From The Desk Of The DEPUTIES And The PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back

Welcome back to school. We’ve had a great start to the year. The children look fantastic in their school uniforms and were all bright and ready to learn on the first day. It was such a pleasure to be in the waiting area in the morning and see the sheer delight on the children’s faces as they saw their friends again. 6 weeks is a long time when you are 6 years old.

Welcome new staff: Sarah Smith – Head of Special Education Services (Thursdays, Fridays and odd Wednesdays), Casey Chadwick – Music teacher, Jo McDowell – Year 5, Helen Smith – Year 4, Helen Simpson – Prep.


Explicit Improvement Agenda
Our Explicit Improvement Agenda this year is focused around reading and writing. As reading is one of our strengths at Patricks Road, we are simply shining a light back on what we do to ensure consistency of practice. For writing, we will be building on the great work that we have done by finalising our whole school writing program.

General Routines

* Your child’s class teacher is always the first point of call if you have questions about your child’s education. The next point of call is the Deputy Principal in charge of your child’s year level (Michael Drake Prep – 2 and Maureen Bailey 3-6). If you are still dissatisfied with the outcome, you should request an appointment with the Principal through the office.

If you have a concern that involves a teacher other than your child’s class teacher, please see the Deputy for your child’s year level.

* We request that you respect teaching time and teacher preparation time. Please don’t interrupt learning time by entering the classroom. Morning times are usually an opportunity for teachers to do last minute organisational tasks to ensure the children have a great learning experience. This is not a good
time to have a prolonged conversation. If you need to discuss something with the teacher at length, please make an appointment.

* Staff meetings are scheduled for Wednesday afternoons. Please be aware that teachers do not have a lot of time on Wednesdays to chat with parents.

* Parents coming onto the school site during the day must report to the office to sign on.

If your child is absent, we request that you call the absence line 3872 1860 or email the office on admin@patroadss.eq.edu.au. Parents will be contacted after 9:30 if they have not confirmed their child’s absence.

* Please label all property adequately. This includes hats, lunch boxes, water bottles and books.

* Children are supervised in the morning before school from 8.15 in the undercover eating area. If you need to bring them to school before this time, you will need to book them in through OSHC oshc@prss.com.au as there is no supervision before this time. Parents may wait in the covered eating area before school with students. Please avoid being outside classrooms where teachers are preparing for the day.

* After school pick up is from a variety of points. The area behind OSHC under the white tent is the only area that is regularly supervised. If your child is not collected from this area by 3.20 they will be brought to the office to be collected from there.

Where ever your meeting place is, please talk to the children about what to do if you are late. Our preference would be to stay calm, wait inside school grounds and if not collected by 3.20 to come to the office.

* Children who catch the bus wait inside the school grounds at the front of the school near the Prep building. They are supervised by a teacher until the buses arrive.

  • Discuss with your child what they should do if a storm strikes at around 3pm. If there is lightning, the bell will not ring and students will be kept in class. Bus children will be gathered and taken to the Prep building near the front gate, When the danger clears, the bell will ring and students will be released. Please refrain from ringing the school during an electrical storm.

* If you are running late, please contact the school as soon as possible so we can get through to the classroom. We don’t want to cause our children any undue stress or for you to drive frantically. Please be mindful that if several requests come in late in the day it can be difficult to contact all students. It is for this reason that a plan for when you are late needs to be discussed regularly. If you are often late, please make arrangements for your child to attend OSHC.

* Please drive safely around our school and surrounds, particularly before and after school when our children are about. During these times it is especially important for
adults to model safe behaviour in regard to pedestrian crossings etc. For the safety of everybody's children, the staff car park and the area accessed via the dirt road above the parent car park are not to be used by parents after 7:30 am and before 4:00 pm.

*Think about joining the P&C or helping out during events and in the classroom.* Our P&C are an integral part of our school community. They contribute to building a strong community, to raise funds for resources and improvements to our facilities as well as advise on policy development where appropriate.

**Toys should be kept at home.** Trading cards may come to school to be played with, however no trading should be made at school. *As per last year we will have a three strikes rule.* Hopefully we won’t need to ban them this year.

*If your child needs to wear clothing that is not school uniform, please send them with a note to the office to be signed by the Deputy in charge. Hair accessories should be blue, yellow, white or black. Long hair should be tied back.*

**Medication** is to be labelled and kept at the office. It needs relevant parental permission and/or a medical practitioner’s instructions. Students may keep asthma puffers on their person.

*We ask that parents/carers support the school rules and expectations regarding running/respecting our grounds after hours.*

**The playgrounds are out of bounds after hours.** Please remind your children that they are not to play on the equipment after school.

**Term Letters**

Term letters will soon arrive in your email. These tell what your children are learning, what assessment will be done, what activities are being organised and what the cost of those activities will be. Also attached will be a permission and payment sheet. Except for Year 6 camp, payments are due by Friday, February 10.

Activities are "user pays". Families who may find difficulty making payment are asked to contact the Business Services Manager, Trish Easley, so a payment plan can be organised.

Term letters will also be uploaded on to the school website.

**QParents**

We have had a fantastic response to QParents from our Prep cohort. After one day of sending the invites out, we had 20 registered families. That is awesome. We have also invited all new families to take advantage of the new system. Some of the features include paying invoices, changing student details, checking report cards and recording absences.

Shortly, we will be sending out another invite to all parents who have not registered. We have one of the highest rates of active families in the state and thanks to all those who have jumped on board.

**AFS Volunteer**

I am pleased to announce that we have found a host family for our new volunteer, Luis Coto. The
Dunne family have kindly taken him when he arrives in February. I was inundated with requests and thanks to all those families who offered to take Luis in. We plan to have another volunteer in Semester Two so if you are interested in hosting next semester, please let me know and I will contact you when the time arrives. (Michael)

**Homework Policy**

We are currently reviewing/updating our homework policy. A Homework Committee was formed from teachers across Prep - Yr 6 and I thank them for their time in meeting with me on a number of occasions to discuss how we would like to see homework at Patricks Rd SS. The policy will take into consideration the changing dynamics of the modern day family (including having quality time together), after school activities (that so many of our students are involved in) as well as the time constraints on teachers. Once we have finalised our policy, we will put it forward at the next P&C meeting for their endorsement. (Michael)

**CALENDAR**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26-Jan</td>
<td>Australia Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-Jan</td>
<td>Beginners' Music Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-Jan</td>
<td>P - 2 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-Jan</td>
<td>Beginners' Music Camp</td>
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<td>31-Jan</td>
<td>Information Evening 5:30 pm</td>
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<td>6-Feb</td>
<td>Leadership Induction Assembly</td>
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<td>6-Feb</td>
<td>School Photos this week</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>P - 2 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>Yr 3 - 6 Assembly</td>
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<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>21-Feb</td>
<td>District Swimming</td>
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<td>21-Feb</td>
<td>Yr 3 and 3/4 Planetarium excursion</td>
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<td>22/2 &amp; 23/2</td>
<td>Leadership Camp</td>
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<td>27-Feb</td>
<td>P - 2 Assembly</td>
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<td>3-Mar</td>
<td>Interschool Sport begins</td>
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<td>6-Mar</td>
<td>3-6 Assembly</td>
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<td>9-Mar</td>
<td>Yr 1 Lone Pine</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-Mar</td>
<td>P - 2 Assembly</td>
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<td>14-Mar</td>
<td>Michael Jeh - Yr 6 &amp; Parent Evening</td>
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<td>16-Mar</td>
<td>Prep to Bunyaville</td>
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<td>20-Mar</td>
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<td>20-Mar</td>
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<td>23-Mar</td>
<td>X Country - Snr &amp; Jnr</td>
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<td>27-Mar</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly</td>
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<td>27-Mar</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
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**ADMIN NEWS**

**WELCOME**

We would like to welcome all returning and new families to Patricks Road State School for 2017. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead. The office will be open from 8.00am to 4.00pm each day.

**ABSENCES**

If your child is going to be away from school please call the absence line on 3872 1860 and state the child's name, reason for absence and duration of absence. Alternatively you can notify us through the QParents app.

**PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS**

School pick up always runs smoother if there is only one pick up spot for your children to avoid any possible confusion. Should there be a day that you need to change the spot please discuss these
arrangements with your child/ren to ensure they are fully aware of what is happening. While we understand that emergencies happen and plans do sometimes need to be changed, we cannot guarantee a message will be passed on. Messages such as play date arrangements will not be passed on.

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking

School Banking will resume Week 2, Thursday 2 February.

Next week's newsletter will contain information for families who would like to join School Banking.

BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Book Club Issue 1 Brochures have gone home this week. Due date for all orders is 9am Friday 3rd February.

- All cash orders to the office along with order forms
- Credit Card orders are done via the Scholastic LOOP system on the Scholastic Website. No need to send the order form to school for these
- If you would like your order to be a gift for your child, there is an option via LOOP to tick the gift box. The library will contact you when the order has arrived and it will be held until you are able to pick it up.
- For each order the school receives 20% commission which allows the school to purchase resources for all students to enjoy
- Any questions please come and see Sharon Fraser in the library or email sfras50@eq.edu.au

AN INTERESTING READ...
Parents need a ‘big-family mindset’ to raise independent, resilient kids

AUSTRALIAN parents are under a samarium of stress. The number of children who are in need of mental health care is on the rise, and mental health experts are warning that this is a sign of a larger problem.

The number of young people suffering from mental health issues has increased dramatically over the past decade. The mental health crisis is not just affecting young people, but also adults. The number of adults seeking mental health support has also skyrocketed.

“I have seen a huge increase in the number of people seeking mental health support,” said Dr. Lisa Williams, a Psychiatrist from the Royal Children’s Hospital.

“Many young people are struggling to cope with the pressures of modern life and are turning to mental health professionals for help.”

Williams also pointed out that the mental health crisis is not just affecting individual children, but is also impacting families. The stress and anxiety faced by parents can have a negative impact on children’s mental health.

“Parents are under a lot of pressure to provide for their children and to meet the demands of society. This can lead to stress and anxiety that can be passed on to children,” Williams said.

Many children are also facing additional pressures, such as bullying and peer pressure. This can lead to feelings of isolation and depression.

For young people, it is important to have a strong support network and to have someone to talk to when they are feeling overwhelmed.

“Children and young people need to have someone to talk to when they are feeling down,” Williams said.

“This could be a friend, a family member, or a mental health professional. It is important to let children know that it is okay to feel upset and that it is normal to ask for help.”

Communities can also play a role in supporting young people. Schools and community organizations can provide resources and support for children who are struggling with mental health issues.

“Schools and community organizations can offer a range of resources and support for children who are struggling with mental health issues,” Williams said.

“This could include counseling services, peer support groups, and other resources that can help children overcome their challenges.”

In addition, parents can also take steps to support their children’s mental health.

“Parents can support their children’s mental health by creating a supportive and understanding environment,” Williams said.

“This could include taking time to listen to their children, providing them with a safe space to talk, and encouraging them to seek help when they need it.”

It is important for parents to recognize the signs of mental health issues and to seek help if needed. By taking these steps, we can help ensure that young people receive the support they need to overcome their challenges and reach their full potential.

“By recognizing the signs of mental health issues and seeking help when needed, we can help ensure that young people receive the support they need to overcome their challenges and reach their full potential,” Williams said.