

St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 27 September 12th 2017

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

I remember smiling when someone told me that he hopes that when the insects take over the world they will remember, with gratitude, how we used to feed them on all our picnics. We are complex organisms and students at St Patrick's are reminded often that we are both 'head and heart' people, whose actions, words and thoughts have influence on not only our own immediate time and place, but occasionally our thoughts, words and deeds have influence on our own and the future of others. Gratitude may be the memory of the heart, however, in the hustle and bustle of our typical days, the gratefulness that we owe to many is often overlooked and forgotten, which is a shame because there is a clear link between 'gratitude' and 'happiness'.

In crime genre language, 'happiness is an inside job'. The Journal of Human Genetics recently cited a study involving more than 2500 participants that examined what determines a person's basic levels of contentment. The study has concluded that there is, in fact, a 'happiness gene' in the brain, otherwise known as the 5-HTT gene. This gene helps nerve cells recycle the signalling chemical serotonin, which is known to be linked to mood and depression. This gene comes in 'long' and 'short' versions, and individuals who inherit two copies of the long gene from their parents, tend to be more content than those with other combinations.

I don't believe any-one at St Patrick's can afford to be overly content in regards to the feeling that his or her potential has been reached; that there are no goals to set, no strategies to put into place. Regardless of the combination of your 5-HTT gene, I would suspect that there is still some work to be done in order to ensure the word 'contentment' doesn't lead to contempt for working on new ways and in new areas. Students who enter high school with poor literacy skills can face long odds against graduating and going on to postsecondary education or many skills-based careers. Post-school options are certainly reduced if reading skills are low. Aldous Huxley, the English novelist and critic stated, "Every man who knows how to read has it in his power to magnify himself, to multiply the ways in which he exists, to make his life full, significant and interesting". I can't imagine a day without reading, whether it is for work or pleasure; the successful mastery of key literacy and numeracy skills, coupled with character development, have implications far beyond the classroom and home, and I am grateful to those in our school community who

are not content with life 'as it is', and strive to reach a higher potential with a grateful and happy heart.

Regards,

Rod Linhart (Principal)

SCHOOL CALENDAR

September

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| Monday 11th | 9:00am Prep prayer assembly
2:00pm St Patrick's P & F meeting |
| Thursday 14th | 9:00am School vocal ensemble entry in the Devonport Eisteddfod |
| Friday 15th | 9:00-10:40am Playgroup
Sofos meeting at St Patrick's Latrobe
1:30pm CBC Book Week performance |
| Monday 18th | 9:00am assembly - Catherine McAuley focus.
6:30pm School play, "Brian the Christmas tree" performing at the Deloraine Youth Drama Festival |
| Tuesday 19th | School instrumental entry in the Devonport Eisteddfod
2:00pm Official Opening of stage 2 of our 'Pathways to the past' school-Parish History project (Open area adjacent to the school office - all welcome). |
| Friday 22nd | 9:00am assembly to celebrate Footy Colours Day - P & F to provide free drink and hot chips for \$2.00 (NO CANTEEN TODAY). |
| Sunday 24th | Years 5 and 6 begin their Canberra trip (returning Thursday 28th). |
| Monday 25th | 9:00am Year 1 prayer assembly. |
| Wed. 27th | 9:30am Years 1 & 3 attend Parish Mass |
| Friday 29th | Final day of term 3 |

October

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| Monday 16th | Term 4 begins - students are expected to be dressed in full summer uniform
9:00-11:00am Pre-Kinder offered for 2018 St Patrick's kinder students |
| Wed 18th | P & F Lunch - Sausage Sizzle (\$2.00) |
| Thursday 19th | Year 3 excursion - Hagle Farm (TBC)
5:30pm St Patrick's Childcare Meeting |

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2017

- Term 3: Monday 24th July-Friday 29th September
Term 4: Monday 16th October-Thursday 21st December

55 Bradshaw Street Latrobe, Tasmania 7307

Telephone: (03) 6426 1626

Facsimile: (03) 6426 2697

E-mail: stpatlat@catholic.tas.edu.au

www.stpatlatrobe.tas.edu.au

School Banking Details:

BSB Acct: 067-000 Acct: 1027-3325

Staff News

Mrs Gregson was away today attending a Special Learning Needs meeting; Mrs O'Brien will be away this Friday - Mr Puccetti will teach Year 6; Mrs Baker is away this Friday - Mrs Puccetti will teach music; Mrs Harris will be away Thursday.

Winter-Summer Uniform Transition

Winter-Summer uniform transition begins, Monday 18th September, with the expectations that students commence school on the first day of term 4 - Monday 16th October - in full summer uniform. Due to conflicting advice (my apologies) in last week's Newsletter some students have begun the winter-summer transition, which is fine. A reminder that students will have until the end of this term, almost another three weeks, to transition into summer uniform, with the first day of term 4 (Monday 16th October) being the day that all students are expected to be dressed in full summer uniform - hats are compulsory summer uniform. The school Uniform Policy was included with last week's newsletter and can be downloaded from the school website or via the Skoolbag App. for reference.

NAPLAN Online - Readiness Tests

Students in some classes will be participating in some NAPLAN Online Readiness tests this week in preparation for online NAPLAN tests in 2019. This is not a test of student achievement and results will not form part of a student's overall assessment. Participating in this trial is important as it will help us ensure we have adequate Internet connectivity, and whether students have access to sufficient number of devices for NAPLAN testing. During the trial, our school will have the opportunity to practice managing the classroom logistics for an online assessment and the new test administration processes.

Devonport Eisteddfod

St Patrick's School choir will be performing this Thursday 14th September in the Devonport Eisteddfod. The group will be leaving school at 8:45am and returning at 12:30pm. The venue is the Devonport Entertainment Centre. We wish the very best to the following students: Olivia Gow, Ify Nwaba, Lucas Hodge, Logan Benson, Krystal Riley, Isabel Bishop, Eva Saunders-Curran, Lily Woodall, Piper Emmerton, Makenzie Garwood, Molly Clarke, Josie Darby, Tomas Sullivan, Riley Kuys and Maddison Newman. Parents wishing to watch the performance will need to purchase a ticket at the Devonport Entertainment Centre. Students need to be dressed in full winter uniform and have a school jumper.



School Communication

I believe we have effective home-school communication links in place: weekly Newsletters; a school Schoolbag App.; daily sighting and signing of school diaries; approachable staff and friendly, cordial partnerships with parents; school Facebook site; school website; the school telephone being directed to the principal's phone after school hours. As much as social media allows considerable opportunities for communication, **I would strongly encourage parents to go to the source - contact the school - if in any doubt** or if news regarding school routines, procedures or protocols require clarification or elaboration. By ringing the school number, you will usually get an immediate or prompt response, which could save you considerable time and/or anxiety. I occasionally answer inquiries from families before 7:30am and believe this service to our school community helps us be so unique.

Aussie of the month

Congratulations to Olivia Wighton and Kimberly Watkins for receiving the Aussie of the month certificates for the month of August. Both girls have been putting some time and effort into planning how St Patrick's can help people who are not as fortunate as most people in our community. They also live out our WEST principles and PBS values. Our two school captains, James Watson and Maddi Lamprey, are on the look out for students who are living out WEST principles and ask staff and other students to assist them in deciding upon WEST and 'Aussie of the month' awards.



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

WEST Award

Congratulations to Georgie Tueon (Year 2) 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 September our whole school PBS focus is "**Belonging**" and our WEST focus is '**Welcoming**'. 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 54 points: Thomas Marshall

Dooley House 59 points: Molly Clarke

Martyn House 65 points: James Watson

Deloraine Youth Drama Festival

In preparation for the drama performance in Deloraine next Monday, the cast will be performing 'Brian the Christmas tree' to the students in the St Patrick's school hall tomorrow, Wednesday the 13th of September at 1:30pm. Family and friends are also invited to come along and watch. Our play will be 2nd on the program, which begins at 6:30pm at the Deloraine Little Theatre.

Hobart Hurricanes

Members of the Hobart Hurricanes (cricket) will offer a brief skills clinic for younger classes tomorrow from 2:30pm. Players will be available to talk with families after school until 3:30pm

Touch-Typing

Typing Tournament is an online program that aims to develop student's keyboard skills. The program progressively introduces the whole keyboard through paced lessons, games and drills. It actively promotes the use of the right fingers for the right keys. Each student in years 3-6 now has an account with an individual username and password. A Home Use Guide with details of the program and the student's username and password will be sent home to provide parents with information.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Kinder: Hudson Brumby for a positive attitude to his learning and improvement in listening skills.

Prep: Dekota Brumby for trying her best with all of her school work. Fantastic effort, Dekota.

Year 1: Sasha Tucker for excellent improvement with reading.

Year 2: Nathan Davis for working hard on his persuasive writing.

Year 3: Aiden Adkins for his great effort and positive attitude when completing his assessment tasks for Religion and Mathematics.

Year 4: Lochie Veitch for showing persistence with all learning tasks.

Year 5: Jack Hayes for showing leadership, respect and responsibility at Wednesday's shared Mass with the Prep class.

Year 6: Teague Mott for the work and effort he is putting into his information report.



Footy Colours Day - Friday 22nd September

Hot Chips \$2.00 - Free Fruit Box

Students are welcome to come dressed in their favourite team's footy colours on Friday 22nd September. The day will begin with a parade in the assembly hall. The P & F will be selling hot chips at lunch time for a cost of \$2 a bucket. Students will receive a FREE fruit box when they purchase a bucket of chips. Orders will not be required.

Normal Canteen will not be available on this day.

Soup Day

Many thanks to the following parents who supported last Wednesday's P & F Soup Day: Tameika Anthony, Karen Smith, Prue Garwood, Sally Bond, Theresa Omogbai-Musa, Lorraine Young, Anita Tueon, Debbi Dolby and Amy Davis. Our next P & F Wednesday lunch will be a sausage sizzle on Wednesday 18th September; if you would like to help out and have fun at the same time, please leave your name at the school office.



REMINDERS

Marshmallows on sale each Wednesday - \$2.00

As previously communicated to families, Hayley Brazendale, a mother of two children at St Patrick's (who has offered some healthy eating and cooking workshops for members of our school community in the past) is selling her delicious marshmallows to our school community each Wednesday.

Kindergarten Outdoor Transition - beginning Tuesday 19th September.

As part of a transition for kindergarten students into their 2017 five day primary school experience, we will be inviting kindergarten students to engage in play in the primary school playground, beginning Tuesday 19th September – this will enable the children a two week primary playground experience prior to the September holidays. Kinder students will have the specific assistance and support of a 'class cobbler' from an older grade, who will be meeting with the kindergarten class next week to develop some friendship networks; these 'class cobbler' will offer specific student support for kindergarten children, especially in the early phase of this transition. Kindergarten students will still be welcome to use their own toilets and the kindergarten gate to the primary playground will be left open. The primary playground gates will be secured and staff will provide extra vigilance.

Care and Concern

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.

School Banking: Commonwealth Banking every Thursday.

COMMUNITY

Zumba

Zumba will be running each Wednesday of the school term at 6:30pm. Cost is \$7.00.



September 1, 2017

Braddon Federal Electorate Christmas Card Competition

I write to invite students from your school to participate in the design of the 2017 Braddon Federal Electorate Christmas Card Design Competition.

The purpose of the competition is to allow students from local schools to submit their designs for a Braddon Federal Electorate Christmas Card that I will send to the Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and other prominent federal politicians, state politicians and community leaders.

It is entirely up to each school as to what grade they involve or if you wish to enter the competition. Equally each school can make its own decision if you wish to submit multiple designs from multiple grades.

Designs should be A4 size and can be submitted electronically to Julie.dowling@aph.gov.au or by mail to PO Box 908 Burnie TAS 7320.

The closing date for designs is Friday 29 September and successful students will be advised in early October.

I look forward to your students participating and please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions

Yours sincerely

Justine Keay MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BRADDON

