Blessed are you, winter, dark season of waiting, you affirm the dark seasons of our lives, forecasting the weather of waiting in hope.

Blessed are you, winter, you faithfully guard a life unseen, calling those who listen deeply to discover winter rest.

Blessed are you, winter, frozen and cold on the outside, within your silent, nurturing womb you warmly welcome all that longs for renewal.

Blessed are you, winter, your bleak, barren trees preach wordless sermons about emptiness and solitude.

Blessed are you, winter, you teach us valuable lessons about waiting in darkness with hope and trust.

Blessed are you, winter, season of blood red sunsets and star-filled, long, dark nights, faithfully you pour out your beauty.

Blessed are you, winter, when your tiny snowflakes flurry through the air, You awaken our sleeping souls.

Blessed are you, winter, with your wild and varied moods, So intent on being yourself, you refuse to be a people-pleaser.

Blessed are you, winter, when ice storms crush our hearts and homes, You call forth the good in us as we rush to help one another.

Blessed are you, winter, your inconsistent moods often challenge Spring’s arrival, yet how gracefully you step aside when her time has come.

Author: Joyce Rupp from The Circle of Life

Principal Feedback

Each week I usually provide an article on my visits to classrooms around the school. However, this week, I am well behind! I have been away far too many days and have missed the students and staff. In this day and age of technology, people can still contact you via email. To my surprise, I returned home to eighty e-mails with twenty-five plus being from students in Year four. To my delight, I was overwhelmed with gratitude displayed by our students in Year Four. In thinking of the Year Four authors, I wondered what benefits they receive from taking the time to write letters of gratitude and importance to others. There have been some recent studies related to the power of writing not to mention the psychological benefits linked to the authors well – being. A recent study in the Journal of Happiness Studies, the results indicated that writing letters of gratitude increased participants’ happiness and life satisfaction while decreasing depressive symptoms. Wow! This does make sense, as we often refer to the world we live in as a negative place.
I have replied to all the students, acknowledging my gratefulness for taking the time to write to me about topics that are important to them. I have included some of them in this week’s newsletter to share with you. I will endeavour to talk with the students, seeking their permission to publish the letters and to Jacinta Bennett who manages our website to see if she can upload them under the classroom tab. Our students are learning to express their feelings about issues that are important to them and how to write a persuasive argument. As learned adults, we know that these skills are vital through school and beyond. Well done Year Four and many thanks for your suggestions and words of kindness.

Dear Mr A-J

Are you enjoying being the Principal? I just want to say three things. Mr A-J I like you being our school Principal and I like how you come and see everybody in classrooms and thank you for being our Principal. Yours Sincerely. Haramrit Kaur 706 class Year 4

Dear Mr A-J

How are you today? I really like how you organised the Glee Club. I really enjoy it. I also like how you like to keep the school nice and clean. So I would like to say Thanks for being our Principal. ☺ Yours Sincerely Emily Wood ☺

Dear Mr A-J,

Are you enjoying being the Principal? I hope you like it. I am really enjoying all the new rules I think that they are fantastic. I love them. Good thinking no #99! And I love all of your funny jokes and songs.
Yours Sincerely. Elizabeth Napoli ☺ 706

Dear Mr AJ

Are you enjoying being Principal? I like how you changed nearly everything like where we have to go down to the basketball court instead of staying near our class, how we have to wear our hats everywhere.
Thank you for being a wonderful, funny principal. Sincerely Felicity Bonny. ☺☺

Farewell to Autumn and welcome Winter!
With winter upon us, I must say how good our students look in their winter uniform. I am very proud of the way the students wear their uniform with pride. As we say goodbye to autumn, we turn our faces to the sun and smile knowing that spring is only three months away! Stay warm and happy.

Thanks for reading!
May the Lord bless you and take care of you;
May the Lord be kind and gracious to you;
May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace.
Yours,
David

General Information

Reminder the last Pupil Free Day for Term Two
Parents and Carers, a reminder about the Pupil Free Day on June 26th. June 26th is nominated as the Parent and Teacher Interview Day. You can keep up with all the dates for the year via the school calendar found at http://web.spgww.catholic.edu.au/documents/calendar.pdf by clicking on the tab What’s On. This calendar provides all the holidays and pupil free days for the academic year. Also please remember to check the calendar on the website for any changes –as the athletics day has been changed to May 28th.
Parents, Staff and Friends of Griffith - The State of Origin

Griffith City Cinema are donating their biggest cinema to support Griffith Cancer Assist and the Parents and Friends Association of St Patrick’s Primary School screening the first State of Origin Night on 5th June. This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together socially to relax with friends, have some fun and support each other. Don’t let this night slip by—tickets are available at the school office each morning and afternoon for only ten dollars. See our Facebook page for details and updates.

Parents and Friends-Raffle Lithograph Seventh Heaven
Folks this is an original lithograph entitled Seventh Heaven. It is a Queensland State of Origin lithograph, fully framed and personally signed by Cameron Smith! It is from a limited edition of 200, comes with a certificate of authenticity and measures 1350mm x 600mm. This is a fantastic donation from Roy Spagnolo to the school for the State Of Origin night Griffith Cancer Assist and the P&F Association. I am sure Mr AJ and other Queenslander supporters will love this in their Man Shed! Parents and friends this a marvellous opportunity to support the event—The Seventh Heaven Lithograph will be auctioned on June the 5th at the cinemas!. The school community wish to sincerely acknowledge Mr Roy Spagnolo for his kind donation. Come on everyone, let’s get behind the Origin Series and make it a blue one! Mr Anthony Salmon.

Welcome Mrs Roche
As you are aware Mrs Duvey is taking Long Service Leave from next Monday, May 27, until the end of Term 3 and we wish her all the best for a wonderful, relaxing break. We had a lot of interest in the position to replace Mrs Duvey with nine applications being received. We are pleased to announce that Mrs Lorraine Roche has been appointed to the position. She has had previous experience in two other schools as well as filling in when needed over recent years in St Patrick’s Office. Lorraine has a Diploma in Business Studies and has extensive experience using Microsoft Office products. We look forward to having Lorraine filling the Front Office position while Mrs Duvey is away. Lorraine’s current position as Teacher Assistant will be advertised in the Newsletter and on the Staff Notice board and we hope to fill this job as soon as possible.

Keep Calm and Come Along to the Next Rehearsal Time!
The St Patrick’s Glee Club Sunday session was a great event attended by many students and parents! It was a great success. Another Sunday session will be held this Sunday from 4-5pm. All students, are again invited to the Fr Robert O’Dea Hall. My sincere thanks to Nilva Close and Loretta Zanotto for dedication and time. The Glee Club is certainly rocking along! There will be no Glee Club session on the long weekend.

Marian Club Cabaret
Come one come all to this the inaugural Marian Club Cabaret!!! Be entertained for one night only by our talented students and staff!!! When: Friday 21st June 2013 Time: 7pm for 8pm start (It is approx. 2hour show) Where: Marcellin Hall, Marian Catholic College Tickets: Available from Marian Catholic College Office now 6969 2400– Ticket numbers are limited and selling fast!!! $25 per adult, $15 school age children $65 per family (2 A, 2C) Bring friends and book a table of 9 or 10. Price includes show, dessert and coffee only. Catering: Platters of food are available by pre-order only when purchasing your tickets. $25 –Mixed hot platter. $25 –Mixed cold antipasto platter.
Professional Learning
Our staff have identified areas of future professional learning and have been undertaking professional
development to further their understandings and to provide greater assistance to enhance and maximize
the learning potential of all of our students. This week staff will be learning about and engaging with the
Best Start data for Kindergarten and other staff will be engaging with learning about First Steps in Reading,
a component of which is the focus on the explicit teaching of reading processes, strategies and
conventions. Thank you to our teachers for continuing to model learning as a lifelong process.

Before and After School Routine
Our classrooms are welcoming and friendly learning environments. We invite you in the mornings
before school to drop in briefly to see your child’s teacher to share important information and to
build the relationship. If the teacher or you need a longer interview, then this is to be arranged
through the front office. From 8.30am Children in K/1/2 are to drop their bag off and meet Mr. A-J
outside the100 block. Students in Years 3-6 are to drop their bag outside their classroom and meet
Mr. W on the bitumen basketball court outside the 600 block. The lining up bell rings at 8.50 am and
all class rolls and lunch orders to the canteen are done by 9am.

Newsletter
We have experienced an increase in requests for a printed copy of our newsletter to be sent home. The
requests now number 60 copies to be printed, individually labelled then students called out of learning
time to collect the newsletter and then take it home. Due to the considerable administration time that this
entails, and Bishop Hanna’s mandate that,”...schools have a moral imperative to practice decision making
that is ecologically and ethically sustainable” from next week (Monday 3rd June) 30 copies of the
newsletter will be printed and be available at the front counter for parents/carers (not students) to collect.
The newsletter, along with a host of other information, is available at our school website:
http://web.spgww.catholic.edu.au/

SWIMS
Staff are being upskilled and empowered by the new CSO Diocesan wide initiative. The Student,
Wellbeing, Management, Identification and Support page, SWIMS, has been designed to assist teachers
and schools in implementing and supporting the key elements of the National Safe Schools
Framework. SWIMS supports a strategic, comprehensive and collaborative approach to student wellbeing
which will strengthen the capacity of teachers, schools and the CSO, to develop and coordinate stronger
prevention, early intervention and support strategies as part of a service continuum for all children and
young people in our system of schools. Each week I will feature information on Wellbeing initiatives for
our students.

Twitter
As an educational professional and parent, I have found much to learn about on Twitter as a professional
resource. I try to and share interesting educational information on Twitter. I invite you to follow me. Search
for @alanwedesweiler
Maintain and share your awesomeness
Alan Wedesweiler
Staff Spirituality Day
The Staff of St Patrick’s and St Mary’s joined together for our Spirituality Day last Friday. Fr John Frauenfelder, a former priest in our Parish enlightened us on the importance of the Sacraments, particularly Baptism and the Eucharist. He challenged us to look at what a Catholic School is. We learnt that a Catholic School is where children enter into a community where prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments are important, a community where children are recognised and valued as members of the Church now and into the future. It is a place where we as Catholic leaders hand on the richness of our Faith and traditions.

This Friday we remember the feast of the Visitation. May we like Mary open our doors and offer a wide smile and enthusiastic hospitality. Come God, enter our homes with your mother, Mary.

Ann Friedlieb.

Pastoral Co-ordinator
Dear Members of our School Community,

We often hear the following statement “I am a cradle Catholic.” This term often refers to Catholics who were born into a family where the parents carried out their duty, providing their children with all the sacraments, Christian living and a way of life that reflected the parents’ values and beliefs.

As young adults, we begin to take our path in life and make our own choices. The choices we make either help us to grow stronger in faith, or we distance ourselves from the faith and values that were handed down. These influences are often a reflection of the environment we find ourselves in.

Often the faith practiced by our parents, grandparents and the many generations before us may have the strongest and lasting influence in our spiritual journey. A deep conversion will surface as we encounter the joys and sorrows in our lives.

As Catholics, we need a deep conversion to experience a personal encounter with God. The feast of Pentecost, which we celebrated recently, is a reminder that we need to allow the Holy Spirit to become active in our lives. May the Holy Spirit descend upon us and fill our hearts with the burning fire of his love, so we may be true witness of the new evangelization.

‘Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And enkindle in us the fire of your love.

Pastoral Care Coordinator. Cath Catanzariti.

Curriculum Update
Parent/teacher interviews are fast approaching and are a really exciting opportunity to touch base with your child’s classroom teacher. It is important to remember that you both have a mutual interest—the welfare and education of your child. Parent Teacher Interviews provide opportunities to:

• Share information about your child’s progress, interests and needs
• Foster positive and respectful relationships between home and school
• Improve communication with your child’s teacher
• Let the teacher know if you would like to become involved in classroom activities
Guiding Questions

1. What are my child's strengths?
2. What are my child's areas for improvement?
3. How does he/she interact with other children in the classroom and outside?
4. How are my child’s manners?
5. Is my child able to organise themselves for lessons?
6. What can we do to support his/her learning at home?

Remember that parent teacher interviews are only one of the many opportunity’s parents have to communicate with the classroom teacher. If you would like to meet with your child’s teacher (outside of the usual Parent Teacher Interview process), please book an appointment through the office.

Curriculum Co-ordinators Peter Moraschi and Sarah Ellis

From the Sporting Desk

Paul Kelly Cup
Congratulations go to all boys and girls who took part on Tuesday you did yourselves, our school and your families proud. (see full report in this Newsletter). Well done to Miss Bordignon for her continued efforts in promoting AFL.

Mortimer Shield

The postponed activities will now be played on June 12th – more details later.

Cross Country
The team is training in readiness for June 14th at Eastern Creek. Congratulations go to Jackson Austin who has been named as Diocesan Boys Flag Bearer for the Opening Ceremony.

Athletics
Tomorrow we have our Track Events and Ball Games at West End Oval. Students received full details on Thursday.

Years Two to Six will leave school at 9.10am by bus. Year One and Kindergarten move to West End at 11.30am.

After our Field Events the House Points are Green – 281 Red 260 ; Yellow 248 ; Blue – 208 –

It is all very close and all goes well for the Track event competition.

HELP NEEDED -- IF ANY PARENT IS FREE TO COME TO WEST END OVAL AT 7.30AM TOMORROW TO HELP PUT UP THE SHADE SHELTERS FOR THE STUDENTS IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED. REMEMBER THERE IS NO NORMAL SCHOOL CANTEEN.

Year Two Intensive Swimming
A note will go home with all Year Two students in the next two weeks outlining our upcoming Intensive Water Safety and Intensive Swimming Programme.

Girls Cricket Promotion
Any girl interested in developing their interest/skills in cricket can attend a coaching/information session with Alex Blackwell, former Griffith Cricketer and Current Southern Stars(Australian) Vice Captain, at the Leagues Club nets on June 21st from 10.00am – 1.00pm. For more information ask Mr Ross.

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A story from a Year Two Student

A Story of War My Opa
My Opa was friends with Bob Irwin. They used to go reptile hunting in Queensland together with Steve Irwin. At the time I was 6 years old, and not interested with animals or the family business. Opa, was in his early 20s. He was sent to war by Germany. He had excellent survival skills and survived the Russian front, the French front and the Norwegian front. The Norwegian front, due to the cold was the toughest. He was the first man to walk solo over the German mountains, at night, alone and with a few drinks under his belt. He lost many friends in this war including his brother. His brother, advised not to fight for Hitler. Unfortunately, his brother was killed during the war. My Opa had hid his wife and child in Austrian Alps where they had enough to eat and were safe. My Opa & Oma O-Oma O-Opa migrated to Australia in the 1930s & lived an adventurous life in Australia. By Aden Heiland Year 2

Paul Kelly Cup
On Tuesday 21st May, our boys and girls teams participated in a round robin competition of the Paul Kelly Cup against other schools in our area. Competition was tough on the day but both teams played very well and represented our school in an exemplary manner. Unfortunately, our boys’ team missed out against our arch rivals, St Joseph’s Leeton but congratulations are extended to our girls team for winning their final against Leeton Public School and qualifying for the regional finals in Canberra to be played late in July.

Many thanks, to Rob Kelly and Greg Collins for assisting as coaches on the day and also to the wonderful parents, relatives and friends who came along and supported the teams. Your attendance was very much appreciated. Thank you to the all the students who committed themselves to training and playing. For many of them who had never tried Australian Rules football before, this was great achievement. More information about the date and venue for the regional final in Canberra will be confirmed as soon as it becomes available from the NSW/ACT AFL. AFL School Ambassador Anna Bordignon

Canteen News

Running the Carnival –West end Oval
Please note that there will not be canteen available at school tomorrow 28th May. Parent volunteers will be assisting with canteen at the carnival instead. Sausage s and sandwiches are available to purchase at the carnival. Lollies and drinks will be available.

GELATO DAY WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2013
We will be selling gelato on Wednesday 5th June 2013 at lunch time. We will have strawberry, chocolate and vanilla at $1-00 a scoop. There will not be gelato sold on Tuesday 11th of June.

ITALIAN DAY – TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2013
PIZZA – CHEESE & BACON $2.50 PER SLICE TOPPA - $2.00 PER SLICE

Please note we will require your pre-order and money for pizzas by Thursday 6th June. Could you please put your order in a brown paper bag clearly marked with your child’s name, class number and order. There will not be a normal canteen on Thursday 11th, the only food available will be pizza or toppa. Any child ordering hot food other than pizza on Thursday 11th June will receive a vegemite or butter sandwich. If you can assist please see Lisa Quinn. Many thanks. Lisa.
Upcoming Events
The State of Origin Night as a P & F and Griffith Can Assist fundraiser. A great opportunity for parents to get together and watch the big game on the Big Screen! Please come along and support this great cause that effects some many people in our community. **WHEN:** 5th June  **WHERE:** Griffith city cinema. **TIME:** 7pm  **COST:** $10

SAVE THE DATES
**Premiere Night** - Despicable Me 2
Monday the 24th JUNE
More details to follow shortly

**Friday 30th August – Art Show**
We are looking a having an Art show this year showcasing a piece of a Art from each child in the school. More details to come.

Dance Concert
The P and F are supporting a Dance program for all students in Term 4. Melissa Brown will be employed to run sessions with each grade and then a concert will be held at the theatre for all students. This is an exciting event more information later. Our next meeting 4th June at 7.30pm in school staffroom. All parents and friends of St Patrick’s Primary School are welcome.

Canteen Roster
**Term 2 Week 5.**
*Tuesday, 28th May:* M MacRae  **ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**
*Wednesday, 29th May:* A Woodhouse, M Harrison, R Vecchio.
*Thursday, 30th May:* J Sforza, C Betteridge.
*Friday, 31st May:* J Murray, L Campbell, R Savage, K Adams-Jones.

**Term 2 Week 6.**

Athletics Carnival
Volunteers helpers are required for the Canteen at the Athletics Carnival at Westend Oval on Tuesday 28th May. If you are able to help out can you please contact Lisa to put your name down on the list. Many hands make light work.

Woolworths Earn & Learn
Thank you to those who have sent in their stickers. The collection box is in the office where you place your full cards. Blank sheets are available from the office for those who require them. We have reached the half way point of the Woolworths Earn & Learn. Keep collecting the stickers for the school.

Marian Catholic College Year 7 2014 Enrolment Applications
This is a reminder that enrolment applications for Year 7 2014 at Marian Catholic College will close Friday 31 May 2013. We are presently conducting enrolment interviews for students wishing to enrol at our College for Yr7 2014. If you would like to apply, please return the Enrolment Application Form enclosed in the package sent home with your child earlier this year. If you have misplaced this form, please contact the College office and ask to speak with the Enrolment Officer. Following this our office will make contact with you to organise an interview for enrolment. Please do not hesitate to contact the College office if you have any questions relating to enrolment. Julie O’Keeffe Enrolment Officer, Marian Catholic College. Phone: 0269692400. Email: mcc-admin@ww.catholic.edu.au
In 706, students have been busy using the laptops and computers to complete their Personal Interests. The laptops are being put to good use as we research explorers as part of our HSIE unit on ‘British Colonisation’.

In Literacy we have been improving our Inferring and Questioning skills by engaging with the picture books of acclaimed author, Anthony Browne. Recently, 706 enjoyed presenting short retells from the perspectives of the characters from the picture book ‘PIGGYBOOK’ for parents.

Several class members have signed up for the Premier’s Reading Challenge and Patrick and Nicholas A recently submitted their short stories in the Write4fun 2013 Schools Writing Competition.

In Science we are looking forward to commencing our topic ‘Melting Moments’. We eagerly await the track events as part of the Athletics Carnival this Tuesday.

706 have been praying for Grace as she prepares to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. 706, together with the other Year 4 classes attended Benediction on the first Friday of May.
Extend OOSH at St Patrick’s Primary School

Have you heard the good news?

Extend is delighted to have formed a new partnership with St Patrick’s Primary School to deliver Before School Care, After School Care, and Vacation Care services in Term 3 (subject to government licensing and approval). We are thrilled to begin a new partnership with the school community and look forward to delivering a quality service.

Welcome packs

Extend have recently sent Enrolment packs for distribution to each primary school student. Note: You should receive a pack for each child. These welcome packs include an enrolment form, information on the service we deliver, as well as information on your out of pocket expense. Keep an eye out for your welcome pack if you haven’t received it already – you can also collect spare packs from the school office.

Enrol today

Don’t miss out! Be well prepared for Term 3 and have your family enrolled with Extend. It is a regulatory requirement that each child is enrolled before attending the service. You can also head to our website at extend.com.au to complete your family’s enrolment online.

Operating hours and fees

**Before School Care:** 7.00am – 9.00am $20.00 permanent, $23.00 casual *YOU PAY BETWEEN: $6.69 - $11.50

**After School Care:** 3.30pm – 6.00pm $24.35 permanent, $28.35 casual *YOU PAY BETWEEN: $8.69 - $14.16

**Holiday Program:** 8.00am – 6.00pm (starting Spring 2013) $65 Extend based, $80 Incursion *YOU PAY BETWEEN: $15.93 - $40.00

*Child Care Benefits and the non-income tested 50% Child Care Rebate of up to $7500 apply for eligible families. Fees are per child per session.

Fee Relief – the facts

Fact 1: The Child Care Rebate (CCR) is NOT income tested! We encourage you to apply! Fact 2: 50% is the minimum reduction you may receive in your fees. Further benefits may apply to you. Read further information and estimate your out of pocket expense at extend.com.au.