

# St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 27 Tuesday 1st September 2020

## PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Has a family member or friend recently had a baby or about to have a baby? Struggling for a gift idea? I appreciate that my following suggestion would make many people balk at the lack of 'warm, soft, eye-catching or cuddly', but I certainly would have appreciated the following gift when I was a father of my new-born: *"The Social World of Children Learning to Talk"* by Professor Betty Hart and Professor Todd Risley. Some key conclusions from their unparalleled study that involved 13000 hours over two and a half years, include:

- Regardless of a family's income, educational level of parents or the household postcode, research undertaken by Hart and Risley concludes that, up to the age of three especially, the more time parents spent talking with their child day-to-day, the more rapidly the child's vocabulary was likely to be growing and the higher the child's eventual IQ.
- In a typical hour, some families in the study spent twice as much time interacting with their children than other parents, giving their children affirmative feedback an average of more than 30 times per hour - some children heard a prohibition twice as often as they heard an affirmative feedback; these differences in early family experience translated into striking disparities in the children's accomplishments at age 3 in terms of predictors of success in school and the workplace, such as IQ scores and vocabulary growth rates.
- By the time the children were 4 years old some would have heard more than 8 000 000 affirmatives from their parents, whereas others would have heard fewer than 80 000, with these children having 13 million fewer words of cumulative language experience than the group that is exposed to regular high levels of conversation.
- The first 3 years of a child's life experience put in place a trajectory of vocabulary growth and the foundations of analytic and symbolic competencies that will make a lasting difference to how children will perform in later years.

The data shows that the most important aspect of parent talk is its **amount**, which is even more enhanced in its positive impact on the child if this increased amount of talk is embedded in parent-child conversation: speaking and listening in partnership with another person. A key finding from this study is probably best expressed by the statement that "what children need from adults is time." As a parent of 'adult children' I tend to agree with the following quote by Dr Seuss in my reflection of how fleeting is our time as parents of our young children, and how important is our role during these very early formative years, "How did it get so late so soon."

Regards,

Rod Linhart (principal)

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1st	Sophie (school Counsellor) visiting Year 4 Camp Clayton day excursion
Thursday 3rd	Final day to return P & F Father's Day raffle tickets.
Friday 4th	P & F Father's Day raffle drawn during morning assembly 9.00am - 10.30am Inquiring Minds/Set up for Success Birth to 4 program in the kinder classroom (all welcome)
Sunday 6th	Father's Day

## SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2020

Term 3 Tues 21st July 2020 - Friday 25th September 2020  
Term 4 Mon 12th October 2020 - Thursday 17th Dec 2020

## SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2021

Wednesday 20th January: school office opens  
Wednesday 27th January - Staff return  
Term 1 Mon 1st Feb - Thursday 1st April 2021  
Term 2 Mon 26th April - Friday 2nd July  
Term 3 Mon 20th July - Friday 24th September  
Term 4 Mon 11th October - Thursday 16th December

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## Homework

Our school Homework Policy has recently had a review as part of our three-year policy review that is undertaken by members of the School Board and staff. The updated Homework Policy endeavours to highlight the focus of homework as being enhancing spelling, reading and numeracy skills - knowledge, understandings and skills that are a reflection of what students are engaged in at the time. The updated policy has been loaded on our school website and will be included in next year's School Diary. A summary of the policy includes:

### GUIDELINES

- Homework assigned should: be designed to allow students to complete tasks at a suitable level of independence with a relatively high success rate; involve parents in appropriate ways (such as reading with/to or hearing times-tables or various spelling activities); be purposeful; allow students to practice a skill or process that they can currently do independently but not fluently; allow for elaboration on content that has been addressed in class in order to deepen students' knowledge, skills or understandings; provide opportunities for students to explore topics of their own interest.

### AIMS

- To assist students to develop worthwhile study habits, which will equip them with strategies to promote independent learning and time-management skills.
- To provide opportunities for positive support roles for parents to assist their children.
- To be conscious that homework does not encroach on extra-curricular experiences that students enjoy and from which they gain considerable benefit.

### PROCEDURES

- Students are expected to allocate time at home to complete homework.
- Reading daily is one of the most important homework elements for all students.
- There is an expectation that, if there is no reasonable reason provided by parents for students failing to complete homework, that tasks set for homework or other tasks would be completed during part of designated playtime.
- Students are expected to demonstrate pride in their homework by completing the work neatly and returning it on time.



## Spelling Bee

Recently some very brave and eager Year 1 students put forward their names for the inaugural Year 1 Spelling Bee. Last week our Spelling Bee was held with great excitement! The aims of our Spelling Bee were:

- To develop confidence in each student's spelling ability.
- To improve each student's ability to spell 'tricky words'.
- To have fun!

Students practiced HARD and performed WONDERFULLY! We are very proud of these students for putting in the extra effort to improve their spelling skills.

Congratulations to: Seth, Tallan, Violet, CJ, Owen, Zander, Emmy, Porter, Hunter, Aleks, Alexander, Connor, Edmund, Ellie, Henry, Meg, Jacob and Victor for your participation.

Well done to the winners of each category:

- Busy Bees: Tallan Mayes
- Honey Bees: Zander Bloomfield
- Teddy Bear Bees: Aleks O'Toole  
Second: Meg Kelly  
Third: Edmund Barker





### WEST Award

Congratulations to Zita Omogbai-Musa (Year 1) who received a WEST certificate during Monday's morning assembly. We will continue to acknowledge those students who exhibit WEST (*Welcoming, Encouraging; Sorry; Thankful*) qualities and Mercy Values (Hospitality, Compassion, Mercy and Respect) by presenting awards at our Monday morning assemblies.

### House Raffle Winners

**Byrne House:** Alice Parry

**Dooley House:** Dexter Eagling

**Martyn House:** Rose Evans

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

**Prep:** Oliver Anand for his enthusiastic attitude and application towards all of his work and for being kind and caring.

**Year 1:** Edmund Barker for being a happy member of our class and being kind and caring towards others.

**Year 2:** Sienna van der Hulst for working cooperatively with her peers.

**Year 3:** Amaja Scott for her great application with spelling at school and at home.

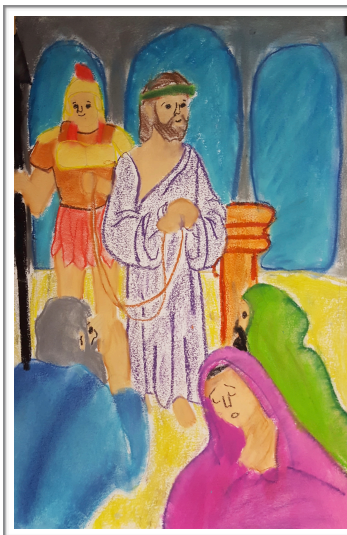
**Year 4:** Blake Kenny for his great work in spelling and for his application towards improving his handwriting.

**Year 5:** Charlie Brazendale for being a helpful and respectful class member.

**Year 6:** Grace Steele for her positive attitude to all tasks.

### Year 6 News - Visual Art / Religion 'Stations Of The Cross' (Mrs Kingshott)

In Visual Art we used pastel crayons and our understanding of the different elements of drawing to portray Jesus' final journey to Golgotha. It was here that the soldiers crucified Jesus. Jesus had to carry his cross all the way to the hill where he would die.



### Winter-Summer Uniform Transition

The two week transition from winter to summer uniform will begin on Monday 14th September. Students may wear their full summer uniform from Monday 14th September, with the expectation that all students from Prep to Year 6 are wearing their full summer uniform at the commencement of term 3, Monday 12th October. Details regarding the uniform and the Uniform Policy are available from our school website in addition to the front of our school student diary. Please contact Tameka or Lennice in the school office regarding uniform needs.

### Father's Day - School Celebration

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our annual Father's Day Breakfast will, unfortunately not be held this year. Teachers have been discussing an effective and balanced approach to incorporating cultural events, such as Father's Day, into the busy classroom curriculum. Students will be involved in creating a response in class that can be provided to fathers or father-figures in their lives that is both meaningful and reflective of a curriculum area, without unnecessarily being overly time-consuming and aimed for presentation alone, rather than indicative of an element of the curriculum.

### COVID School Health & Safety Plan

Thank-you to all our parents who continue to support our school's COVID-19 Safety Plan by observing signage regarding health and hygiene protocols.

## School Validation

Next week our school will welcome a small team of educators as part of a regular appraisal of how St Patrick's responds to both the Archbishop's Charter for Catholic Schools and requirements by the state government in regard to school registration. As part of our school's Validation, the banners outside Mr Linhart's office have now been replaced with a more contemporary presentation that is more reflective of our current student body and highlights with great clarity our relatively recent alignment to our four Mercy Values. Our School Strategic Plan (2021 - 2023) will also reflect our response to recent surveys of staff, students and parents, in addition to a response to student learning outcome data.

## Mercy Day

At the end of term 3 our classes will be taking the opportunity to remember the Sisters of Mercy who worked tirelessly at St Patrick's for over 100 years. The Sisters of Mercy cherished many key values that we continue to hold dearly and we endeavour to reveal these in our daily life. As part of this acknowledgement, students are invited to make a personal response (in their chosen format) to one of our Mercy values of **Compassion, Respect, Hospitality or Mercy**, or they may like to respond to the life of Catherine McAuley who started the Sisters of Mercy. In Week 8, (next week), except for spelling and reading, classes will not have set homework but are encouraged to use the time to make a response to this task. Some ideas may include (but are not limited to):

- Artwork (drawing, painting, collage....)
- Photography
- Journal response
- Poem
- Story
- What hospitality/mercy/compassion/respect means to me...
- I show hospitality/mercy/compassion/respect when I...
- Model
- Craft
- Video
- The possibilities are only limited by their imagination

Student contributions will be collected on the Friday of Week 9 for presentations which will be on display during the last week of school and for sharing at a special assembly. We will award one student from each class whose work demonstrates a positive attitude and application and represents the ideas mentioned above, especially if the response can foster a greater appreciation of these values as a long-term promotion. Digital submissions can be forwarded to the office email. Students are encouraged to be creative - we can't wait to see what you have created.

## COMMUNITY NEWS & REMINDERS

### Father's Day Raffle (School P & F)

If anyone requires more ticket books for the Father's Day raffle please see Tameka Harris at the office. **Tickets must be in by Thursday 3rd September.** Raffle will be drawn Friday 4th September at the assembly.

## Care and Concern

A reminder to all families that we are able to prepare meals for members of our school community who may be in need. Please let the school office or Mr Linhart know if you would like a meal delivered. If you would like to be included in our Care and Concern Volunteer List please contact the office or make a note in your child's diary - thank you to the many school community members who are already on this list and are assisting others: **Feel free to contact the office staff or Mr Linhart if you think we could offer support in any way to members of our school community.**

## 2020 Pre-Kinder/ 2021 Kinder

St Patrick's School will be offering a Pre-Kinder program each Monday morning for five weeks for children who have been accepted into our 2020 Kindergarten class. The sessions will begin at 9.00am and conclude at 11.00am, and all sessions will take place in the St Patrick's School Kindergarten classroom on the following days (children to bring a drink & morning tea): **Monday 16th November; Monday 23rd November; Monday 30th November; Monday 7th December; Monday 14th December.** This timetabling will mean the usual 'Inquiring Minds – Setup for Success' sessions that we offer on Fridays will still be offered as usual. The five Pre-Kinder sessions are aimed to provide children with a realistic 'taste' of kindergarten for 2021; it is expected parents leave their children with the kindergarten staff for the duration of the program – coffee, tea and a light morning tea will be available to parents for all sessions. The parent sessions will be convened in the school assembly hall, beginning at 9.15am, concluding with a catered morning tea at 10.30am. More information will be communicated early in term 4.