



Thursday 28th January 2021



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the 2021 school year. I trust that everyone has had a wonderful holiday break and are ready for the year ahead. Although last year was unexpected with the challenges brought to our world by the Covid-19 Coronavirus, we begin this year with more knowledge of what can eventuate and how to adapt as a school community when required. Last week I communicated the current restrictions that the NSW Government have in place for schools. As restrictions change the school will make the necessary adjustments.

- The newsletter and 'Principal's Update' are some of the main forms of communication between school and home and is emailed home each week and placed on our Website - www.stpat.edu.nsw.au . They are an excellent snapshot of the life of St Patrick's and a useful reminder of significant events in our calendar and I encourage you to take the time to read it.
- We welcome new staff to our school community. Miss Laura Gibson (Year 3 Gold), Mrs Rita Wrightson (Year 3 Green each Thursday), Miss Sheldon Crossan (Year 2 Gold each Thursday) and Mrs Christine Ryan (Language Teacher- Italian). We also welcome back Mrs Susie Hopkins as the Kinder Gold teacher. Mrs Tahnee Reynolds will be Acting Religious Education Coordinator. I am sure you will warmly welcome our new staff to the school community.
- Thank you everyone for supporting the Best Start and Mathematics Assessment Interviews this week, they have progressed smoothly. The information gathered by the teachers from the MAI is invaluable in getting to know your child's level of competence in counting, place value and the four number operations. The Best Start assessment provides information about the children's literacy knowledge and skills. Time will be allocated in the coming weeks for students who are still to complete the assessments.
- We look forward to seeing students in Years 1-6 on Friday 29th January dressed smartly in school uniform (Year 5 & 6 in Sports Uniform), while Kinder will commence on Monday 1st February. Once our new Kinder students are settled into their class their parents are invited to gather for 'a cuppa and a chat' at school to celebrate their successful start to big school followed by a brief meeting to answer any questions around routines and expectations. Thank you to the Parent Welcoming Committee for supporting this initiative.
- Swimming Carnival/Infants Water Fun Day – Friday 5th February. All children from Years 3-6 will attend the Carnival along with any 8-year-old children from Year 2 who are capable 50m swimmers. Parents can access and complete the permission and entry form via this link: [St. Patrick's Swimming Carnival Permission/Entry Form](#). Children in Years K-2 will have a fun day at school participating in some fun water activities. More details will be provided soon. Under current restrictions we are unable to have parent spectators at the carnival. Only parents who are helping in an official capacity can attend the carnival.
- Parent Information Meetings for each grade will take place this term in Week 3 via Zoom. During this meeting parents will meet their child's class and grade teachers together with other parents with the purpose of providing information about class and grade routines, curriculum topics and planned events. Individual Parent/Teacher Meetings will be scheduled for later in the term. Further information about the Parent Information Meetings schedule and links to access each meeting will be provided next week.

God bless you and your families.

Todd Vane-Tempest