Welcome to the 2016 school year. It is exciting to be back at school seeing our students and their families returning and having the opportunity to welcome and meet new families to our school. A special welcome to Brenda, Ayden, Lochlan, Chance and Harry, our 2016 Prep class. In the two weeks we have been at school I and the staff have been impressed with how brave and engaged these five prep students are. It has also been pleasing to have seen the students wearing their full school uniform. 

Today we heard from school captain nominees. The nominees spoke to a very high standard. It was wonderful to hear how they will demonstrate the school expectations as leaders of the school. I am always inspired and proud to hear our students talk about their fondness of the school and how they are becoming citizens that want to lead their peers. Best of luck to those students and I look forward to informing you on Monday on the vote.

This year we welcome a number of new staff to our school:

- Ms Pankhurst – Class Teacher P3
- Mrs Courtney Brady – Advisory Visiting Teacher
- Miss Hellen Ballard – Music
- Mr Mathieson - LOTE Japanese Teacher (BSDE)

I would also like to welcome back Mr Kelly who will be teaching the 3-6 class on Thursdays and Fridays.

This term the students will be will be participating in a dance programme provided by Footsteps Dance Company. Dance is a compulsory part of the Arts curriculum. Dance is part of the curriculum and will be assessed and reported on each student’s report card this semester.

Cost is $20 for each student for the term. All payments must be made by Thursday 19th March, 2016.

For the first time Patrick Estate State School have implemented a whole school homework programme. This programme consists of students writing the spelling words out four times a week, completing a variety of weekly assigned learning activities from their assigned activity book and two home readers. Readers are given to students at their level and are monitored regularly. Students have been assigned learning activity books based on their literacy levels. Some weeks, students will be assigned a mathematics worksheet to support learning requirements addressed in class.

During term 1, the Prep students will have a set of activities to be supported by the parents at home.

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Homework

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We encourage homework at Patrick Estate State School as it promotes the students to develop independence and time management skills as a learner and an opportunity to practise their skills.

It is an expectation that students complete their homework and they will be rewarded for their efforts at the end of the term.

Homework will be sent home on Mondays and must be returned on a Friday morning.
Library
There are still students with outstanding books from last year not returned. If you have any library books at home, please return as soon as possible.
Library borrowing will commence next Friday. All students must have a waterproof bag to borrow books.

P&C News
P&C Annual General Meeting will be held this coming Monday 15th February at 3.15 in the Blue Room. All P&C executive positions will be open to nominations at the meeting. The positions will be elected democratically.
Attached to this week’s newsletter is some information about the P&C and the executive positions.
The elected executive will then meet with Mr Medford on Monday 22 February at 3.15pm to discuss the school’s annual plan and protocols relating to the P&C and tuckshop.

Paddy the cockatoo is soaring!

Be Respectful, Be Safe and Best Effort