



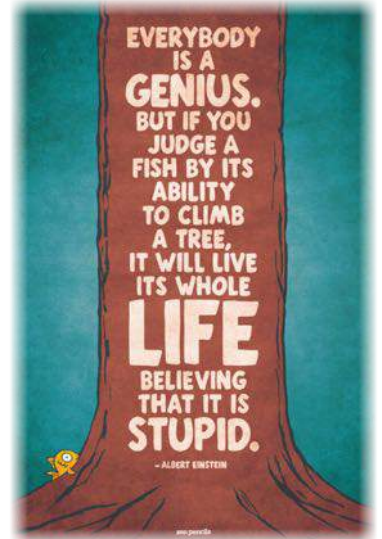
From the Principal's Desk....

You may have read in the media recently of the Government's decision to remove National Standards and the labelling of students as 'Well Below', 'Below', 'At' or 'Above' a standard. At St Patrick's we have shared with you regularly that we are partners in learning. The removal of National Standards will have little impact on the information we share with you as parents, throughout the year with regards to your children's learning needs.

Our continued focus has been, and continues to be, having Learning Progressions at the forefront of the teaching and learning that happens at St Patrick's on a daily basis, and sharing this information with you at every opportunity. The removal of National Standards creates an exciting opportunity to further promote what we do at St Patrick's to create successful home-school partnerships.

The removal of National Standards clarifies what key research has said all along, children make progress at different stages and, therefore, assessment based solely on age has, in my view, always been incredibly shortsighted.

Having clear Learning Progressions or Pathways enables us to create programmes which are based on an individual's stage rather than age. It also creates exciting opportunities to explore more deeply the Key Competencies and the capabilities our students have, need to develop and need to live and learn today to be better prepared for the future.



Fantastic Friday Programme 2018

Tomorrow our Fantastic Friday Programme starts for both the Junior and Senior Syndicates. A big thank you to the PFA who have again put \$10,000 towards this successful programme to help pay for our amazing tutors and resources.



This term we have a great selection of options which the students have had an opportunity to choose from: Kapa Haka, Dance, Music Mary, Drama, Board Games, Construction, Jump Jam, Art and Coding. We know all the students are excited about Fantastic Friday beginning for year.

A reminder that students are to wear their sports uniform every Friday.

Coffee Morning Discussion Group - Tomorrow Friday 9th February

You are welcome you to come up to the Staff Room at 9:00am when school starts for coffee and a chat this Friday 9th February. It's a great way to meet other parents especially if you are new to the school. Pre-school children are most welcome to come along.



This year we would like to trial something a little different and have some coffee mornings where we are able to discuss anything that you, as a school community, would like to know. At tomorrow's meeting we hope to talk about the topics you may like covered throughout the year.



Ash Wednesday Mass - Wednesday 14th February

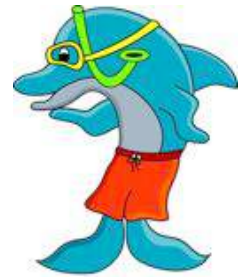
Next week we will be holding our Ash Wednesday Mass at 11:30am in the Church. Our students have been very busy preparing for this very special Mass which marks the beginning of Lent. Lent covers the 40 day period before Easter every year. The 40 days reflect the time that Jesus was said to have fasted for "forty days and forty nights" in the wilderness.



Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. It is about focusing on our relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving our time to others.

Senior School Swimming Sports 2018 - Thursday 15th February

Next Thursday 15th February the Senior School (Children aged 8 and over on January 1st 2018) will take part in the Senior School Swimming Sports at Jellie Park Pool from 12:00pm - 2:45pm.



The Junior School Swimming Sports will be held in Term 4 as part of the school swimming programme.

Important Dates: Term 1, 2018

9th Feb	11:30am Assembly Room 5
14th Feb	11:30am Ash Wednesday
15th Feb	Swimming Sports Year 4 - 8
22nd Feb	Fair Mufti Day
22nd Feb	Cycle Safe Year 6
23rd Feb	Cycle Safe Year 6
23rd Feb	11:30am Assembly Room 1
1st Mar	Small Sticks Hockey
4th Mar	Parish, School Mass 9am
8th Mar	Small Sticks Hockey
9th Mar	11:30am Assembly Room 2
12th Mar	9am School Mass
15th Mar	Westzone Swimming Sports
16th Mar	St Patrick's Day
18th Mar	School Fair
20th Mar	Small Sticks Hockey
22nd Mar	Small Sticks Hockey
23rd Mar	11:30am Assembly Room 4
25th Mar	Palm Sunday
28th Mar	Stations of the Cross
29th Mar	Small Sticks Hockey
30th Mar	Good Friday
2nd Apr	Easter Monday - No School
3rd Apr	Easter Tuesday - No School
4th Apr	Student-Led Open Night
6th Mar	Canterbury Swimming
12th April	School Cross Country
13th Apr	11:30am Assembly Room 7
13th Apr	Last Day of Term 1
30th Apr	First day of Term 2



Don't forget to like and Share our School Facebook page. Please help us by spreading the word!



MARIST ALBION RFC JUNIOR RUGBY 2018 PLAYER REGISTRATION

Online registrations are now open for All new and returning Junior players for the 2018 season. The registration form is available on our website www.maristalbion.co.nz under Junior rugby.

All new players MUST attend one of our registration nights (see dates below) and provide us with proof of identity, copies of passports or birth certificates for verification and get weighed in. This is also a good opportunity to meet the committee and ask them any questions you may have about the upcoming season.

SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY 3-5 pm
MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 5-7 pm

Venue: Bowls Papanui, 181 Condon Avenue, Papanui.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: (includes a team photo for each registered player)
 \$80 one player OR
 \$130 for 2 or more children in the same family.

Further membership enquiries can be directed to:
 Brendon Feary 021 236 4003, Greg Ford 027 589 9771 or Steve Kinder 027 271 6671

www.maristalbion.co.nz