Welcome to the 2015 academic year. A very warm welcome to those who join our school community for the first time.

New Staff
This year we welcome a new AP, Mr Patrick Borger who comes to us from St Anthony’s School, Kedron. Patrick was APA at St Anthony’s for ten years before being appointed to St Dympna’s. Two new year three teachers began this term, Miss Jess Dal Pozzo in 3B & Ms Gabriel Cooper 3C. We have a new teacher of The Arts (Drama) Mrs Amanda Crocetti, who will work with prep, year 1 & year 2. Mrs Jenny Rolph is a new learning support teacher working in the lower school. Today we also welcomed a year 2 teacher aide, Mrs Stephanie Binks who is replacing Mrs Sharon Pitman who resigned to take up a fulltime position at Mt Maria College, Mitchelton.

Tennis Court Grant Application
Last year we applied for a BBC Tennis Court grant. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful at acquiring one of these 50% of costs grant. We have an application in for a Gaming Grant which was to cover some of the remaining 50%. This round of grants is yet to be announced.

Parent Information Nights & Meetings
This year we are holding Parent Information Evenings for years 3 to 7. The lower grades are holding individual parent meetings which best meet the needs of the students & families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Administration Address</th>
<th>Parent Teacher Meeting</th>
<th>Parent Teacher Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17 February 2015</td>
<td>7:00pm in the MPH</td>
<td>Year 3 &amp; Year 5 Parent Information meeting in classrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 February 2015</td>
<td>7:00pm in the MPH</td>
<td>Year 4 &amp; Year 6 Parent Information meeting in classrooms</td>
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On Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 7:00pm we have scheduled a Curriculum Information evening for parents. The evening will be run by our School Teaching & Learning Leadership
Team which comprises our Curriculum Support teacher Mrs Jo-Anne Downing, Our Support Teacher Mrs Kim O’Rourke, Our Resource Teacher Mrs Maree Coughlan & the three admin team members, Tanya McNeill APRE, Patrick Borger APA & me. It will be an opportunity for us to discuss the Australian Curriculum & implications for your children as well as our own school & BCE initiatives.

**Active School Travel**
Last Thursday morning we had our formation meeting for our Active School Travel Committee. Thank you to the parents who attended this exciting & important opportunity for our school community. The program will be launched next month at a Monday assembly.

**Professional Development for Staff**
The school year began for teaching staff on Wednesday 21 January 2015 with Professional Development days. Throughout the year professional development opportunities occur for our staff after hours, on weekends & during school hours. Relief teachers are always engaged if teachers are away from class. Our school is one of several BCE schools working on a new BCE literacy project. We are continuing with other major focus such as Visible Learning & a school wide Behaviour Support program.

**External Review Report**
In November 2014 St Dympna’s School had its five year External Review. This is a process undertaken to ensure that the school is compliant with federal & state regulations & directives as well as Brisbane Archdiocesan regulations, policies & procedures. The panel’s report arrived last month & I am tabling a copy at tonight’s meeting. Thank you once again to the parents, students, staff and parish priest Fr Gabriel Kalu who were involved in a day of panel meetings. The school has received many commendations & a few recommendations.

**School Newsletter & Parent Portal**
It is vital that parents read the school newsletter to keep abreast of the busy routines & happenings within the school. Individual class notes & letters are often sent to parents of the younger classes but there are still many important notices & announcements that go into the fortnightly newsletter. Upper school parents rarely receive class notes because the expectation is that the newsletter is read & information is written into school diaries by the students & passed on to parents. We also have a Parent Portal which contains the school calendar which is updated regularly. The Parent Portal is accessed via the school website. The school newsletter subscription is also accessed via the website.

**Student Leadership**
This year for the first time at St Dympna’s School we have year 6 students as our sole school leadership cohort. The majority of our year 6 students are still 10 years old thus still developing their leadership skills. We are offering many opportunities to all of the students to display & develop themselves as leaders. At today’s assembly, the children all received their leadership badge. We look forward to a successful year for this young group of leaders.

Thank you for your attendance at tonight’s meeting. I look forward to another wonderful year at St Dympna’s School.

God bless