

# St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 8 March 28th 2017

## PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

St Augustine is attributed as saying, "If you believe what you like in the Gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself". With Easter now at our 'doorstep', it is timely to try, as much as humanly possible, to contend with the mystery of Easter: What does the Easter story tell us about God's love for us and the expectation of our relationship with others? What does the Easter story tell us about humanity, being fully aware that we are all part of this 'wholeness'; What does the Easter story tell us about suffering and redemption? Perhaps these are big questions best left to theologians and intellectuals, however, I doubt the Easter story was meant to be so esoteric that it could only be communicated to us through the wisdom of others because:

- Any of us who have sacrificed much out of our love for a loved one or friend or even a stranger can relate to the theme of love contained in the Easter story;
- Any of us who have fallen short of our own and others expectations, who have denied others in order to protect self, can relate to the frailty of being part of humanity as expressed in the Easter story;
- Any of us who have experienced unwarranted and profound suffering at the hands of others can relate to the Easter story, realising that not all stories or experiences may have 'happy endings' and that the good do not always immediately triumph.

There is a saying that 'everything is political', however, it is probably more accurate to state that everything is 'relational' - to be viewed in the context of our relationships. So much of the Gospels were, and continue to be, alienating to so many because the words, if put into action, would involve us giving up so much so that others may live 'a little'. The notion of sacrifice and humility that so pervades the Easter story is very challenging to we who live lives of relative comfort, but it was the same for many at the time of the original Easter story too.

I hope families take the time to really ponder their interpretation of the Easter story. I would also hope that, as St Augustine alluded to centuries ago, we are honest with our Parent-Student-Teacher consultations next week and that we act on the strengths and challenges that may be hindering our child's learning this year and not simply take the good points that are expressed as an

indication that no action is required for positive and expected social and academic growth.

Regards

Rod Linhart (Principal)

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### March

Monday 27th	9:00am Morning class prayer assembly (Year 1).
Wed. 29th	9:30am Years 1 & 3 attend Parish Mass. St Brendan-Shaw Year 7 students visit Year 6 2:00pm School Fair Feedback meeting - Shadows Cafe, Latrobe (all are welcome). NW Regional Swimming Carnival (Burnie)
Thursday 30th	St Patrick's School Playgroup 9:00-10:45am.
Friday 31st	10:00am Early Learning Information Session and light morning tea - school assembly hall (all are welcome)

### April

Monday 3rd	9:00am Morning class prayer assembly (Prep). Commencement of Summer-Winter uniform transition.
Wednesday 5th	9:30am Prep & Year 5 attend Parish Mass.
Thursday 6th	11:30am Official opening of our Housing Choices Commemorative Garden - garden near Years 5 & 6
Friday 7th	Plain clothes day - Project Compassion. St Patrick's School Playgroup 9:00-10:45am
Sunday 9th	Palm Sunday - Holy Week.
Monday 10th	9:00am Morning prayer assembly - Holy Week theme.
Tuesday 11th	3:30-7:00pm Parent-Student-Teacher meetings.
Wed 12th	3:30-7:00pm Parent-Student-Teacher meetings.
Thursday 13th	Holy Thursday - Final day of term 1 - Project Compassion boxes returned please.
Tuesday 25th	10:40am meet for the ANZAC Day march.

### SCHOOL TERM DATES 2017

Term 1: Thursday 9th February - Thursday 13th April
Term 2: Monday 1st May-Friday 7th July
Term 3: Monday 24th July-Friday 29th September
Term 4: Tuesday 17th October-Thursday 21st December

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School Banking Details:

BSB Acct: 067-000 Acct: 1027-3325

## **ANZAC Day**

Once again we would encourage students and members of families to represent St Patrick's School by their participation in the annual ANZAC Day march on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Details for your attention include:

- Students to march in **full winter uniform** please.
- Students may wear medals on the right side of their shirts or jumpers, if this is your desire.
- The parade assembles outside the Latrobe Memorial Hall in James Street from 9.30 am and steps off at 9.50 am.
- St Patrick's Catholic School staff will be available to assist with marshalling the children from 9:30am.
- When the parade arrives at the Cenotaph we have been advised that students would be best to find their parents amongst the crowd - ideally, parents should be located on the Latrobe Baptist Church side of the Post Office Reserve, near the Library. Staff will be available to supervise any student whose parents are not easily located and staff will remain near the Cenotaph adjacent to the Latrobe Baptist Church until you pick your child up.

Please note in your child's diary or inform the school office prior to Friday 7th April if your child intends participating in this event. Thank you to those in our school community who intend representing St Patrick's Catholic School in this important national commemoration.

## **Student Mobile Phone Policy**

The School Board recently ratified a Student Mobile Phone Policy (available on our Web site). Mobile phones are an effective and quick means of communication. Where unforeseen events occur, mobile phones provide students and their families with a ready means of communication. There is a need, however, to set clear guidelines and limit their use during the school day, in particular, to avoid unnecessary interference with teaching and learning, in addition to respect the rights to privacy of others

### Guidelines

- Mobile phones must be left in the school office at the beginning of the school day and collected at the end of the school day; it is the student's responsibility to leave and collect the phone at the office, and the phone should be muted.
- Mobile phones may be used at the school office with the class teacher's consent.
- In normal circumstances, parents or caregivers wishing to leave messages for their children should do so by telephoning the school; school staff endeavour to ensure that messages are passed on during class breaks.
- School office staff also assist students who need to contact family or other persons in an emergency.
- The camera function (available on most mobile phones) **must not be used** as it does not comply with the rationale and aims of this policy and the use of the camera may breach Privacy Act rules.
- Unless in exceptional circumstances, mobile phones may not be taken on school camps; parents and students may communicate via the school phone if necessary.

## **Parent-Student-Teacher Meetings: End of term 1 (Tuesday 11th April & Wednesday 12th April)**

As part of our reporting schedule, teachers will be making themselves available for parent-student-teacher discussions **between 3:30pm and 7:00pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April** – we will try to accommodate meetings during the school day if this is your preference and if it is possible. Except for Kinder children, students are strongly encouraged to attend these discussions (although there may be a decision made by you and your child's teacher that determines your child's attendance at this meeting may not be appropriate). If you are bringing other children to a meeting, please ensure they are engaged in independent, quiet work to allow the parent-student-teacher meetings to proceed without distraction. The intent of these 15 minute meetings is to have the opportunity to talk openly and honestly regarding your child's progress this year, whilst also discussing some areas that might or will require some work. It is envisaged that some discussions will be undertaken regarding establishing goals that teachers believe may be important to support to ensure your child makes the most of their schooling this year. A letter with preferred meeting times was included in last week's Newsletter and time allocations will be distributed to families in Tuesday 4th April's Newsletter - **please ensure you return your preferred times by Friday 31st March.**

## SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT, W.E.S.T. and MERCY VALUES

Congratulations to Amaja Scott (Prep) who was awarded a WEST certificate during yesterday morning's assembly. We will continue to acknowledge those students who exhibit WEST (*Welcoming, Encouraging; Sorry; Thankful*) qualities by presenting awards at our Monday morning assemblies. Families are always most welcome to attend our weekly assemblies. For the month of March our whole school PBS focus is "**Learning**" and our WEST focus is '**Encouraging**'. We encourage you to talk to your child about this monthly focus and what it means to him or her.

### House raffle winners

**Byrne House: Chas Kelly**

**Dooley House: Amaja Scott**

**Martyn House: Egan Bos**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

**Kinder:** Emilia Ling for being a caring friend.

**Prep:** Chas Kelly for trying his best with his school work.

**Year 1:** Tyla O'Toole for always working hard on her tasks.

**Year 2:** Eamon Young for his engaged attitude to learning.

**Year 3:** Reuben Stephenson for his attentive listening skills and being a positive role model in

**Year 3:** Reuben Stephenson for being an attentive listener and positive role model in Year 3

**Year 4:** Olivia Wighton for being welcoming, friendly and conscientious class member.

**Year 5:** Makenzi Garwood for her excellent ability to separate phonemes when completing SMART spelling grids.

**Year 6:** Not awarded due to Mrs O'Brien being away.

### Easter Egg Raffle - Easter Egg Donations Requested

Families are asked to contribute an Easter egg that will be used to create some Easter Egg hampers - classes have bags for collection of raffle items. The Years 5 & 6 students will be selling Easter egg hamper raffle tickets outside the assembly hall every morning and outside the school canteen every Thursday and Friday. Tickets will be 50 cents and raffles will be drawn during our school assembly on Thursday 13th April.

### Project Compassion - "Love Your Neighbour"

On Holy Thursday, 13th April, each class will bring their Project Compassion boxes to the basketball court and fill in an image of a love heart to reflect our theme for this year's Project Compassion, 'Love Your Neighbour'. Many thanks to all who contribute to help others in need.

**Families are requested to please ensure their Project Compassion boxes are brought to school on Thursday 13th April.** Many thanks.



### Plain Clothes Day - Project Compassion fund-raiser

Students are invited to wear casual clothes (no thongs or singlets please) to school on Friday 7th April. The cost will be a gold coin donation for Project Compassion.

### Fruit and Rice Day - Wednesday 12th April

On Wednesday the 12th April, we hope students and families support the fruit and rice day, which will simulate the typical diet of many children in some parts of the world who are less fortunate than ourselves. On this day students are asked to bring only fruit to school as a recess snack and at lunch the SRC will provide each student with a bowl of rice and fresh fruit to eat. This participation is voluntary, however, it would be wonderful to see whole-school support as a small token of our gratitude in the light of the poverty of so many and to reflect a real empathy for our neighbours in the light of our Project Compassion theme - Love Your Neighbour - who more often than not, go without much of what we take for granted.

### Devonport Junior Soccer 2017

We have 61 students committed and wanting to play school soccer, which is wonderful. Rosters for the first two games (Saturday 1st April and Saturday 8th April) have been sent home with players today; full rosters will be completed through the Easter break and communicated to soccer families when we receive them. As stated in previous correspondence, in an effort to support those adults who could manage the team on Saturday but couldn't support after-school coaching, this year we will offer team coaching sessions at school during lunch-times, coordinated by myself and facilitated by Years 5 and 6 students. Players will be provided with their playing tops tomorrow; all players will need navy shorts and socks and shin pads are

## Prep News with Mrs Jak

Every morning, Prep students participate in a variety of different literacy activities.

Mrs Adams leads a group of students, usually in a game based literacy skill.

I work with students each day teaching a guided reading session. This gives me the opportunity to work with a small group of students to develop their reading and comprehension skills. We are very lucky to have a new purpose built guided reading table in our class.

The students are also enjoying working on a computer program called Literacy Planet. In addition to this the students rotate through various activities such as puzzles, Magic 100 Words and literacy skills on the iPads.



## St Patrick's Parents & Friends Association

On behalf of the St Patrick's P&F, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who came along to support our wonderful school fair for 2017. I would like to thank all those who took time out to help with the set up and also to step away from their own families and work on our stalls. Your contributions have helped us to facilitate a wonderful event and your generosity has added to our success. Thank you also to our fantastic committee who spent many hours of their own time helping to plan and organise for such a great night. Thank you to those who stayed behind to help tidy up after. Thank you again  
Prue President P&F



## REMINDERS

### Care and Concern

Our school community is special in many ways - dedicated staff, supportive parents, cooperative students - however, our Mercy Charism provides us with key values that, I believe, are real ingredients for our uniqueness - Excellence, Compassion, Hospitality, Dignity, Mercy and Justice. We try hard to live out these values and one way of displaying compassion is for us to be a support to those in our school community who have undergone loss. Please contact your child's teacher, the office staff or Mr Linhart if you feel we could offer support in any way to anyone in our school community in need.



## Pupil Free Day 2017 - Friday 7th July

The Catholic Education Office allocates one Pupil Free Day during the school year for staff professional learning. The North West have been allocated the Friday 7th July as our Pupil Free Day as a region for 2017. We appreciate that this may impact on childcare for families so provide this advanced notice. Friday the 7th July is the final day of Term 2.

## Canberra Instalments - Reminder

The Canberra March instalment of \$225.00 was due on the 20th. Thank you to those parents who have already made regular monthly payments. Should you wish to discuss or inform us of your payment arrangements, please contact Mrs Leonard on 64261 626 or via email: [lennice.leonard@catholic.tas.edu.au](mailto:lennice.leonard@catholic.tas.edu.au)

## COMMUNITY

### Stranger Danger

We discussed the importance for children to be aware of strangers during this morning's assembly and we hope to have a police officer reinforce the message of 'stranger danger' at an assembly in the very near future. Some key points that were raised this morning included: People we don't know as family or friends are strangers; strangers may innocently approach people for information such as directions, however, children should be very alert and, if they are approached, they should politely move on and be aware that they should never go with a stranger; if they feel uncomfortable with a stranger, as a child, they should immediately move away and even look to run to a shop or go to a public location and raise their voice for help. No doubt, families will discuss 'stranger danger' together and you might have other complementary strategies to offer.