FROM THE PRINCIPAL

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Philippians 4:8 NLT

A lovely warm big thank you to everyone that came to our School Dedication Service. It was a wonderful service enjoyed by many. Your support is greatly valued.

This coming Thursday, 17 March, is known as St Patrick’s day. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, and since 1962, the patron saint of Nigeria. It is considered to be the day to celebrate all things Irish.

Patrick was probably born in the northern region of England near Scotland—around the year 385 AD. No, he wasn’t born in Ireland. Sometime around 400 AD Patrick was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland. He was forced to work as a shepherd for a local chieftain; it was during this time that he grew closer to God. At first he felt lonely and afraid. In his writings of that time, he wrote: "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

After almost twenty years in captivity, Patrick escaped after having a dream in which he said that God told him to return to England. While back home in England he became a Christian priest. He later felt compelled to return to Ireland to spread the Gospel. During his time in Ireland he built numerous schools and churches and was a significant figure in evangelising Ireland. What I find so fascinating about the life of Patrick is the fact the very place that held him captive in slavery, is the very place he chose to return to spread the Word of God! Surely, the “normal” thing would have been to avoid the place that would have held so many bad memories; find somewhere else where he could forget the past.

It is said that one of the first people he converted from druidism to Christianity was the person who held him captive as a slave—the person who mistreated him, denied him his freedom and his dignity. And yet this was the first person that Patrick confronted. Rather than allow his situation define him, Patrick used it to grow. Was he offended by things that happened to him? Most likely! Was he happy with his circumstances? Unlikely! Did he allow his situation to restrict his dreams? Definitely not!

How quickly we can get offended today—and allow that to define us. Too quickly we take on the role of victim and allow it to define us. Too quickly we blame other people for our actions. And we allow that to define us. They are nothing but excuses.

Patrick was obedient to God. Instead of blaming others he was listening to what God was saying. He used his time of captivity as a way of drawing closer to God. He used the hard times in his life to learn so very valuable lesson. And when things became easier for him on his return to England he still remembered his time in Ireland and was resolute in his desire to bring the Word of God to the people who held him captive.

As we approach Easter, what are the hard times that are defining you? What circumstances are controlling your life? Easter is the time of new life. The life with a resurrected Christ. A life that can be lived as a Son or Daughter of the Most High God and Co-heir with Christ.

The choice is ours!

God Bless
Graham

A lovely warm big thank you to everyone that came to our School Dedication Service. It was a wonderful service enjoyed by many. Your support is greatly valued.
2016 DIARY DATES

Tuesday 15th March - Year 5&6 AFL Gala Day in Dubbo
Thursday 17th March - Rugby League 6’s Gala Day
Monday 21st March - CSSA Secondary State Swimming
Tuesday 22nd March - K-4 Shire Library visit
Wednesday 23rd March - Easter Assembly 9am PCS Hall
Wednesday 23rd March - Year 3&4 Zoo Snooze Excursion (leaving 10:00 am)
Wednesday 23rd March - Year 6 CSU Future Moves day trip to Bathurst
Thursday 24th March - Touch Football Gala Day Dubbo; Yr 9&10 Girls & Boys
Friday 25th March - Good Friday
Monday 28th March - Easter Monday Public Holiday
Friday 1st April - Pink Stumps Day
Tuesday 5th April - SCHOOL PHOTOS
Tuesday 5th April - CSSA Rugby Union Trials @ Wollongong
Friday 8th April -PCS Cross Country

Term 1 ends Friday 8 April
Term 2 begins Tuesday 26 April

EASTER

Good Friday 25 March
Easter Saturday 26 March
Easter Sunday 27 March
Easter Monday 28 March

Easter Assembly

Wednesday 23rd March 9am PCS Hall with guest speaker Pastor Shannon McCutcheon.

Parents, Grandparents and friends all welcome to come and share in this special time.

PARKES COMMUNITY CHURCH

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

Every Sunday - 10:00 am @ the School Hall
20th March Preacher - Mr Jeffrey Evans
27th March Preacher - Mr Jeffrey Evans
** Helpers for Year 7 & 8 Maths**

Please reconsider, if you are not already rostered, putting your hand up to help out; even if you can’t make a regular commitment, but are happy to be on a cancellation list for last minute filling in. 

We (the students and I), would really appreciate it! Grandparents/relatives are also welcome. Call the office and get on board with this great opportunity.

**Maths Group Volunteers Roster:**

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Thanks to everyone who is already helping.

Miss Amy Dearden

**Absenteeism**

A reminder to all parents and carers to please ensure you send a note with your child the day after they are absent. This note needs to be handed to their classroom teacher, who will then send it to the office to be processed.

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**Homework Hub**

Primary School: Tuesday 3.15pm-4.00pm  
High School: Tuesday 3.15pm—4.30pm  
Senior Study: Tuesday & Thursday 3.15pm-5pm

Homework Hub is a great opportunity to spend time working on assessment tasks, homework and general study. Teachers are on hand for students to ask questions, read drafts and assist in their understanding - and there is free internet access available.

What more could you want?

Students need to have a note signed by parents/carers to attend Homework Hub.

Senior students are encouraged to take advantage of this extra time.

**Keep Calm and Do Your Homework**

In an effort to hide my oldness, I am creating a website that students and parents can access to find out about what is going on in class and in school. On it you can find:

- worksheets you may have missed in class
- Assessment tasks
- Guides
- Clips and films that may support your learning
- Our justice focus areas—keep up with our Compassion Sponsor Children
- Links to other sites and my email

Find me at:

http://kharris01.wix.com/pcsmissharris
The NAPLAN information for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 is being sent home this week with students. It gives dates and general information regarding this National test.

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure that students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Excessive preparation is not useful and can lead to unnecessary anxiety. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you are encouraged to make a time to speak with their teacher.

NAPLAN tests are constructed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate skills they have learned over time through the school curriculum, and NAPLAN test days should be treated as just another routine event on the school calendar. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day.

How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, and is designed to illustrate the range of student performance across the country. It is not expected that all students will be able to answer all questions correctly. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia. Further information is available at http://www.nap.edu.au/

NAPLAN Results: A NAPLAN report will be issued by your child’s school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent home. Your child’s school is your first point of contact for any questions about their NAPLAN report.

Please contact the school before the end of the Term 1 for more information regarding:

* the withdrawal of your child from these tests
* special provisions – assistance for students to complete the tests
**Year 5 & 6 Sydney Excursion**

In week 5, Stage 3 students accompanied by Mr Denmead, Miss Barrass, Mrs Mitchell and Mr Westcott, spent 2 nights and 3 days in Sydney! The excursion was a fantastic success. Student’s loved the opportunity to get right into the city and experience something completely different to what we are used to. We stayed at Darling Harbour and ventured out from there, by foot, ferry and bus. We visited Sydney Tower, the Aquarium, Botanic Gardens, ANZ Stadium and caught a ferry to Manly for a swim and fish and chips at the beach, we even walked across the Harbour Bridge! Those were just some of the activities!

The students came home with a variety of highlights, from playing soccer in the sand at Manly to running out on the ANZ Stadium and even the terrible jokes from Captain Cook on our harbour cruise.

Teacher highlights included Mr Denmead’s stories, ice cream at Darling Harbour, good coffee and well behaved students at night that allowed for a good night’s sleep!

We all had an amazing time and can’t wait to do it again with another group of students in the future. Thanks to Western Road Liners for getting us there and back safely and for the entertaining karaoke on the bus!
SPORT REPORT

Zone Swimming 2016

On 26th of February 33 students from Parkes Christian School travelled to Orange to compete in the Zone Swimming Carnival. Everyone performed brilliantly and we had a number of students who qualified to State level. Aron Peters had some stiff competition in all his events - being the only 18 year old boy across the zone to compete! Well done on having a go!

Congratulations to everyone on your sportsmanship and dedication to participating in the events you qualified for, we are proud of you and can’t wait to attend next year! Thank you to Mr Wynstra and Miss Dearden for coming on the trip and for helping out with timekeeping and crowd control. Thank you to our wonderful parents who supported their children, and those who helped with timekeeping.

Well done to the following students who qualified for State: Lachlan Unger, Leilani Lavaka, Grace Prow, Ally Fryer, Erin McCracken, Chloe Hill, Ethan Peters, Matthew Prow and Aron Peters. The Primary State Carnival was held yesterday in Sydney and a huge congratulations to Leilani for representing our school. Best wishes to all our secondary students as they compete on the 21st March in Sydney at the State Swimming Carnival.

Miss Peterson
PDHPE Department
Sport Coordinator

Secondary Sport 2016 Term One

Each fortnight for sport we have been going to the local athletics field to participate in training sessions with two local athletics coaches. This has been a great way for the students to further their skills in athletics in the lead up to our school carnival which will be held early Term 2. Students have been able to participate in sprinting sessions, learning how to use starting blocks, javelin, shot put and long jump. We are excited to see what sport this week will bring! It has been fantastic to see students eager to learn and participate and hopefully this will encourage participation in our carnival.

I would like to thank Samantha Cox (President of Little Athletics Parkes) for her effort, dedication and the time she has given to help coach our students, and to the other coaches who have helped out each fortnight. Hopefully this is something we can continue at the start of each year with sport!

Miss Peterson
PDHPE Department
Sport Coordinator
You have probably been thinking that this year is PCS Spring Fair year – you would be right!

I’m sure you have also been thinking.....mmm, how could I help with the Spring Fair?....Yes, I knew it!.....I have some solutions for your conundrum....

The PCS Parents & Friends would love your help!

Here are a few examples, to get you thinking:

- Contribution of fresh stall goods including home cooking and fresh produce (who doesn’t want to go home with some fabulous home-made goodies for afternoon tea after the Fair?)
- Donation of goods eg fuel, grocery hamper, meat parcel, dinner for two (or more, if you’re keen)
- Clean up/prep volunteer – we need your muscles! (yes, the bit at the end that we all love – a chance to do some back patting and say well done and get the place sorted for School on Monday)
- Working on a stall (we will have a full list out next month)
- Pot a plant (yes, do it now!) Feel free to make your contribution really STAND OUT (no, please don’t paint your pots yellow – I mean pot that plant in something creative). Kid’s – please check with dad before you use his smelly boots. My Agave’s from the last Fair are going great!
- New items for hampers or a whole hamper
- White Elephant items in good condition – no collector items (unless it’s like, umm, 1972 tickets to Neil Diamond’s Hot August Night concert at the Greek Theatre, then, I might need to speak with you) No kid’s, Neil Diamond is not something that your dad did when he asked mum to marry him. That’s the other ‘kneel’.
- Cake baking – we have the mix – show us what you can do!

Don’t have the time? That’s OK, you can help us out in other ways, like....

- Cash $$$ (this can be used to purchase hamper goods and other requirements for the day)
- White elephant goodies – kid’s toys that are no longer needed that you can grab as you head out the door

What now? There is still heaps of time to be thinking about how or what you can contribute. We will be sending out a ‘tick box’ list next month, so that you can let us know how you can contribute and we can plan how to bring it all together! Great!
CWA Public Speaking Competition

Topics are now available for this competition which will be held on Tuesday 31st May at the Wiradjuri Study Centre in Condobolin. The topics are as follows:

Year 3 and 4:  I just don’t understand
               I can’t wait
               ‘Whatever happened to my kitchen?’
               said Mum.

Year 5 and 6:  If I could be someone else
               Family matters
               Sport is a health hazard

Year 7 and 8:  Overcoming Barriers
               Books vs IPads
               Pictures

Year 9 and 10: Living between cultures
               Making the best of it
               Tomorrow

More information is available from your Primary class teacher or Miss Harris for High School. Encourage your child to prepare and practise a speech. This is a great opportunity to develop essential speaking skills. Two students will be selected from each stage to represent our school.

Premiers Reading Challenge 2016

The NSW Premiers Reading challenge starts on: 7th March 2016

It aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student - to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The number of books students must read and the booklists they must read from to complete the Challenge are:

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<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Number of books you must read</th>
<th>Minimum number of PRC books</th>
<th>Maximum number of Personal Choice books</th>
<th>PRC booklists you can read from</th>
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For more information or to download the books for your child's year level, go to https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html

Enjoy reading!! Mrs Moss
Your new Food and Garden Waste Collection SERVICE is nearly here!

Parkes Shire Council's new Waste Collection Service is almost here!

From the 23rd February through to the 4th March, residents in Parkes will be delivered a new 240 litre bright green lid bin for food and garden waste and a new 240 litre recycling bin for recyclables and a new 240 litre garbage bin for waste.

The new collection service starts on the week of the 4th April 2016. Please DO NOT put your new bin out for collection prior to the week of the 4th April 2016.

Your new food and garden waste bin will be collected WEEKLY. Your garbage bin will be collected FORTNIGHTLY on the alternate week to your recycling bin. Your recycling bin will be collected FORTNIGHTLY as normal.

A kitchen caddy will also be delivered to all residents with the new bins.

Use the caddy to help transfer your food scraps from the kitchen to your green lid food and garden waste bin.

IMPORTANT:
Please do not use plastic bags in your kitchen caddy as the contents of the food and garden waste bin are composted and plastic bags will get caught in the processing machinery and contaminate the compost.

www.parkes.nsw.gov.au

doug richards is
dr.music

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