

St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 37 Tuesday 24th November 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word gratia, which means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness (depending on the context). In some ways gratitude encompasses all of these meanings. Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. In the process, people usually recognise that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside themselves. As a result, gratitude also helps people connect to something larger than themselves as individuals whether to other people, nature, or a higher power. In positive psychology research, gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. A sense of gratitude apparently helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

In Matthew's infancy story, the name of Mary's child is Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-with us'. God is with us in the poor and the destitute of our world. Matthew's Gospel contains the following powerful passage that compels us to be compassionate and, through our gratefulness for our own 'bounties', become a blessing for others: "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me...what you did to the least of these you did to me". How we live now matters. In last weekend's Gospel we see Matthew's understanding of what is intrinsic to the heart of our faith tradition; the King in the story identifies *himself* with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and imprisoned. Responding to God necessarily involves our response to the needy in this world. Christianity is not simply a set of pious practices, dogmas or rituals; the spiritual person is necessarily ethical. It means making real choices here and now with an eye to the most vulnerable around us.

Thank you to all in our school community who, by acknowledging and appreciating their own blessings in life, display their gratitude by giving to others without an expectation of reward.

Regards,
Rod Linhart

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Monday 23rd 9.00 am - 10.30am Pre-Kinder Session 2
Friday 27th Devonport Show Day Public Holiday (no school)
Monday 30th 9.00-10.30am Pre-Kinder session at St Patrick's

DECEMBER

Tuesday 1st Years 6-7 2021 orientation day for prospective St Brendan-Shaw College and Latrobe High students.
Friday 4th Mitch ('Spirit of Jesus') visiting Yrs 3 & 4 School Library Books returned please
Monday 7th 9.00-10.30am Final Pre-Kinder session at St Patrick's
6.00pm School Board and P & F Dinner
Thursday 10th Year 6 social excursion
Friday 11th 10.30am Prep Nativity Play for Prep families.
Monday 14th 9.30am Prep Nativity Play for students.
5.00pm Year 6 Leavers' Ceremony
Tuesday 15th 9.30-10.50am 2021 classes - orientation
End of Year Reports and School Yearbooks distributed
Wed 16th Class Kris Kindles
9.30am Year 6 Awards & Thanksgiving assembly
Thursday 17th Final day for students

SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 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
(One student free day yet TBC)

55 Bradshaw Street Latrobe, Tasmania 7307
Telephone: (03) 6426 1626 Fax: (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

WEST Award

Congratulations to Beau Wheeler (Year 6) who received a WEST Award during today'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: Indiana Bowkett

Dooley House: Darcy Wrankmore

Martyn House: Jason Richards

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep: Ethan Dick for diligently applying himself 100% to all tasks and for displaying wonderful manners.

Year 1: Lakyn Dezoete for his constant display of WEST values and trying hard across all areas of his learning.

Year 2: Zita Omogbai-Musa for making insightful contributions through class discussions and her written work.

Year 3: Dekota Brumby for being respectful and encouraging towards her peers.

Year 4: Connor Anderson for improved application to completing his work; well done Connor.

Year 5: Stella Riley for bringing a positive attitude into the classroom.

Year 6: Merinda Jones for her thoughtful reflection and response to the experiences she has had while being a student at St Patrick's.

Kris Kindle

This Sunday 29th November is the beginning of the season of Advent, the preparation for Christmas. Classes will be involved in Kris Kindle (Christ Child) this year. The class teachers will ensure each child is secretly allocated a classmate for whom a small present will be purchased. The present will be presented to the classmate during a gift giving ceremony that will be conducted on Wednesday 16th December, our second last day of school for 2020. Please restrict the gift to no more than \$10.00 and parents are requested to help ensure any gift is thoughtfully chosen. Gifts should be brought to school prior to Wednesday 16th December to be left in the classroom, next to the class Christmas focus (Christmas tree, poster, display etc) to help facilitate the joyous anticipation that characterises this special Christian season. Children are also invited to help ensure that their Kris Kindle recipient receives daily messages of encouragement. Such messages could be simple statements of affirmation or something that might brighten the person's day. Please discuss this with your child. Children not wishing to participate in this activity are requested to inform their class teacher no later than this Thursday 26th November. Please contact Mr Linhart for any elaboration or clarification. Thank you,

St Patrick's Catholic School Board

The School Board meets six times each year to assist in the school's governance. If you feel you would like to have some input into the direction of St Patrick's, and if you have 90 minutes to meet from 6:00pm on the third Monday six times from March to November, please express an interest with Mr Linhart or one of the School Board members: Joanne Mulcahy, Julie Fawkner, Felicity Derin-Reeves, Nick O'Toole or Belinda Kelly.

Year 4 (Mrs Meech)

As part of NAIDOC Week celebrations, Year 4 have been examining sand drawings. Sand drawings are considered a significant ritual in most Aboriginal cultures. Traditionally, sand drawings were used to signify territory, tell stories and share the history and origin of the Aboriginal people. Drawing on the sand enables Aboriginal people to connect with their ancestors and symbolises their own return to the land. We examined some symbols that Aboriginal people used and created our own stories. We then used their symbols to record our work. As part of Visual Arts, we also responded to the sand paintings of Aboriginal artists. We have also harvested our broad bean plants that we planted back in term 1 in Science. We were able to pod the beans and followed a recipe for "Broadbean Dip," which we cooked with Mrs Hyland in the school kitchen.



St Patrick's School Giving Tree

Please find included with today's Newsletter a letter and return envelope regarding our school's Christmas Giving Tree. As detailed in the letter we are **requesting all families return this letter in the envelope that is provided marked, 'Principal – Confidential' – families are under no obligation to either donate or seek support**; returning the envelope is a means of trying to ensure each family's circumstances remains confidential.

Prep Nativity Play

Preps will be performing a Nativity Play on two different occasions in December this year. This Nativity Play will be performed in the School Assembly Hall on the following dates:

1. Friday 11th December at 10.30am - Prep parents and family members are welcome.
2. Monday 14th December at 9.30am - St. Patrick's teachers and students.

Should parents and family members be unable to attend the first performance they are more than welcome to attend the second performance. All costumes and materials will be provided by the school, unless otherwise advised/ requested.

As with all school events, all visitors, staff and students are expected to abide by the *St Patrick's Catholic School COVID-19 School Safety Plan* (a one page summary is included in this Newsletter.)

Latrobe Lions Club Christmas Parade

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual Latrobe Lions Club Christmas Parade has been cancelled this year – traditionally, Prep participates in this parade. St Patrick's School has been invited to decorate the Ritchie's IGA shopfront as a means of a community response to enhancing Christmas spirit in the absence of this parade. We are planning on completing an art task that will include input from all students.

Orientation Morning

Tuesday 15th December is timetabled for students to be involved in an orientation session in their 2021 classrooms, most with their 2021 teachers. This will give students and staff an opportunity to familiarise themselves with each other and to discuss 2021 routines. Arrangements for the day are for students to have their register marked by their 2020 class teacher and to then proceed to the Assembly Hall at 9.30am and, after a brief morning assembly, to spend the morning block in their 2021 classrooms with their 2021 class teacher. Mr Atkins and Mr Linhart will work with the 2020 Year 6 class on leadership reflection and other activities.

School Library

School Library book borrowing will conclude at the end of next week, Friday 4th December. Please ensure all student library books are returned during that week. Thank you.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs Meech for successfully securing an ongoing teaching position from the beginning of the 2021 school year. We look to begin 2021 with a student population of approximately 180, which allows us to continue to offer straight, single-stream classes; as indicated in Newsletter 35, the **proposed** 2021 staffing, which was communicated to families on Tuesday 10th November, **may alter** as aspects of planning that aims to maximise student outcomes and staff welfare are discerned, and families will be informed as discernments regarding staffing and classes are confirmed.

Student Achievement: Chess Star Himash Keerthiratne - a rising talent in chess.

Year 6 student, Himash Keerthiratne, is certainly a rising talent in state and Australian chess gradings. Himash's current Australian Chess Federation rating is 1298 and he is rated 49th in Tasmania as of November 2020. His dedication, continued practice and enthusiasm had led him to win the following titles this year:

- **Tasmanian Open tournament** (August 2020)
Title: *Tasmanian Open - Best Junior Player*
- **The Launceston Opening Lightning championship** (November 2020)
Title: *Best Performing Junior*
- **Launceston cup** (November 2020)
Title: *Best Performer having ACF rating under 1500*

We wish Himash all the best for his future endeavours in this field.



PARENTS & FRIENDS (Mrs Anthony)

- Last weeks cupcake day raised \$226 to go toward the 2021 Canberra trip. Thank you to Renee Young, Melissa Marshall, Tameika Anthony, Amy Davis, Anita Tueon, Jo Mulcahy and Lorraine Young.
- Chicken and chip lunch day will be this Wednesday. Orders have now closed for this.
- Raffle tickets will be distributed this week for our Christmas raffle. There are some great prizes to be won; thank you to the many families and businesses who have donated prizes. Tickets will be \$1 each.



- **1st prize: 2 Children's kayaks, including paddles, and seat pads**
Donated by the Wescombe family (MGP) and the Jones family (S & K Building) Valued at \$300
- **2nd prize: \$50 Ritchie's voucher and; a hand made wooden cheese platter a bottle of wine & crackers**
Donated and handmade by the Adams family
- **3rd prize: \$50 Bunnings voucher**
- **4th prize: A homemade Christmas pudding, and a homemade Christmas cake plus a bottle of wine**
Home made and donated by the Young family
- **5th & 6th prize: \$30 Top Shop Voucher**
Donated by Latrobe Top Shop

COMMUNITY NEWS & REMINDERS

2021 Stationery Packs - now available for sale to parents from the school office.

- Parents have been provided with a stationery list for their child's respective 2021 class - parents may choose to purchase items through their preferred supplier **OR** they may choose to purchase the stationery pack from school.
- Class stationery packs will be sold as a unit – we will not be breaking-up the stationery packs that we have ordered and paid for as intermediaries between retailer and families in order to supply the odd item for families.
- Parents are requested to refrain from purchasing outside the set class stationery list - in the interests of avoiding unneeded distractions in class, please do not purchase items such as sequinned pencil cases or outlandish stationery items that will distract children and which usually causes unneeded anxiety if the item gets lost or broken.

Other information to note regarding the 2021 stationery packs include:

- Please ensure your child's stationery items are **clearly labelled with your child's name** - unnamed items get lost very quickly and are often not reclaimed and school staff may need to ask for extra items to replace lost items sooner than expected.
- We prefer all stationery pack list items are **brought to school at the beginning of the school year** - school staff will carefully store each child's pack and also label your child's specific books early in 2021 with the respective subject e.g. *Mathematics, Writing; Journal; Science; HaSS; Health; Religion*.
- Please ensure your child's **pencil case is large enough** to fit in a set of pencils, set of textas, scissors and glue stick; small pencil cases do not fit all these items.
- Your child's current teacher will inform you later this term if there is a need for new **headphones** – most children will simply carry on using their existing headphones.
- Each class will have a set of six to ten **waterproof smocks** that can be shared amongst the class.
- The P & F will be supporting the purchase of **library bags** on behalf of families that will reflect some school-related, child-created art; therefore, this will not be an expense.

2020 Pre-Kinder; 2021 Kinder

St Patrick's School is offering a Pre-Kinder program each Monday morning for four weeks for children who have been accepted into our 2020 Kindergarten class. The sessions will begin at 9.00am and conclude at 10.30am, 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**. This timetabling will mean the usual 'Inquiring Minds – Setup for Success' sessions that we offer on Fridays will still be offered as usual. The four 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 9.30am, concluding at 10.15am.

St Patrick's Catholic School COVID-19 School Safety Protocol

- Adults to please **hand sanitise** upon entering any school building: the school provides hand sanitiser at school venue entry points or adults may use their own (and be observed to use a sanitiser).
- Adults, where practicable, to **maintain 1.5m physical distancing**, observing seating arrangements as communicated by signage or instruction please: indoor event attendance limited to one person per 2 square metre per indoor space.
- Adults to **sign-in**, either at the school office or on a list provided at the entry of the school building. The school is obligated to record contact details of visitors to school events held in school venues, with this information stored securely for a period of 21 days.
- Appropriate COVID safe signage is communicated at school entry points. Key message to visitors - **if feeling unwell, it is important not to be in attendance**; the school will bar entry to people who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Although daily cleaning of frequently touched internal surfaces is undertaken, we ask adult visitors to avoid touching surfaces unnecessarily.

THANK YOU

PLEASE:

- **DO NOT ENTER IF YOU ARE FEELING UNWELL.**
- **SIGN-IN AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE/ASSEMBLY HALL** IF YOU ARE STAYING MORE THAN 10 MINUTES.
- **APPLY SANITISER** UPON ENTRY TO ANY BUILDING.
- **OBSERVE APPROPRIATE SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR SCHOOL COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN.