Be convinced that no work of charity can be more productive of good to society or more conducive to the happiness of the poor than the careful instruction of the young.

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841

School Achievement Report

2015

David Adams-Jones
St Patrick’s Primary School
12/31/2015
This report is documented under the Bishop’s Mandate that is aligned to set goals.

Goal 1: Faith

_St Patrick’s Primary School goal is to actively participate in the evangelising Mission of the Catholic Church through the Bishop’s mandate._

Goal 2: Learning

_St Patrick’s Primary School goal is to be a place of learning where the emphasis is on inspiring, informing and engaging for all. We believe the well-being of the whole person is clearly focussed on the physical, social, cognitive, emotional and spiritual development within a Christian caring environment._

Goal 3: Care

_At St Patrick’s Primary School goal for care, is based on our belief that each person is made in the image of God. Our school within the Griffith and wider community is a school for all with special attention to those who are marginalised._

Goal 4: Service

_Our goal is to serve. Service is one of the cornerstones which support our foundations at St Patrick’s Primary School. Our school and all within have a role to play in the provision of Christian service._

Goal 5: Stewardship

_St Patrick’s Primary School goal is concerned for and focussed on Stewardship. For all who interact within our school community understand and appreciate the interrelatedness of all creation and know it is a gift from God._
The St Patrick’s Primary School Annual Achievement’s Report plays an important role in fulfilling the school’s goals and commitment to school improvement, accountability and transparency under the Bishop’s mandate. This annual achievement report is a record of our school’s accomplishments and activities during 2015. The report is documented under the headings of our Bishop’s Mandate in order to fulfil our goals by actively living fully out our Catholic faith which is committed to dimensions of

- Faith
- Learning
- Care
- Service
- Stewardship

Our school annual plan highlighting our direction for 2015 is available on our website along with this report.

In addition to this report, I wish to draw to your attention the “Photo Gallery” button in the Quick Links on our website and the photographic review highlighting our achievements. It is here in the photo gallery that the 2015 Achievements Report is enhanced further, capturing many pages of our students engaging in activities from ANZAC Day through to our concert entitled, “Superheroes”.

I invite you to view this report which is endorsed by the Parish Priest and the Chair of the School Council 2015. You will find the Achievements Report under, “Annual School Report” (in the School Profile section of the Main Menu on the school website). Please note this document is our Achievement Report linked intentionally towards school improvement. This document is not to be confused with the Annual Government Report that is also submitted every year.

St Patrick’s Primary School continually strives to meet best practice, reporting on the values and views of our families and community. You are invited to provide feedback on this report by clicking on the Feedback link on the front page of our website. I hope you find this report to be informative and a celebration of our achievements. If you have any enquiries about this report, please feel free to contact us by e-mail at info@spgww.catholic.edu.au.

May God be with you always!

David Adams-Jones

Mr David Adams-Jones MACE
Faith

Goal: To Teach, Celebrate and Live our Catholic Faith!

It is within this Mission and in our environment of St Patrick’s that our Christian education is enhanced. In essence, our school’s role is to provide an education where our young primary school children and their parents encounter and engage with Jesus and his message of love. As a Catholic School, we are a place of Faith and below is a record of our Faith throughout 2015.

At the beginning of the academic year, the school community welcomed back our students, staff and families. The school has played a vital role within the Church by actively participating in First Friday Masses for staff and then followed by morning breakfast functions at Mei Amici and school BBQs. The school supported charities such as Project Compassion, School Leadership & School Mass with Year Six Students on the 3rd February, engaged in St Patrick’s Day Mass and fun activities, Ash Wednesday and finally in Holy Week activities that concluded with Stations of the Cross outside the quadrangle. The Stations of the Cross was well attended with Year 5 and 6 students presenting the Stations through a dramatisation. Throughout the term the leadership team consisting of Michael Morrell, Fr Grace, Alan Wedesweiler and David Adams-Jones met ensuring communication and organisational matters were explicitly planned for. In Terms One and Two, Michael Morrell and Fr Grace were instrumental in highlighting the sacramental program, linking the school and parish with Reconciliation and Communion. The program was further supported by Fr Christian and Sister Siony who worked alongside the staff and students with visits to the classrooms. The sacrament of Reconciliation and Communion concluded with the Year Two and Three students, parents and staff involved in the traditional cutting of the cake.

Under the guidance of Michael Morrell as Religious Education Co-ordinator we continued our focus in semester two, by providing new resources for classroom prayer tables. Throughout semester two, the staff and students gathered together in recognition of our first Australian saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the Assumption Mass and the sacrament of Confirmation. This final rite of initiation was celebrated with Bishop Hanna, Fr Grace, our families, staff and most importantly the students from Year Six.

In reference to professional development, the staff focused on the domain of Catholic Mission and Identity through the process of Faith Story and Witness. There were four professional development sessions held each consisting of two and a half hours. The journey included speakers such as Sister Foley, Jane Plum from the Catholic Schools Office, and Sandra Campbell along with various workshops lead by Michael Morrell and Alan Wedesweiler. Next year, 2016 our focus will be the development of our school values which will form the cornerstones for our vision and mission statements.
Learning: Inspiring Informing and Engaging Communities of Learning!

Goal: To Inspire, Inform and Engage Communities of Learning!

The interrelatedness of knowledge and well-being flows through all key learning areas of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Health and Physical Education, Creative Arts and Human Society and its Environment. As a place of learning, we aim to help students reflect critically, and creatively contribute to all areas.

A place of learning where...

- Staff gathered together for professional development in the school Hall focussed on the Key Learning area of English.
- Students participated in the school and Deanery Swimming carnival.
- Brendan House won the 2015 swimming carnival.
- Engagement in the traditional celebrations of St Patrick’s Day with a whole school Mass followed by sporting fun day rotation carnival.
- Students and community gathered together for Ash Wednesday.
- Students successfully engaged in PSSA Swimming, Cross Country activities locally and regionally.
- Students actively participated in Catholic Education week with a Live Radio Program from the school grounds followed by a Grandparents Open day and picnic.
- The students preformed a Superheroes routine at the Annual Art Show held in November.
- Chess, writing, garden clubs were held for students at lunch times.
- Students represented St Patrick’s at the MacKillop Swimming Carnival in Homebush.
- Year 6 School leaders and Social Justice Leaders attended Melbourne Youth Leadership Conference.
- Students engaged in Chess tournaments which saw a number of students travel to Sydney for state championships.
- Year 5 Students engaged in making i- movies which have been uploaded to our YouTube page.
- Year 2 students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Students in Years 3 to 6 participated in the annual School Athletics Day.
- Patrick House won the 2015 Athletics Carnival.
- Brendan House won the 2015 Cross Country Carnival.
- Kindergarten students learnt about new sounds in words through the Jolly Phonics program.
- Year Four students learned about writing Diamante poems.
- Year Six students and staff went to Canberra as part of the curriculum.
- Introduced Year level budgets across the school. Each class was provided $100 dollars per student for resources and professional development.
Learning: Inspiring Informing and Engaging Communities of Learning!

Continued....

- K-6 Students engaged in science experiments throughout the year.
- Students represented MacKillop at Cross Country State Carnival
- Year Two students participated in the swimming program proudly supported by the P&F.
- Students participated in the Life Education Program throughout Term One
- Year Five engaged in leadership qualities through the Making Jesus Real program.
- Students begun their fortnightly House Meetings with staff-wearing their new house shirts.
- Horse riding lessons were offered once a week during terms 2 and 3.
- Virtues Project continued as part of the House Meetings and Assemblies.
- School introduced Mini Vinnies and engaged with St Vincent De Paul.
- NAIDOC Week was celebrated in the beginning of Term Three.
- Kindergarten to Year 2 engaged in a Theatre Concert entitled “Superheroes”.
- Years 3-6 performed a Christmas Concert for the community in the Fr O’Dea Hall.
- Year 2 students had a huge crane visit them at school as part of their Transport unit.
- Professional Development focussed on Contemporary learning, History and English and Mathematics with Anita Chinn visiting our staff in term Four.
- Staff attended Smart Goal Setting as part of Professional Development.
- Staff evaluated each other’s curriculum program as part of building teams.
- Staff continued to make a difference for each other by spending time to write positive affirmations on cards celebrating gifts of character.
- Year Six students received a trophy at the MIA Chess Tournament.
- Year Six leaders and Social Justice Leaders attended the first National Young Leaders Day in Melbourne with Mr Wedesweiler and Ms Emily Graham.
- Financial contributions budgeted for Staff personal Study.
- Professional learning 2 hour blocks continued to support staff for their planning, teaching, assessing and evaluation.
- Teachers attend Professional Development on professional learning communities provided by Catholic Schools’ Office.
- Annual Awards ceremony acknowledged our student achievements.
Continued....

- Students engaged at the annual Jackie Murphy Gala Netball Day in Wagga.
- Garden beds rejuvenated by staff and students planting as part of their science program.
- Hair dressing and card clubs held during lunch times, extended students collaborative social skills.
- Students engaged in sporting events including The National Youth Archery Championship -winning top position.
- Year 4 visited Pioneer Park as part of their HISE curriculum.
- 80 Year 2 students went fishing at Lake Wyangan.
- Mother’s Day liturgy was overwhelmingly supported by parents at St Patrick’s.
- Year 3 students visited and purchased “buddy seats” from Bunnings.
- Father’s Day liturgy in the Hall was very successful. Thank You Fr Grace & Bishop Hanna!
- Year 5 students learned about Sidney Nolan.
- Students engaged in sporting events such as the annual Trent Barrett Cup.
- A yummy Cake Stall and Car Wash was set up as part of the Year 6 Annual Graduation project.
- Year 1 students learned about all aspects in telling the “Time.”
- Year 5 students visited Bendigo and stayed in Ballarat looking for Gold!
- Year 6 visit Canberra.
- A huge success at the Third Annual Art Show: The international Year of Light with the theme entitled “Shining our light on Griffith”. (See the video on the website.)
- 3 Year Six students engaged in “Principal for the Day”. They were part of over 300 students taking part in the national leadership event that aimed to give students a practical lesson in leadership and raise the profile of the profession.
- Monica participated at the School Sport Australian Athletics Championships in Canberra in October winning the NSW PSSA Championships.
- Curriculum Spot Check by CSO-Documents were compliant with BOSTES requirements -
  - Year 5 Creative Arts Scope and Sequence
  - Year 3 PDHPE Teachers Program/Unit of Work
  - Year 1 RE Assessment Task and Marking Criteria
  - Kindergarten Report to Parents
  - Year 6 English Assessment Records for Semester 1
  - Cross-Curriculum Learning Policy/Statement. The review found that your documents were compliant with CSO/BOSTES requirements. Thank you for your co-operation Kerry Mowett
Learning: Inspiring, Informing and Engaging Communities of Learning!

Continued.....

- Our students represented all primary school students across the nation with the laying of a wreath at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.
- Students participated in the annual Paul Kelly Cup at the Exies Oval.
- School community engaged in Socktober as part of Catholic Church Missions week.
- Students supported raising funds CanAssist in the State Of Origin series.
- Students received a certificate of Achievement at weekly assemblies and acknowledged on Face Book!
- Positive NAPLAN results.
- Staff visited Lavington Catholic school as part of professional development.
- Students visited the Griffith Library to listen to Guest Author.
- Students received awards for the New South Wales ICAS in English, Maths and Computer Skills Tests.
- Students travelled to Forbes for Representative sport in Rugby.
- 11 Students participated in McKillop Cross Country team at Eastern Creek.
- Staff attended the Early Years Network meetings as part of professional development in Wagga.
- Year 6 Public Speaking completion was strongly supported. The students presented five minute speeches to the parental community at assemblies.
- Elizabeth Napoli represented Under 12 girl’s soccer team at Mary McKillop in Camden.
- Cross Country Achievements all the members of the cross country team and their placings; Joanna MacRae 24th, Ella Savage 39th, Jeremy Clarke 42nd, Beth Huxley 10th, Delroy Kasawaya 22nd, Alice MacRae 42nd. Breanna Restagno 16th, Ava Kelly 51st, Lexi Salvestro 55th, Jonathan Codemo 4th & Isabella Salmon 36th. All runners tried their hardest. Special congratulations to Jonathan Codemo who will now represent MacKillop at the NSWPSSA Cross Country at the end of Week One- Term Three.
- Mr Peter Moraschi was nominated the State NSW Rugby League Junior Coach.
- Students participated in the Catholic Basketball Championships. in Albury Wodonga. Our girls finished second and the boys rated 7th in the tournament.
- Junior Toastmasters: With assistance from Mr Slater students participated in public speaking.
St Patrick’s Primary School locally and globally is an inclusive community where we are all not only a witness to Jesus Christ’s life and teaching but a place that responds with compassion and kindness.

Throughout 2015 our school continued its journey to enhance our inclusiveness as a community. Our students, staff and parents engaged and encountered many opportunities that supported our goal for school improvement, accountability and transparency.

- **Special Staff Birthdays** – In the beginning of term three, our community celebrated our wonderful School Chaplain Mrs Cath Cantanzariti 70th birthday gala with the staff in true style – providing plenty of cake, speeches and food!!!!

- **Supporting local Catholic School: St Therese Primary School**. Throughout the year the school supported St Therese Catholic School by responding to their needs in resources and professional development. The school provides World Book on Line and Zip tails online access at no financial cost. The staff attended several professional development days at St Patrick’s where all staff share knowledge and skills and learn from others.

- **Making Jesus Real Program** is a response to Jesus’ message where we as a Catholic community act locally and globally. Students and staff were acknowledged throughout the year at school assemblies for being a creditable witness in their everyday lives.

- **Seasons for Growth Program** was also another example of our commitment to compassion and kindness. Throughout Term Three the eight week program led faithfully by our Pastoral Care Worker and School Councillor worked with over eighty students. The program successfully achieved its goal to support and strengthen the social and emotional well-being of the children in our care. By reaching out to our children and their families, we were able to help our students to learn new ways to think about and respond to the changes and losses in their lives. A report by the pastoral Leader was submitted to the Catholic Schools Office.

- **School House Meetings**: This year the school continued House Meetings as part of the building caring and supportive environments. The students wore their house colour shirts to school once a week along with the teachers and staff. Each fortnight the students and staff gathered together to build house spirit through the introduction of a virtue. The virtue of the fortnight was provided in the newsletter and classrooms for students to draw upon. The houses enacted the virtue at a fortnightly assembly. House flags were on display throughout the school and presented at assemblies.

- **Principal’s Shout**: School supported staff each term with a Principal’s Shout for coffee and the school provided staff lunches and staff fellowship throughout the year.

- **Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Celebration**: School liturgies formed the basis of acknowledging our first teachers, parents! Fr Grace and Bishop Hanna supported the liturgies through prayer and attendance.

- **Catholic Professional Learning Community**: Financial support for staff to access professional coaching around building collaborative cultures. 15 Staff members accessed this support throughout the year.
Service

Goal: To Embrace Leadership that Fosters Collaborative Practices for Mutual Benefit and Partnership!

We are witnesses to collaborative practices which further the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church. Within the context of the Griffith community and the surrounding districts, our school came to serve.

- **National Young Leaders’ Conference:** On Thursday 12th March, the School and Social Justice Leaders travelled to Melbourne to participate in a National Young Leaders’ Conference. Joining the Leaders were Mr. Wedesweiler and Miss Graham and we were fortunate to be joined by our close friends and fellow school leaders from St. Mary’s, Yoogali and Mrs Lisa Forwood, Mrs Tanya Cornale and Mr Fabio Foggiato. The National Young Leaders’ Day is an annual event founded in 1997 to develop strong leadership values amongst young Australians. The Program consists of keynote talks, multimedia presentations and interactive learning that seeks a range of specific outcomes for young people who aspire to lead themselves and others well.

- **Catholic Schools Week:** St Patrick’s offering more than just a great education. This year our school gathered together to promote Catholic Schooling by launching a live Radio Program with a breakfast morning on the school grounds. Local radio hosts along with many students, staff, parents and community members came along for a free sausage sizzle and heard about the Bishop’s Mandate, our faith, learning, care, service and stewardship. During the Catholic Schools week our community gathered for a Grandparents’ luncheon day on the school grounds. Many grandparents commented on the opportunity to see their grandchildren learn in such a beautiful environment. There are a number of photo pages available in the “photo gallery” entitled Catholic Schools Week that give witness to St Patrick’s is educating today and tomorrow!

- **ANZAC Day/Remembrance Day** were days our school community gathered together. As a community we all embraced in prayer and reflection. St Patrick’s Primary School was well represented with over seventy-five students in the ANZAC day memorial walk down Banner Avenue. In addition, our students laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in Canberra for the 100th anniversary and the school held its own memorial service at school for ANAC Day in April and on Remembrance Day in November.
P&F and School Art Show: This year our school celebrated its third annual Art Show with a theme focussed on Shining Our Light on Griffith. All students presented art work depicting the surrounding districts of Griffith. Invitations from the wider community were accepted with over two hundred people attending the Art Show in the Fr O’Dea Hall. I wish to also thank the parent and business community such as Calabria Wines for their kind donations towards the Art Show. See our facebook page for more photos.

Catholic Church Mission Sunday: Socktober. St Patrick’s raised a total of $744.90 for our ‘Socktober’ Catholic Mission Appeal this year. The money raised went to the children of Madagascar who desperately need clean drinking water in their schools.

Parish Fete: Our school and wider community came together once again to celebrate our uniqueness of generosity. Parishioners, school and wider community engaged in a fun filled afternoon where all parts of our multi-cultural community were represented.

“Superheroes” Theatre Concert was another opportunity to extend to our parents, other Catholic primary schools, and wider community to attend our play entitled “Superheroes”. Staff and students from Kindergarten to Year Two engaged in the Arts in dramatic and dance performances at the Griffith Theatre. Some students in Year Two wrote some of the scripts which were supported by Melissa Dance studio and, Betty Boo costume design. The promotion of the Arts program was financially supported by our fabulous P&F.

Weekly Assemblies: Every week our students and parent community gathered together to acknowledge the effort and achievements of our students. The students consistently demonstrated their service to not only themselves but the school community and for this they were acknowledged.

Griffith Community Counsellors: A team of counsellors provided individual support for staff that focussed on building effective teams within contemporary learning spaces. Griffith Community Counsellors also provided assistance to parents and students experiencing difficulty in managing appropriate behaviours or learning difficulties.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hampers: Once again St Patrick’s students supported the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hampers for people in need. The ladies at the care package facility on Banna Lane were overwhelmed with the quality and quantity of food donated by our school. We were reassured that there were many families in need of support last Christmas in Griffith who benefited from our contribution.

Year 6 Reflection Day

In term 3 our Year 6 students attended a Confirmation Reflection Day in the Father O’Dea Hall. All students were engaged in the many activities offered throughout the day. They enjoyed spending time with each other in celebration of all the hard work and community service they had put into the Sacramental program.

Students put on their favourite footy tops for a day in support for the Nepal appeal.
Stewardship

Goal: To Care for People Creation and Resources

As a gift, we are all responsible in sharing the decisions that ensures we are ecologically and ethically sustainable in everything we do. St Patrick’s School is about caring for people, creation and resources.

- **First Friday Mass and Breakfast** was an important sign of being dynamic Catholics. On the first Friday of each month our staff gathered together to celebrate the Eucharist through prayer. After the celebration, the staff had breakfast together. It was during these times that we gathered together as a community, caring for each other, listening to each other and giving thanks.

- **Making Jesus Real for Staff** was about making God moments explicit in our school. Every day our staff expressed acts of kindness and caring as part of our making Jesus real by writing on cards of appreciation to each other. Each fortnight we had a draw where the names of our staff were drawn out and their act of kindness is acknowledged with an unknown prize. The prizes were provided by the school and parent community as a way to show appreciation and care for the staff. On average 180 appreciation cards were received and given to the staff.

- **Principal Monthly Letters**: At the beginning of each month the principal wrote personally to all families within the school community. The letters contained important reminders and information about the happenings around the school. The feedback from parental surveys has affirmed the importance of not only keeping an open communication channel between the school and home but is a demonstration that they are important and cared for.

- **Chaplaincy Program**: Our School Chaplain Mrs Catanzariti has implemented the following programs and supports staff through:
  1. **Seasons for Growth** - An educational program to support students that are experiencing grief, family separation, relocation issues and divorce. Once a week the Chaplain meets with families in groups.
  2. The continuation of the Citizenship program with our Year Five Students visiting various Preschools around Griffith.
  3. **Being a dedicated member of the school’s Wellbeing Committee**

- **International World Teachers’ Day**: The school community and leadership acknowledged our staff on International Teacher’s Day with a bottle of wine and a small gift. The number of acknowledgements through our Face Book page was a testament to parental support for the work they do in educating children at St Patrick’s and at the school. We acknowledge Warburn Estate Wines for their kind donation of the wine for the teachers!

- **Introduction of Social Justice Leaders**: Our school continued the Social Justice Leaders program throughout 2015. This was a fantastic opportunity that provided students in Year Six to work alongside the Religious Education Coordinator, staff and the Parish. The SJL lead the school community in prayer at assemblies (prayer, reading of the day), MJR awards, participated in School Masses and on special occasions such as ANZAC DAY march.
• **Annual Book Week:** Once again our students and staff celebrated Book Week. An opportunity not missed with inventiveness, creation, learning, celebration and above all the importance of reading.

**Stewardship**

*Continued.....*

• **Australia Day Clean Up:** Listening and following the call from Bishop Hanna’s mandate about Stewardship, all classes participated in Clean Up Day which was participated in Australia on Friday, 1st March. Working together the students cleaned up our School grounds. We were grateful to Griffith City Council for their assistance in providing resources to our school.

• **The Vegetable Gardens** were upgraded this year with the reorganisation of garden beds, donations of railway sleepers, shade cloth and a BBQ and Pizza oven. We were very grateful to the successful of the P&F who achieved their goal on fund raising for this project.

• **P&F Goals for 2015-Achieved!** - The school and Parents and Friends Association worked very hard throughout the year that enabled them to achieve their four main goals in 2015.

**Goal 1: Outdoor Resources** – Veggie garden that includes two stainless steel tables, an outdoor shade covered area over the veggie garden, a watering system for veggie patches and grassed areas, gas pipeline that is hooked up to BBQ, purchase of BBQ and Pizza Oven which are both gas operated. Purchase of garden watering system, taps and cost for plumber and materials.

**Indoor Resources:** PM Reading Series – for STAGE ONE children.

**Outdoor Resources** included the purchase of sporting shirts for our students.

**Goal 2: Beautification Project** – Clean up of site around veggie garden, grassed areas identified and laid, new top seat coverings – wood replacements to be added, painting of seats for veggie garden area, and a garden bed established. (this project is still ongoing)

**Sacred Space:** A huge cross was kindly donated by Grant’s Cypress, Narrandera. The 2016 P&F, as part of their beautification project will be asked to purchase retaining wall blocks, pavers for steps and complete the sacred space for the school.

**Goal 3: Educational Programs** – K-2 Concert at the Regional Theatre. Melissa Dance Studios provided an excellent dance program and props for our students. The students performed at the Griffith Regional Theatre over a number of days. Transport for our other two Catholic Primary Schools and our students were provided by the P&F. The P&F also supported the important Year 2 Swimming Program for all students at the Griffith Regional Aquatic & Leisure Centre. At the beginning of the year the P&F provided the full cost for all students across the school the valuable resource, *World Book Online* and a computer program called *Ziptales*. These two valuable programs were also provided to St Therese’ Catholic School, Yenda.
Stewardship

Continued....

In Term 4 the P&F provided an opportunity for our student achievements in the curriculum area of the Arts to be showcased across the community. The theme this year centred around the International Year of Light—Shining our Light on Griffith! The annual Art Show also provided an opportunity for our parent community to come together and not only socialize but to acknowledge our students’ achievements. This major function is directly aligned to the Griffith Community commitment in promoting local talent in the area of the Arts.

Goal 4: Supporting a Charity - Again the P&F provided support for our local charity called Griffith CanAssist - Throughout the year parents and staff gathered together to have a Big Morning Tea. The funds raised by the P&F and the School State of Origin “Footy Colours Days” enabled us to present a cheque to Griffith CanAssist at a whole school assembly.

At the conclusion of the year the P&F donated $21,000 dollars to the school covering the four major goals highlighted throughout 2015. This is a significant contribution to the our school and community.

- **Radio Transition Program:** The program, which aired on the radio from 6am to 9am over a 10 week period, included all schools in the Catholic MIA. The radio program included speakers from all over New South Wales and the program has been shared will other Dioceses. Feature segments from the following guests; Dr Katey DeGioia (Macquarie University), Kelly Humphrey (Catholic Schools Office in Wagga), Cathy Little (Sydney University), Francie O’Connor (Catholic Education Office, Sydney), Vicki Wigg (School Counselor at St Patrick’s), Chris Cotter (Catholic Schools Office in Wagga), Trevor Kellan and Linda McNeil (Council Catholic School Parents, Wagga), and Danielle Cronin (National Catholic Education Commission, Sydney).

- **Introduction of Vegetarian Menu:** This year our tuckshop convenor introduced vegetarian food to the tuck shop menu. The menu was updated each term to ensure we catered to the needs of our students and community.

- **Year 5 Citizenship Program:** This year our Year Five students along with our school Chaplain introduced a citizenship program with local Preschools. Students visited preschools and spent a hour playing with younger children at various centres throughout Griffith.

- **St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:** Our Mini Vinnie’s members, acknowledged all the families who generously donated to the Winter Appeal. We received a number of new and good quality blankets from across the grades. The St Vincent De Paul staff were extremely grateful to receive the donations and are impressed with the great work have been doing within the school.
Off to a Racing Start in Year 6

We are galloping along in what is our final year of Primary School. Each day is filled with numerous opportunities to experience throughout our learning. Mr Curry is leading all students in State and Federal politics for HSIE this term to prepare for our Canberra excursion in May. Miss Graham is using Drama to provide skills for decision making in Health. Mr Brown is developing our artistic ability and knowledge through a study of Pop art and artists. We have, without a doubt, enjoyed helping the new Kindergarten students settle in to our fantastic school as their Buddies. We have sprinted to the finish line at the swimming and cross country carnivals, demonstrating leadership and participating in all the events we could. We can’t wait for the rest of the race this year in the 100 block.
Year 4 - Term 1 - 2015

We got straight into the school mode in Year 4. The children have returned with a keenness to get into the new learning. We are continuing with the collaboratively learning space with team teaching. We have the advantage of having 603 being used as a quiet room to gather for testing at the beginning of the year in smaller groups. We’ve celebrated sportsmanship at the swimming carnival, participating with great enthusiasm.

WELCOME BACK!
Year 3 - Term 2

We have discovered a lot about The First Fleet in HSIE and then followed this through in Visual Arts where we stepped into the shoes of Joseph Banks and sketched native Australian plants.

We then sketched first fleet ships, using charcoal to add character.

As a tribute to the 100 year anniversary of ANZAC we used a variety of media to produce a commemorative piece of artwork that looked very effective.

We have been very busy preparing for our First Holy Communion that takes place in 4 weeks and thank everybody who is praying for us.
Year One has had a really positive start to the year. We introduced our English unit by gathering together in 405. We discovered interesting and cool facts through using the smartboard, group discussions and written stories.
Our Creative Art topics were flowers, owls, fish and landscape scenes. The students enjoyed learning the techniques of painting, drawing and use of colour in their art work. The results were stunning. We enjoyed taking part in the ANZAC parade on Saturday 25th April.
Year 5 have been working frantically, forging ahead through Term 2. In English, all classes have looked at imagery of World War 1 through pictures and words. The students had an opportunity to attend a workshop for “the Unknown Soldier” and attend a performance at the Regional Theatre. “Rainforests” has been the focus of HSIE and Visual arts. In pairs the students created posters depicting the layers of the Rainforest. Many topics have been covered in Mathematics with many “hands on” activities. The students have looked at the importance and advantages of not smoking or using drugs. With the Diocesan Cross-country in Holbrook, five of our talented girls finished in the first nine places of their age group which was amazing, not done before. The grade participated in “Rock It” which was a valuable and informative program about Cyber Bullying. Everyone is looking forward to a well-earned rest to recharge for Term 3, Semester Two. Happy holidays and stay safe.
Year Six Gymnastics

The Stage 3 teachers in conversation with students have decided to introduce gymnastics to all students in Years Five and Six. Gymnastics is widely renowned as a sport that can improve overall fitness, strength, balance and body control, as well as helping to improve athletic performance in any other sport.

However, what many people don’t realise is that extended participation in gymnastics classes also provides many additional cognitive and psychological benefits that will continue to benefit an individual throughout their life.

These include:
- Social interaction and discipline;
- Improved mental focus and concentration;
- Education and an understanding of physics;
- Flexibility, balance and co-ordination;
- Numerous health benefits.

At St Patrick’s our Year Six students will gain unique and valuable social education and experience with.

We believe this pursuit of success indicates a “healthier” outlook on competition, an improvement in self-esteem and an understanding of the importance to function independently and be self-reliant.

Gymnastics times are 101- 9.00am- 9.40am, 102- 9.40am- 10.20am, 104- 10.20am- 11.00am.

The Teachers are Rebecca & Melissa.
Term 3 – Official Opening

Parents, Grandparents, Families and Friends,

you are invited to the

Blessing and Opening of our

Building Refurbishments

On Monday 7th of September, 2015
at 11:00am in the Fr. O’Dea Hall, St Patrick’s Primary School.

The new Learning Centres of Kindergarten, Years One and Two
will be blessed and opened by

The Most Reverend Gerard Hanna DD, Bishop of Wagga Wagga

We gratefully acknowledge the financial contribution of the
Parish of Sacred Heart and the Previous and Present School Council
of St Patrick’s Primary School for these facilities.

You are invited to stay for light refreshments after the Opening and Blessing.

Please RSVP by 30th August via email to spp-info@wag.catholic.edu.au or call 6964 2888 for catering purposes.

Thank You.

Please click on the link for a short video on “I like St Patrick’s because…”
The video highlights our students, staff and parents comments about our school community and displays our new learning spaces. Enjoy!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71poRm8ZMVg
Kindergarten has been busy practising for the upcoming K-2 Concert. Students have been attending two lessons a week with Melissa Brown. Our costumes are looking good and we are beginning to look like real Superheroes. Some of us are also preparing for our acting roles in the concert. We are all very excited (and a little nervous for some) to perform at the Regional Theatre NEXT WEEK! Please remember to purchase your tickets from the Griffith Regional Theatre. Hope to see you there!!

The Kindergarten Team
Year 6 have been very busy this term. Even though it is the last term we are all still learning new things. It seems to be a rite of passage to Year 6 that they receive a large A3 portfolio to complete their study grid in. This term we are taking a new approach and are using GOOGLE CLASSROOM. Instead of printing off pages and pages of research students complete their work on the computer in either a word document or a Google Doc and upload it to Google Classroom. This is a new program that has been introduced to the students and they are loving it.

Not only do students get to upload their work but it is also a forum between students and teachers to ask questions and help support each other’s learning. We are also using Google Classroom to complete set tasks in Religion, English and Mathematics as well.

This is what some students have to say about Google Classroom;

Emily Fanani: “It’s good for asking questions because I can send a message or add a comment and get help straight away from my teachers and other students.”

Victor Catanzariti: “I think it’s helpful with doing your homework. You don’t have to write down everything in your book all the time; you can use technology.”

Kavi Thevashangar: “It is very helpful in my study grid because it is easier to send to the teacher and you can do it at home without using the portfolio.”
Kindergarten Newsletter

This term in Kindergarten students have been enjoying learning a variety of dances in brain gym. A few favourite dances included the Hokey Pokey, Nutbush and Chicken Dance. In PDHPE, students have been participating in a gymnastics program where they practised a variety of fundamental movement skills. Through this program students have been exploring what their bodies can do.

In English, Kindergarten have been learning about procedural writing. Students completed many different procedures. On one occasion we all went to the sandpit where Miss Martinello demonstrated a procedure on How to Make a Volcano.

Last week we attended EnviroMentors where we learned about the importance of sorting rubbish. Students participated in several activities identifying items that can be placed in the recycling and garbage bins. They were taken on a journey, learning about what happens to materials when they get to the recycling centre.
In closing this report I wish to acknowledge the fantastic staff at St Patrick’s, the Sacred Heart Parish, School Council and Parents and Friends Association for their amazing support, dedication and friendship throughout 2015. May God Always be with you.

Yours sincerely

David Adams-Jones

Principal

Chair of School Council

Mr Anthony Salmon

School Principal

Mr David Adams-Jones

Parish Priest

Fr Andrew Grace

All goals of the Bishop Mandate have been achieved 2015!

“Why, the whole place is cleaned and dusted for another year!”