Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of the exciting journey on our spiritual, educational and social learning in year 4.

We acknowledge that the children within our care have varying levels degrees of skills and talents and we will encourage all children to work to their full potential throughout 2013.

Year 4’s Goals and Expectations are:

- We do all things well by always trying our hardest.
- We own our own behaviour because we choose how we behave.
- We use build ups by saying positive things.
- We show respect by keeping ourselves and others safe.
- We share voice space by listening quietly and respectful to others.

Kind Regards,
Anna Bordignon, David Curry and Josie Featherston
REMINDERS:

- **Punctuality** – The bell rings at 8:50am and lessons begin at **9:00am** each morning. If your child is late this not only constitutes absenteeism in our electronic rolls, but they are missing out on key information and learning.

- **Homework** – We will be sending home a weekly spelling list for children as well as other activities. Homework is to be returned by the Friday due, in order to be marked.

- **School Requisites** - Please ensure your child has their stationery items (books, pencils, glue, etc) clearly marked and replaced as required throughout the term by parents. Please ensure all uniform is too, especially hats, as they seem to disappear frequently. Our school policy of ‘No Hat, No Play’ is enforced at all times.

- **Meetings** – If you would like to meet with us about your child at any time during the year, it would be greatly appreciated if you could make an appointment to do so. Please see the office to make an appointment.

- **Sport** – All children may wear sports uniform on Thursday and Friday. Parents will be notified in the newsletter if their child is to wear the uniform on a different day.

- **Uniform** – We all encourage all students to wear their uniform with pride. This includes wearing the correct uniform, in the correct way.

- **Excursions** – St Patricks encourages all students to attend excursion. They are an important part of your child’s educational, social and emotional development and support the units studied in class.

- **Important Dates** – Please see online calendar and newsletter for upcoming events.

- **Allergies** – Report all allergies to office.

- **Behaviour Management** – Year 4 uses a 3 strike approach. 1st misbehaviour is a warning, 2nd misbehaviour is time out, and 3rd misbehaviour is removal from the class. If a 3rd strike is used more than 3 times a phone call to parents to request a meeting is arranged.
OVERVIEW FOR TERM ONE

Religion:

Talking and Listening to God
In this unit children look at prayer as our form of communication with God. They revise and consolidate known prayers and look at four forms of prayer: Praise, Thanks, Sorrow and Petition.

Lent: A Time to Make Choices
This unit draws on the Liturgical Season of Lent as a time to reflect on how we live our lives. It explores choices and their impact on our growth and conversation. It teaches about the Sacrament of Penance. The unit then reviews the events of Holy Week through the Scriptural Stations of the Cross.

English:
The strands taught in English are Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing. These are integrated into all Key Learning Areas.

• Talking & Listening
This term children will learn skills around preparing and presenting informal oral presentations. This includes sharing of work and ideas. Children participate daily in class discussions and peer conversations. Children will be working on their listening skills with a Listening Comprehension program.

• Reading
Children are expected to read for approximately 20 minutes each night. Reading aloud is encouraged. This should be recorded with their homework. Reading material may come from home or need to be borrowed from the school library. Parents are encouraged to continue to support their children by reading with and talking about their reading choice.
In class the children will participate in Reading Groups and activities which are grouped according to ability.

• Writing
This term Stage 2 will focus on writing Exposition texts and Narratives. We will be studying the structure, language features and purpose of these text types. Children will also engage in explicit lessons on improving handwriting and grammatical skills.

• Spelling
Students will be given weekly spelling lists by the class teacher. 704 and 705 will be following the Strategic Spelling program with in-class First Steps activities. 706 will be following the First Steps Spelling program.
Mathematics

Year 4 students move into three ability based Maths groups. This allows us to cater more specifically to individual needs. Maths lessons will run for 1 hour each day. Students will engage in a number of activities covering the strands of Number, Measurement, Space and Geometry, Data and Patterns and Algebra.

Science: Feathers, Fur or Leaves?

What is that? Is it alive? How is it like other things I know? Humans have always sought to make sense of the world around them by grouping things they see, for example, as edible, threatening or useful. Scientists develop classification systems to try to understand the diversity of life and how species are related throughout history. As more and more species disappear from the face of the Earth, we are caught up in a race to discover what we knew we had.

The Feathers, Fur or Leaves? Unit is an ideal way to link science with literacy in the classroom. It provides opportunities for students to explore features of living things, and ways they can be grouped together. Through hands-on activities, students explore how living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things. They use this knowledge to investigate the animal groups in the leaf litter of their own school grounds.

HSIE: Australia: You’re Standing In It!

This unit provides opportunities for students to explore natural, heritage and built features in Australia. The unit focuses on investigating and evaluating the significance of particular sites and places and what people value about them.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Children will be using modern technology across everything they do at school. Each class has an allocated time in the computer lab to be taught specific skills. They are:

704: Monday 2:00 – 2:45pm
705: Wednesday 9:30 – 10:15am
706: Tuesday 10:30 – 11:15am
**PE/HEALTH/PD**

All children wear their sports uniform on BOTH Thursday and Friday. This enables classes the freedom to change their sport time around these two days, depending on timetables, oval space and other commitments. Our Fundamental Movement and Physical Activity units for this term are On the Go and Enjoying the Game. In Personal Development and Health we will cover Self and Relationships – Building My Network, focusing on identifying children’s safety networks and personal wellbeing.

**Creative and Practical Arts**

In Creative and Practical Arts, students will engage in learning experiences in visual arts, music, drama and dance. This term we look at the work of the artist Albert Namajera. Students will use a range of mediums to create artwork based around our art unit of Insects and to complement our units in other subject areas. This term we focus on music, covering rhythms, beats, singing and simple movement to music. The topics of Dance and Drama will be covered in subsequent terms.

**Italian**

All children participate in 45 minute Italian lessons with Signora Toranto each week. During this time children learn the Italian language and about Italian culture. Italian times are:

- **704:** Wednesday
- **705:** Tuesday 9:00 – 9:45am
- **706:** Tuesday 9:45 – 10:15am

**Library**

Mrs Campbell will teach all Year 4 students, they will participate in 45 minute library lessons each week. During this time children get a chance to borrow and learn about Cyber Safety and digital literacy. Library times are:

- **704:** Friday 12:00 – 12:45pm
- **705:** Friday 12:45 – 1:00pm
- **706:** Friday 1:55 – 2:40pm

**Excursion Information**

Possible excursions this term may include a trip to Lake Wyangan, as a part of our Science unit. As excursions occur, information will be sent home with the specific details.