Dear Parents,

Welcome to your child’s final year of Primary School. We are excited to be working with the Year Six classes of 2014. We are looking forward to providing your child with motivating learning experiences and opportunities that aim to prepare them for their High School years.

Kind Regards,

Miss Emily Graham, Miss Carrie Spokes and Mr Peter Moraschi.

Year 6 Teachers
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 also are missing out on key information and learning.

- **School Diary** – An important part of a student’s transition to High School is their ability to follow a timetable and use a student diary. Students are expected to have their diary with them every day. Parents are asked to sign their child’s diary on a Monday and checked by your classroom teacher on Tuesdays. We will be modelling how to effectively use a diary at school and we would appreciate your involvement in this process at home.

- **Newsletter** – We encourage you to read our school newsletter each week with your child. This will help them to get themselves organised for the week by knowing what is going on within the school.

- **Study Grid** – This year student homework will be in the form of a Study Grid. Students will complete a broad range of learning activities that are directly linked to what is being taught in their classroom. For further explanation on Study Grid see the attached letter.

- **Spelling Lists** – Following the Diocesan implementation of the First Steps Writing Program. Year Six will be completing all their spelling activities each day in class and therefore no lists will be sent home.

- **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 will wear sports uniform on Thursday and Friday. Thursday students have the option to wear their house shirt. On Fridays students wear the St Patrick’s sports uniform. Parents will be notified in the newsletter if their child is to wear the uniform on a different day. Representative sports uniform are not permitted to be worn.
• **Daily Physical Activity** – This year in Year Six we are committed to improving the physical fitness of all students. Each morning students participate in a variety of fitness and strength exercises. If your child is unable to participate a short note written in their diary would be appreciated.

• **Uniform** – It is an expectation of all St Patrick’s students to wear their uniform with pride including their school hat. The school will be enforcing the no-hat-no-play policy for all students. Anything other than a school hat will not be accepted.

• **Excursions** – Dates for the Year Six excursion to Canberra are the 14th, 15th & 16th of May. Notes will be going home shortly regarding cost and excursion details. We encourage all Year Six students to go on the excursion as it provides a wonderful learning experience and creates lasting memories of time spent away with their friends.

• **Important Dates** - Please see the online calendar and newsletter for upcoming events. Please make sure your child adds all important dates to their student diary.

• **Allergies** – Report all allergies to the office.

• **Behaviour Management** – In Year Six we aim to develop a positive classroom climate based on cooperation, respect and a clear understanding of rights and responsibilities. All Year Six classes will follow the principles of Restorative Practices:
  - Foster awareness in the child of how others have been affected.
  - Involve the child actively.
  - See every wrongdoing as an opportunity for learning. At the beginning of our school year each class formulated their own set of rules and expectations. These are negotiated and therefore owned by the children.
If you have any questions regarding any of the reminders listed please don’t hesitate to make an appointment through the front office.

Miss Carrie Spokes and Mr Peter Moraschi.
**OVERVIEW**

**Religion:**

In Religion Year Six will complete the following units of work: Servant Leadership, Lent, Easter, Eucharist, Confirmation, Mission, Advent and Christmas.

During Term Three the students’ will participate in the Sacramental Program for Confirmation. Dates for Confirmation masses this year are Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th of September.

**English:**

This year we are implementing the Australian Curriculum in English for New South Wales. Students learning will be based around the themes Relationships, Identity and Values, Global Connections and Survival.

The following texts will be supporting each unit of work.

**Relationships**

Hating Alison Ashley (novel and film)

Caught in the Crowd (song and lyrics)

**Identity and Values**

A Fortunate Life (novel)

Nelson Mandela (biography)

**Global Connections**

We are all Born Free – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes (book)

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (picture book and film)

Mao’s Last Dancer (novel)

The Peasant Prince (picture book)
**Survival**

Hatchet (novel)

Man vs Wild (documentary)

**Mathematics**

Students in Year Six will remain in their home classrooms for Mathematics this year.

**Science/HSIE**

Year Six Science units this year are: Electricity, Desert Survival, What’s the Matter and Earthquake Explorers.

Year Six HSIE units this year are: Bali, State and Federal Government, Identify and Values and Global Connections.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Each week Year 6 will participate in Information Technology classes in the Library with Mrs Sandra Campbell. Students will learn about Internet safety, cyber bullying and develop research skills.

**PD/H/PE**

Along with Daily Fitness classes will participate in other physical activities and health lessons. Students will also have the opportunity to attend coaching clinics from a range of sports and play in a variety of carnivals representing our school.

**Creative Arts**

Students will participate in a range of teaching and learning activities in Visual Art, Dance, Music and Drama.

**Italian**

Italian will be taught by Mrs Elanora Torrento to Year Six on Fridays.

**Library**

Library will be held on a Tuesday for all Year Six classes.
Mrs Raccanello and Miss Zanotto

On Wednesdays Mrs Natalie Raccanello will be teaching in 605 and Miss Loretta Zanotto in 701.

Miss Emily Graham

We Love the Broncos!
Dear Parents,

Class homework this year will be in the form of a Study Grid. The Study Grid comprises a broad range of learning activities arranged under headings of our Key Learning Areas. Activities students compete are directly linked with classroom instruction. Students have four weeks to complete their Study Grid. Teachers will go over the activities and explain what is expected in class on the Thursday they are handed out.

Teachers have timetabled 2 ¼ hours each week for students to work on tasks from their Study Grid. During this time teachers will be available to assist students in researching, answering problems, setting out work etc. We would appreciate if you talk with your child about the importance of being productive during this time and remind your child that if work is not completed at school it will have to be completed at home.

One of the activities is for students to update their diary each Monday night. It would be appreciated if parents could assist students in planning their study for each week, and enter into diaries all out of school activities (eg soccer training, dancing, cricket, family get togethers etc). Discuss with your child the importance of forward planning, setting achievable goals and most importantly ‘getting in’ and finishing activities promptly and not putting work off until the night before an assignment is due.

Self management and organisational skills are two very important areas that students need to develop, especially with high school just around the corner.

A reminder of the importance of home reading. We would appreciate it if you could assist us in ensuring that your child a) reads every night and b) is read to every night. It is important that we promote reading as a lifelong skill that will benefit your child today and in their future.

If your child is not sure of Study Grid expectations please encourage them to ask us. We often have students saying they don’t understand tasks the day before they are due. If they can plan their month then they will have sufficient time to see us if any problems arise.

Thank you

Year Six Teachers