Dear Parents,
Welcome to the start of the 2017 school year. I trust that your child/ren enjoyed their first couple of days back at school. In particular we welcome our new students and staff to Mt St Patrick Primary School. This note is an interim to our school newsletter, which will be printed on Tuesday 14th February and fortnightly from then on Tuesdays. The newsletter will contain further information regarding upcoming events. A brief overview of upcoming events is as follows:

**PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS:**
Our Years 1–6 Parent Information sessions will be held next week. Teachers will be holding two sessions to cater for families with siblings. Parents can choose which session to attend. If you have three or more siblings in the school—arrangements can be made to meet with your child’s teacher if necessary.

**When:** Tuesday 7th February.
**Time:**
- Session 1 – 5:00 – 5:45pm
- Session 2 – 6:00 – 6:45pm
**Where:**
- Year 6: Room No. 8 (Mrs Dixon’s Room)
- Year 5: Room No. 4 (Mr Young’s Room)
- Year 4: Room No. 6 (Mr Houlahan’s Room)
- Year 3: Room No. 1 (Miss Mackney’s Room)
- Year 2: Room No. 11 (Mrs. Nadin’s Room)
- Year 1: Room No. 13 (Mrs. Trevithick’s Room)

I strongly encourage parents to make the effort to attend these evenings as they will provide an insight into class expectations as well as information into the expected learning experiences that will take place throughout the year. **NB:** These meetings are for parents / caregivers only. If students are on school site they will be supervised on the hardcourt / playground areas.

**UNIFORM**
Thank you to all parents who have ensured that students are wearing the correct school uniform. In particular I draw your attention to:

1. **School Shoes:** students are able to wear black joggers as part of the Day (Blue) Uniform. However please note that these joggers are to be completely black – no white or coloured logo or stripes etc. to be visible on the jogger.
2. **Sport Shoes:** students to wear sports shoes that are predominantly white (this includes white laces – no coloured laces).
3. **Unisex Sport Shorts:** All students are required to wear the unisex sport shorts. An embroidered lettering of M.S.P.P is placed on the bottom left leg. These shorts are available from our school uniform suppliers.
   - The wearing of the school uniform is compulsory and therefore non-negotiable.

**KINDERGARTEN**
Kindergarten students will commence school on Monday 6th February. Kindergarten students are not at school this week as they are participating in the Best Start Screening process. **MORNING TEA** – a morning tea will be available to all Kindergarten parents on Monday morning at 9:00am in the staffroom. Could parents from Year 1 please bring a plate for the morning tea on Monday.

**OPENING SCHOOL MASS**
Our opening school Mass will take place at the Sacred Heart Church on Friday 10th February commencing at 9:30am. The mass allows us to come together and pray as a school community. In addition to this we also induct our School Captains, Sport Captains and Student Representative members into their roles.

**PARENT FORUM**
Our first Parent Forum meeting for 2017 will be held on Monday 20th February at 6:30pm. in the school library. All parents / friends are very welcome to attend.
SPORT TERM 1: DANCE FEVER - GYMNASTICS
Students will need to wear their sports uniforms **twice a week**.

- **In Term 1 sport** (Dance Fever – Gymnastics) will be held on **Thursdays for all classes**.
  First lessons commences this **Thursday 2nd February**.
- **Physical Education lessons** (Mrs. Daly) will be conducted on **Tuesday’s and Wednesday’s**
  Individual classes will be informed of which day their Phys. Ed takes place.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES
Our first Friday school assembly will be held on **Friday 17th February** commencing at **9:10am** in the Parish Hall. During Term 1 & Term 4 our Friday assemblies will be held in the morning. In Term 2 & Term 3 Assemblies will be held in the afternoon. This decision is based on holding assemblies in the morning during the warmer months.

EXECUTIVE RELEASE
Teachers who hold leadership positions within the school are entitled to release from Face to Face teaching in order to assist them in carrying out their respective roles. Executive release timetable is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Day / Time of Release</th>
<th>Relief Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jade Dixon</td>
<td>Monday (12:50pm – 3:15pm.)</td>
<td>Mrs. Stacie Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader of School Evangelisation</td>
<td>Thursday (12:50pm – 3:15pm.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Stacy Jansson</td>
<td>Monday (12:50pm – 3:15pm.)</td>
<td>Mrs. Justine Bullock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader of Catechesis</td>
<td>Thursday (12:50pm – 3:15pm.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Tania Morosini</td>
<td>Thursday (8:50pm – 12:50pm.)</td>
<td>Mrs. Stacie Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader of Curriculum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The Tweed Zone swimming carnival will be held on **Friday 17th February** at the Murwillumbah Pool. A training session will be held at the TRAC Pool Murwillumbah on Thursday 9th Feb at 2:15pm.

PARKING
Some important reminder points to note for **afternoon Queensland Rd Pick Up Zone**:

- Parents wanting to pick up their children **MUST wait in their car** as we load students into the car.
- Students will be escorted to the car by a teacher, students to enter car via passenger side.
- Students should arrive at the ‘Pick Up’ area around 3:20pm
- If there is a ‘bank up’ of cars which extends beyond the one way part of the road parents are requested to do a lap around the school perimeter and rejoin the queue to avoid congestion on the road.
- **The morning ‘No Parking / Bus Zone’ along Mooball St is a “Kiss & Drop Zone” – in the afternoon this returns back to being the normal ‘Bus Zone’**.
- **No Parking or Pick Up along western side of Mooball St or in Showgrounds**

MT ST PATRICK ‘SKOOL BAG’ APP: Please download our free ‘Skool Bag’ app available to iPhone or Android phones. To install it, just search for our school name "Mt St Patrick Primary School Murwillumbah" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store. Please refer to attached flyer in our newsletter with further details of how to download the free app. The app contains features including: ALERTS to parents, newsletters, calendar, parent e-forms including absentee notes. This app offers our school an effective way to communicate to parents and keep you updated on current events.

A calendar outlining major events for the year will be published in next week’s newsletter. In addition to this could I refer you to our school Moodle page [http://moodle.murplism.catholic.edu.au](http://moodle.murplism.catholic.edu.au) which also has links to our school calendar and pertinent school information.

Yours sincerely,

Brendan Ryan
PRINCIPAL