who were the three disciples and who were the three tents for?


Craig Ferguson
Religious Education Coordinator

Year 1 & 2 excursion to the Gundagai Water Treatment Plant has been postponed due to Mr Pollack attending a funeral tomorrow. The excursion will now take place on Wednesday, 2 March.
WR Swimming Carnival - Temora

On Thursday, 18 February 23 students travelled to Temora for the Western Region Swimming Carnival. It was a great day and every swimmer should be proud of their effort. Many swimmers achieved personal best times in their events. The support and cheering all students showed towards each other was fantastic and very much the St Pats way.

Thank you parents and grandparents for transporting and supporting all swimmers. Thank you also to our timekeepers, Mrs Kelleher, Mrs Fairall and Mrs Cotterill.

Congratulations to Xavier Graham who got Senior Boy Champion and Jack Kelleher who was Runner-up 11Yr Boy. Our St Patrick's team were runners up in the handicap.

The following students will be going to the next level in Queanbeyan on the 1st of March. Xavier Graham, Jack Kelleher, Ryan Fairall, Paddy Reardon, Edward Murphy and Abbey Flanagan. Congratulations and good luck!

Natasha Flanagan
Sports Coordinator

School Holiday Netball Camp

The Southern Sports Academy has an upcoming School Holiday Netball Camp to be held at the Equex Centre, Wagga Wagga on the 19th-22nd April 2016. This year we will be adding a day of training for aspiring umpires.

The camps are a valuable opportunity for children of all skill levels to receive top quality coaching. We are excited to announce that former NSW Swifts player, Jackie Murphy, will host our Junior Netball Camp this year and will be joined by a panel of experienced coaches including Southern Sports Academy Coaching staff, special guest coaches and Southern Sports Academy athletes.

This year players between the ages of 7 and 10 will be attending on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th April, while the players aged between 11 and 14 will attend on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd.

The annual Junior Netball Camp has become a crucial event for the identification of the best young talent in the Southern part of the state who may be eligible to join the Academy squad. The form is available on the Academy’s website (www.ssa-nsw.org.au). The form can also be filled in online at http://bit.ly/24baduD.

GUNDAGAI PANTHERS JUNIOR SOCCER REGO!

GUNDAGAI PANTHERS (JUNIOR SOCCER) is now taking registrations online. Go to www.myfootballclub.com.au and click on Player Registration.

Returning players need to click on “Find your FFA number”. New players need to click on “Create an FFA account”.

The FFA number is both the Login AND password.

For the 2016 season the Gundagai Panthers Football Club will subsidise all player registrations, providing a $25 discount. The Registration cost will only be $30 per player - this can be paid online. For assistance with registration email Registrar, Rob Glazebrook at rob@robglazebrook.info or phone 69443030.

We will be holding a Registration evening WEDNESDAY 24TH February AT 4.00PM at the Gundagai District Services Club for those who are unable to register online and need to pay in person.

Registration needs to be finalised by the 9th March.
Children from the Year 3/4 class today joined other schools in the area to view original items from the State Library’s collection.

The objects are original, historical artefacts that very rarely leave the Library, and they are used to illustrate aspects of Australian history that link directly to the Stage 2 History syllabus.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit, some participating in dressing up to help illustrate history.

Thank you to those parents who made this excursion possible with their assistant in transporting the students.
Welcome to the new year! The Community Council held its first meeting for 2016 on Thursday, 18 February. Following is a summary of items discussed.

**Welcome to new members!**

The new year has brought with it a number of new faces and new ideas to the Community Council. Welcome to the team Jodie Crossley, Carolyn Reardon, Charly Hackett, Donna Scott and Craig Hargreaves.

Melissa Carberry and Anne Saunderson will be our staff representatives on the Council this year. Melissa will join us for terms 1 and 2. Anne will take over for terms 3 and 4. Welcome Melissa and Anne.

A warm welcome also to new school principal Vincent Powell.

Returning Community Council members are Chris McDonnell, Louise Sullivan and Renee Lindley.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the Council members prior to our meetings if there is an item you wish to raise. The Council's role is to work closely with the School to ensure the best outcomes for our students and school community. Contact details for each Council member can be found at the bottom of this update.

Thank you to our outgoing members Sarah Graham and Marg Kingwill. Sarah joined us for our first meeting to ensure a smooth handover and transition to the 2016 team. Thank you Sarah!

**Principal's Update**

Vincent welcomed the new Council members, and thanked the Gundagai and School Communities for the warm welcome he and his family have received.

As we head into the new school year, we currently have 86 students and 8.23 teaching staff – seven full-time, two part-time and one support teacher.

Vincent acknowledged the tremendous fundraising efforts of 2015, which saw the school raise $23,880!! He also thanked the number of parents who have assisted with the removal of old equipment from the school following the renovations and praised Brian Smith on the work he is doing to maintain our grounds.

A recommendation was put forward and was accepted by the Council to form a finance committee, which would advise on specific budgetary items throughout the year. This would be a sub-committee of members of the Council.

Vincent is extremely impressed with the new learning spaces and can already see the benefits they are having on the students. Some areas of the new building works have been identified for further work or improvement and these are currently in progress.

Vincent praised the work of the school, from our liturgies, through to our swimming carnival and involvement in community events such as the Gundagai Show, Anzac Day etc. He is very focused on reflecting on what we are doing well and how we promote and celebrate these. In line with this, the 2016 focus for the school will be on three foundational pillars – to Build Capacity, Build Community and Celebrate Catholic Culture. Core business will focus on student learning, results, teacher practice, collaboration and a commitment to continuous learning.
Community Council Positions Filled

Nominations were called at the meeting to fill the positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Congratulations to Chris McDonnell - the new Community Council Chairperson, Renee Lindley - Vice Chairperson, and Donna Scott and Jodie Crossley who will job share the Secretary role.

Louise Sullivan continues on as treasurer. Thank you Louise.

Community Council Planning and Priorities

The Council's key priorities for 2016 and beyond relate to those that were identified in late 2015, and are a result of feedback, the Community Council review and school community survey, which many of you were a part of.

Expressions of interest are being sought amongst parents and staff for the formation of small groups in the following areas. If you have the time please consider being part of one of these groups...even if you are not able to do the grunt work, you may have some great ideas to contribute.

1. Social Committee (Community Engagement)
   This committee would be responsible for implementing social events or activities throughout the year that get our families together and promote community engagement. This group may also look at further promoting activities the school is currently running, that allow for parent involvement or attendance, eg reading, school assemblies, liturgies etc. We already have a couple of members of the Community Council interested in being part of this group, so we will be looking to kick things off quite soon if you would like to get involved.

2. Enrolment Committee
   We have identified that we need to get on the enrolment wagon a lot earlier in the year than in previous years so we are looking for a small group of people to plan our enrolment activities throughout the year. This could be anything from pre-school visits through to our enrolment night at the end of the year.

3. Fundraising
   Fundraising has always been a big part of our school year. This year, our fundraising target is $15,000. Our regular fundraising activities will still go ahead as planned, which include tuckshop, our street stall, Family Hotel meat raffle, crazy camel and the yearbook. To help ensure we reach (and hopefully exceed) our fundraising goal, we will also look to organise one major event or activity in addition to these usual fundraisers. The fundraising committee may also look for funding further afield though grants, corporate donations and involvement in other community events, so please consider how you might be involved in our fundraising efforts and if you would like to join this group.

4. Communication and marketing
   School promotion is high on our agenda this year...obviously the more we do in the above three areas, the greater our opportunity to communicate and promote our school to the community. If you have experience in promotions, marketing or PR, or just have a keen interest in getting our message out there, we’d love to hear from you!!

Obviously all of the above priorities work hand-in-hand and many areas will cross-over, so working together will be really important. For this reason, each group will be asked to provide a brief update to the Community Council prior to each meeting.

Until such time as each committee is formed, please send all expressions of interest or questions to Renee Lindley either via email renee_lindley@yahoo.com.au or call on 0416 285 262.
Sports T-Shirt and Hat Update

Based on feedback from last year, we have a new sports t-shirts. These shirts look the same as the previous design, however, are in a slightly different fabric allowing for greater breathability. These shirts are now available at the Uniform Shop. Thank you Paula Cotterill for sourcing these. We are also looking into a new material for the school hats, given the current ones become very faded over time.

Student Awards Update

As per our last update in November 2015, staff are reviewing both the end of year awards and the awards that are given to students throughout the year, to ensure they align with the three foundational pillars - Build Capacity, Build Community and Celebrate Catholic Culture.

Tuckshop Update

Thanks to Leanne McDonnell and Michelle McDonnell for all their work getting the tuckshop up and running again this year! Leanne and Michelle have identified a few areas of need in the tuckshop and the Council will be reviewing these at our next meeting.

Contact Us!

As mentioned above, the Community Council is a group of parent and staff representatives working together for the betterment of our school, our students and the school community. Should you wish to raise a question, make a suggestion or just wish to know more about what we do, our details are listed below:

Chris McDonnell, Community Council Chairperson, hillcrest4@activ8.net.au
Renee Lindley, Vice Chairperson, renee_lindley@yahoo.com.au
Louise Sullivan, Treasurer, gallwaycoolac@gmail.com
Donna Scott, Secretary, valleyvista@valleyvista.com.au
Jodie Crossley, Secretary, jodiecrossley@hotmail.com
Charly Hackett, charlyhackett@yahoo.com.au
Carolyn Reardon, calreadon@bigpond.com
Craig Hargreaves, craig@diggeranddrill.com.au
Melissa Carberry, staff representative, melissa.carberry@cg.catholic.edu.au
Vincent Powell, Principal, vincent.powell@cg.catholic.edu.au

You can also reach us via the general email address at council.spg@cg.catholic.edu.au

Phew! That was a long update...enjoy your week.

Renee Lindley
Vice Chairperson
Happy birthday to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week.

Saturday, 20 February - Jack Kelleher
- Maggie Peterson

Sunday, 21 February - Oliver Gailey

Our very best wishes to you all on your special day!

Class Merit Award Recipients
Week 4 of Term 1.

Kindergarten - Zoe Naughton - using her knowledge of print in her writing.
Year 1 - Juliet Pearce - for her descriptive persuasive writing.
Year 2 - Abby McDonnell - being a caring, thoughtful and helpful class member.
Year 3/4 - Don Cotterill - quickly settling into the new year.
- William Naughton - quick and accurate use of mental strategies.
Year 5/6 - Mychaela Hackett - applying great effort to class work.
- Max Peterson - his great effort with his 1st home learning task.

Wildcat Award Recipients
Week 4 of Term 1.

Responsible Lochie Wilson, Jack Peterson, Sam Braun & Lilly Cotterill
Respectful Juliet Pearce
Safe

Please note that we are now closing the front school gate between 9am and 3pm to provide a safer environment for students and staff.

St. Patrick's Phone Directories
If you have not already collected your local telephone directory they are available from the following outlets for $10.
Gundagai Newsagency, Gundagai Real Estate, and the Coolac Store.

ROSTERS

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| **Wednesday, 17 February** | **Saturday, 27 February**  
Xavier Graham & Ryan Bourne | **Cakes**  
Sharon McCarthy & Liz Kelleher  
**Cookies**  
Bev Bower & Bec Fiddes  
Suzie Sharman & Simone Jones |
| **Saturday, 5 March**  
Zoe McDonnell & Lochie Wilson | **Cakes**  
Belinda Hindmarsh & Tom Scott  
**Cookies**  
Sarah Graham  
Tanya Ginty |
| **Saturday, 12 March**  
Max Peterson & Tom Scott | **Cakes**  
Belinda Hindmarsh & Tom Scott  
**Cookies**  
Sarah Graham  
Tanya Ginty |
| **Saturday, 19 March**  
George Harpley & Don Cotterill | **Cakes**  
Belinda Hindmarsh & Tom Scott  
**Cookies**  
Sarah Graham  
Tanya Ginty |

Please note cake cooks are required to bake 3 doz cupcakes or 2 slab cakes and cookie cooks are to provide 1 batch of the recipe handed out.

Walk Together in Faith and Knowledge
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 1 March - Archdiocesan Swimming Carnival - Queanbeyan
Monday, 7 March - Winter Trials
Wednesday, 16 March - NRL Gala Day
Thursday, 17 March - St. Patrick’s Day
Friday, 25 March - Good Friday
Saturday, 26 March - Easter Saturday
Sunday, 27 March - Easter Sunday
Monday, 28 March - Easter Monday
Thursday, 31 March - Mackillop Swimming

Gundagai Dental Clinic
Gary Barutzki our Mouthguard Technician will be in Gundagai on Thursday, 25 February.

He will come to the St. Patrick’s School and take Mouthguard impressions for those players who require
on for sport this year.

Impressions will be taken after lunch time on Thursday, 25 February. If you wish for your child to have a
Mouthguard made, please call the school office and we will send home a form that will need to be
returned to school with your money by Thursday, 25 February.

Those people who have private health insurance may call in to the Dentaal Clinic before the 25th and
claim from their health fund.

Any enquiries please call Dental Clinic on 6944 1126
Sunday, February 21st 2016, “Community Safety Day”

Time: 11-2pm.
Location: Tarcutta RSL Club

A family safety day focusing on Workplace safety, Child Safety, Mental health awareness & general 1st aid.

We have in attendance on the day:

★ Worksafe NSW - workplace safety
★ Ambulance NSW - first aid & calling an ambulance
★ Tarcutta RFS - prevention & action
★ Riverina Bluebell - mental health & well being

A interactive day for adults & kids of all ages. Covering lots of safety aspects for both town & farm families. Everyone is WELCOME & encouraged to attend - please share & invite others along, we'd like to get a large group together (Wagga/visitors welcome also) to show the "agencies" that little towns need the services too!!

★ Safework NSW has the day approved for those people that attend the day to be eligible to receive a $500 safety rebate if they have a small business. A great way to update some safety gear for Builders, Farmers, Contactors etc in our local area - Safety vests, flashing lights, signs, hard hats, gloves, aprons, lifting gear etc any SAFETY.

★ Jarrod from Safework NSW reminds people this is a Community engagement day - it's to HELP small businesses & communities - $500 is a significant incentive.

BBQ Lunch available
Drinks available for purchase.

TARCUTTA R.S.L. & CITIZENS CLUB
Thank you to: Worksafe NSW, Ambulance NSW, Tarcutta RFS & Riverina Bluebell