Dear families and friends,
Over the past couple of weeks our Year 5 and 6 students have been writing responses to the question, “What does it mean to belong to St Patrick’s?” I’d like to share these with you.

Wonderful affirming responses demonstrating the great community spirit present at St Patrick’s. Well done parents and teachers.

This week, during our St Patrick’s Day celebrations, children from both our preschools will be joining us for lunch and games. I would like to thank the pre-school staff, and directors Stacey and Alanna, for the excellent care and inclusive educational experiences you provide for our pre-schoolers. The Gundagai community are very fortunate to have such excellent early learning facilities. Vincent Powell
MOMI VILLAGE FIJI

Over the past five years four Gundagai families have formed a close relationship with a village in Fiji called Momi Village. This village consists of eighty families whose main form of income is from their crops, that they grow to feed themselves and to sell their produce to local markets.

This village exists on very basic needs and many families need assistance with clothing for their children, food, general household items, medical supplies and school items for their children. Each child must supply their own school books, pencils, school bags, uniform and school shoes. For many families this can be very difficult. Many children attend school with no shoes.

The children and people of Momi are very happy, kind and caring people, who always have a smile on their faces and a warm cuddle to give you. They ask for nothing but your friendship but are very humble for anything you do for them.

Their school does not have any sporting equipment for the children to play with or books for the children to learn from.

Recently they have experienced a devastating cyclone that has affected all of Fiji. Many homes have been totally lost and families have nowhere to live and no money to build their homes or supply themselves with everyday needs.

Submitted by Kathy Tuckwell

SRC News

The SRC is holding a fund raising Easter Raffle to help the people of Momi village in Fiji. These people have been severely affected by a recent cyclone and need our help.

Tickets are $2 each and are due back to School on Tuesday 22nd March. Ticket books will be sent home today.

The SRC thanks you for your support.
Saint Patrick’s Day
Our patron saint’s feast day is on this Thursday 17 March. We will celebrate with an Irish-themed out of uniform day; Irish Joke-Telling; a special lunch option; an afternoon of tabloids with pre-schoolers invited; and Mass. The Mass is to be held on Thursday (instead of Wednesday) at 12pm in the Church. Please come along, invite others and help celebrate this very special day in the life of our school and Parish community. I’ve told Fr Sijo that our next celebration will be a sea of green as he looks out on his congregation and he is very much looking forward to celebrating with us.

Holy Week – Easter in a Box
A final reminder for shoeboxes. The Staff have been preparing for this special time in the Church’s year with a range of activities to bring home and share the Easter story with you. On Wednesday 23 March from 11:30am the children will be in mixed groups and be exploring the key events of Holy Week through symbols. Each child will bring home with them a box filled with symbols to remind the children of Jesus’s final days on our earth. Please take some time over the Easter break to discuss this story with your children and come to support the Parish Church community in their masses.

Michael Mangan Visit
Michael is a composer, teacher and music liturgist who is based in Brisbane, Australia. A former specialist music teacher, he has composed over 250 pieces which are widely used in Liturgy and Religious Education programmes in schools and parishes throughout Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA. His compositions are known for their “singability” and suitability for liturgical celebrations, especially with children. On Wednesday 30 March, Michael will visit St Patrick’s and host a concert for the children who already know many of his songs from their time at our school.

Theological Thoughts – from Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church
What is the centre of the liturgical season?
The centre of the liturgical season in Sunday which is the foundation and kernel of the entire liturgical year and has its culmination in the annual celebration of Easter, the feasts of feasts.

Gospel Quiz
Straining ahead. The Israelites in exile, St Paul the apostle and the woman caught in adultery all had shameful pasts. They acknowledged their sins but were not weighed down by them because they experienced the forgiveness of God. Freed of the burden of their sin they were able to continue on their way. We also are sinners but with God’s forgiveness we too can put the past behind us and strain ahead for the prize to which God is calling us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus. This week’s question: What did Jesus say to the scribes and Pharisees to save the woman?

Last week’s question: Why did Jesus tell the parable of the prodigal son? Answer: Because the Pharisees and scribes were complaining about Jesus seeking the company of tax collectors and sinners.

Craig Ferguson
Religious Education Coordinator

NO SPORT THIS WEEK!
This Wednesday years 3 - 6 will come in their sports uniform as they will be participating in the NRL Come Try Day. Students please remember your safety equipment if you have chosen tackle, hat, water bottle and sunscreen.

St. Patrick’s Day Celebrations this Thursday! Children are to come out of uniform for this occasion with a theme of ‘green’ to help celebrate our Patron Saint. Whilst the weather is set to be cooler by then please ensure that children have hats, sunscreen and suitable protective clothing. The children will join in Mass at 12 pm before enjoying a special tuckshop lunch and an afternoon of games. Parents are welcome to join us from 12pm. Please add your lunch order to your children’s form.

TUCKSHOP NEWS...
Please note that we will be having a special St. Patrick’s Day tuckshop this THURSDAY which will replace our usual Friday tuckshop. Please return the order that is going home today in your child’s school bag by Wednesday to ensure that we have catered accordingly.
Happy birthday to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week.

Ryan Fairall celebrated on Sunday, 13 March.
Ellie McDonnell celebrates her birthday this coming Saturday, 19 March.
Jezanna Winchester celebrates her birthday this coming Saturday, 19 March.

Our very best wishes to you on your special day!

Class Merit Award Recipients
Week 7 of Term 1.

**Kindergarten** - Charles Hindmarsh - accurately hearing sounds within words.
**Year 1** - Oliver Gailey - using clever spelling strategies in his superhero story.
**Year 2** - Sadie Eccleston - a wonderful effort in persuasive writing.
**Year 3/4** - Abbey Flanagan - being polite, independent, motivated and hard working.
**Year 5/6** - Sally Scott - for showing leadership skills, care and concern for others.

Wildcat Award Recipients
Week 7 of Term 1.

**Responsible** Jack Kelleher, Edward Murphy, Will Murphy, Mia Naughton, Joel Sharman, Gracie Peterson, James Reardon, Sam Turck & Jake Bower.
**Respectful** Lilly Cotterill, Hugh Ryan & Charlie Hindmarsh.
**Safe** Thomas Ferguson & Charlie Hindmarsh.

Holy Week & Easter Celebrations 2016

Holy Thursday, 24 March - Mass of the Lord’s Supper - 6.00pm (Altar S) Paddy Reardon & Ryan Bourne
Good Friday, 25 March - Stations of the Cross: 10.00am (Altar S) Sam Crane & Will Naughton
- Celebration of the Lord’s Passion & Communion - 3.00pm (Altar S) Paddy Reardon & Max Peterson
Easter Saturday, 26 March - Vigil Mass - 6.00pm with service of light. (Altar S) Xavier & Hugh Graham
Easter Sunday, 27 March - Mass Gundagai - 8.00am (Altar S) Paddy Reardon & Zoe McDonnell
- Mass Jugiong - 10.00am

Save the date -
**St. Patrick’s Cross Country Carnival Thursday, 24 March**

As always we ask for volunteers from our parent community to help run a successful carnival. Please let the front office know if you are available to man a checkpoint, set up or pack up. More details to follow closer to the date.

Uniform Shop

Could parents please start thinking about their children’s winter uniform requirements, particularly those who have started with us this year and have not yet purchased any winter items. Paula Cotterill our Uniform Shop Coordinator will NOT be available this Tuesday.
Walk Together in Faith and Knowledge

Mirrabooka Neighborhood Centre is holding the 1-2-3 Magic course for parents and families next Friday 18th March from 10:15 am to 12:15pm. They are looking for more participants. It is aimed at children between 2-12yrs-simple strategies to manage behaviour and understand your child's needs. Phone 0269440200 asap to book.

Could parents please check that a St. Patrick’s Library bag with swimmer, rashie, Goggles & towel belonging to George Harpley hasn’t been taken home to your house by mistake. Please return to George at school.

**School fees are due on Monday, 21 March. Your prompt payment is most appreciated.**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Wednesday, 16 March** - NRL Gala Day
**Thursday, 17 March** - St. Patrick’s Day
**Thursday, 24 March** - St. Patrick’s Cross Country Carnival
**Friday, 25 March** - Good Friday
**Saturday, 26 March** - Easter Saturday
**Sunday, 27 March** - Easter Sunday
**Monday, 28 March** - Easter Monday
**Wednesday, 30 March** - Michael Mangan - Whole School Performance 11am - 12pm
**Thursday, 31 March** - Mackillop Swimming
**Monday, 4 April** - Responsible Pet Talk Kindergarten and Year 1 11am
**Tuesday, 5 April** - Western Region Cross Country - Adelong
**Friday, 8 April** - Term 1 ends.
**Wednesday, 27 April** - Term 2 begins

**St. Patrick’s Phone Directories**
If you have not already collected your local telephone directory they are available from the following outlets for $10.

**ROSTERS**

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<tr>
<th>PRAYER &amp; MASS TIMES</th>
<th>ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER</th>
<th>TUCKSHOP ROSTER</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, 17 March</strong> St. Patrick’s Mass 12pm</td>
<td><strong>Saturday, 19 March</strong> George Harpley &amp; Don Cotterill</td>
<td><strong>Thursday, 17 March</strong> Marg Kingwill Kate Graham</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, 16 March</strong> Summer Vandeereckt Jack Kelleher</td>
<td><strong>Saturday, 26 March</strong> Xavier Graham &amp; Hugh Graham</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, 2 April</strong> Jack &amp; Harriet Kingwill</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, 9 April</strong> Ruby &amp; Lochie Wilson</td>
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You must always remember that you are **Braver** than you believe, **Stronger** than you seem and **Smarter** than you think.

Christopher Robin

Clay’s thought for the week
The Newspower Easter Colouring Competition is on again and entries can either be dropped into the Gundagai Newsagency or to the school office. The winner will be drawn on Thursday, 24 March.

EdAlive is giving away fully functional, home licences of the award winning ‘mental maths’ title...Maths Invaders (normally valued at $49.95. Available for teachers and parents:
1. Parents and teachers both simply go to www.edalive.com/freemaths
2. Enter a name and email address.
3. A secure download link will be emailed to the address provided.

Dear Year 5 & 6 Students and Parents/Carers

You are warmly invited to the Information Evening for Year 7 2017, to be held on Tuesday 15 March at 6pm in the MPC at Gundagai High School.

This marks the beginning of the transition to high school for Year 6 students and this event provides you with an opportunity to hear all about the great opportunities available to our students.

Year 5 students and their families are more than welcome to also join us and meet our teachers and be part of our school community.

We are looking forward to meeting you.

Adelia Fuller
Principal