Dear Friends

Welcome to Catholic Schools Week. Our week began with a terrific day of fun competition between our two school houses, Patrick & MacKillop. Congratulations to MacKillop who won on the day. Please see photos attached. Our concluding day for Catholic Schools Week will be next Monday, St Patrick’s Day. Students can wear casual clothes with “a little” or “a lot” of green as they wish. Students are asked to give a gold coin donation which will go towards Project Compassion.

Catholic Schools Week is a special time in the year when we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our Catholic schools. It is a time to give thanks for the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place each day in every classroom. We acknowledge and thank all who work in the service of Catholic education to create the opportunities for students that allow them to grow and thrive.

We thank you for
The wisdom and understanding of teachers,
The enthusiasm and energy of students,
The leadership of school Principals and executive staff, the skill, care and commitment of administrative and support staff,
the guidance of our pastors and religious leaders,
the support and partnership of parents, carers and local communities.

We pray that each student’s learning journey be inspired by a search for your wisdom and truth.

We pray that we never take for granted the learning opportunities that we have all been given, and that we use the gifts of learning wisely and responsibly.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Primary Class
Mr & Mrs Brown will be attending Art & English Professional Development Days in Bathurst today and Friday. Mrs Gough will be teaching the Primary Class on these days.

Student of the Week

Tyson Harvey
For being ready to learn everyday.

Merit Certificates

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards this week:

Primary - Molly Arthur, Dominic Antaw

Infants - Thalia Harvey, Will Kerin
Life Education Van Visit
Harold and his Life Ed Van will visit St Columba’s on Monday 24th March. This is a very worthwhile program and is enjoyed by all students. Attached to the newsletter is the permission note which needs to be returned to school before Monday 24th March.

St Patricks Day
People all over the world celebrate on the 17th day of March in honor of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Some cities have parades, most revelers wear green, and a few families commemorate the day with traditional Irish fare for their meal. However, not everyone may know who St. Patrick is.

Born in Britain during the 4th century, St. Patrick was kidnapped and enslaved by Irish raiders when he was a teenager. Although he was able to escape after six years and become a priest in Britain, he later chose to return to Ireland as a missionary, in order to help spread the teachings of Christianity to pagans. According to Irish folklore, he also used a shamrock to explain the Christian concept of Trinity to the Irish. In spite of continuous opposition from pagan leaders, he continued to evangelize for thirty years while baptizing newly converted Christians and establishing monasteries, churches, and schools. He died on March 17th and was canonized by the local church.

St. Patrick’s Day was first publicly celebrated in Boston in 1737 where a large population of Irish immigrants resided. Nearly 200 years later, the first St. Patrick’s Day parade in the Irish Free State was held in Dublin in 1931. During the mid 90’s, the Irish government also began a campaign to promote tourism in Ireland on March 17th.

INVITATION
Please come and celebrate
Catholic Schools Week with us

Monday 17th March
(St Patrick’s Day)
9am- Morning Tea & Book Fair
in the Library
9.30 am- Open Classroom &
St Patrick’s Day Activities