

# St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 38 Tuesday 1st December 2020

## PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

The great American educator, John Dewey stated that, "Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself." I don't believe Dewey was inferring schools and teachers as being intrinsically important people as we are only too human and self-critical for that; I believe, instead, that he was referring to education being an acute reflection of our willingness and ability to learn from the lessons that life presents. Our greatest regrets usually lie in wasted opportunities and Advent certainly encourages us to seek some respite from busy lives and focus on what is important and good in our lives, and to allow life's lessons to lead us, and others, to renewal.

Last Sunday we entered the Advent season, traditionally a time of preparation, and a cursory review of current news reminds us of the importance to learn from the experiences of others in order to hopefully prepare for 'our day.' However, regardless of our preparations and anticipations, life will undoubtedly involve us, our family, friends and colleagues, with a lesson in which we are almost always ill-prepared. There are times when it is hard to cherish each day and to see the significance of each moment, however, we have the ability to learn from our experiences and the experiences of others and hopefully ensure we make decisions accordingly.

Advent implies waiting, patience, preparedness - qualities that challenge all of us in this most busy of ages of humankind. Pope Francis is quoted as saying, "Christmas is more than a temporal celebration or the memory of a beautiful event; Christmas is an encounter." So, as we enter the final few weeks of the 2020 school year, I pray that we all have the opportunity to reflect on John Dewey's statement regarding education and accept the notion that, whilst there are many unknowns that we are not able to prepare for or prevent in our lives, we can still prepare ourselves for what life presents to us by seeking opportunities to learn from each and every experience - I feel we can always gain much from each and every encounter with each other in our school community, for which I am deeply grateful.

Regards,

Rod Linhart (Principal)

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

Sunday 29th Advent season commences  
Monday 30th 9.00-10.30am Pre-Kinder session at St Patrick's - Focus on Student Support structures and strategies

### DECEMBER

Tuesday 1st Years 6-7 2021 orientation day for prospective St Brendan-Shaw College and Latrobe High students  
Friday 4th Deadline for School Library Books returned please  
Monday 7th 9.00-10.30am Final Pre-Kinder session at St Patrick's - Focus on Play-based learning  
1.30pm SRC Talent Show  
6.00pm School Board and P & F Dinner  
Marty (MJR) working with Year 6 in the morning  
Thursday 10th 10.30am Prep Nativity Play for Prep families  
Year 6 social excursion  
Friday 11th Final 'Inquiring Minds/Set-up for Success session for 2020  
Monday 14th 9.30am Prep Nativity Play for staff and students  
5.00pm Year 6 Leavers' Ceremony in the school hall - RSVP due by 7th December  
Tuesday 15th 9.30-10.50am 2021 classes - orientation  
End of Year Reports and School Yearbooks distributed  
Wed 16th Class Kris Kindles exchanged in classes  
9.30am Year 6 Awards & Thanksgiving assembly  
Thursday 17th Final day for students  
Friday 18th Noon - school office closes

## SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2021

Wednesday 20th January: **school office opens** (closed Mon 25th & Tues 26th Public Holiday)  
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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BSB Acct: 067-000 Acct: 1027-3325

## WEST Award

Congratulations to Amaja Scott (Year 3) 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 - Not drawn this week.

Byrne House:

Dooley House:

Martyn House:

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep: Dexter Eagling for improved application and attitude towards learning tasks.

Year 1: Hunter Viney for his great perseverance and determination with learning his sight words.

Year 2: Lucy Chapman for applying herself to all learning tasks in a positive manner.

Year 3: Tanner Davis for his great application to designing and creating a pencil case in our box repurposing challenge.


Year 4: Cameron Reeves for his consistent application towards completing his tasks-always giving 100%.

Year 5: Ruben Clarke for an improved focus towards learning and for his insightful contributions to class discussions.

Year 6: Ava Franklin for her fantastic improvement in all areas and learning, through having a positive attitude and great application.

## Kris Kindle (REMINDER)

Last Sunday 29th November was the beginning of the season of Advent, the preparation for Christmas. Classes are now involved in Kris Kindle (Christ Child). The class teachers have ensured that 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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. Please contact your child's teacher or Mr Linhart for any elaboration or clarification.



### Learning Plan Reviews

If your child has a current learning plan, in the next few days you should receive their learning plan review for Terms 3 & 4.

If you wish to make an appointment to discuss this with your child's teacher, please make contact in your child's diary.

If you do not need to make an appointment, please sign the "School Copy" and return to the school office.

Many thanks.

## St Patrick's School Giving Tree

Many thanks to the generosity of the many families who have provided a small gift by way of a voucher or donation that will be used to support those families who often require assistance throughout the year due to circumstances often out of their control - information regarding this initiative was included in last week's Newsletter regarding the school's Christmas Giving Tree. Please contact Lennice or Tameka in the school office or Mr Linhart for any information.

## Basketball News (Mrs Meech)

Last week was the conclusion of the Devonport Primary Schools' weekly basketball roster. We would like to thank families for the assistance with bench duty and for ensuring their child's attendance to games. All school basketball tops are to be returned to the school office as soon as possible.



## Soccer Tops

We still have students who have not yet returned their soccer tops could these be returned to the school office as soon as possible.



## Student Achievement

Aiden and Zaria (Year 6) are accomplished hockey players and they participated extremely well in a recent weekend indoor hockey tournament. Well done Aiden and Zaria for your engagement at this level in competitive sport.



## Prep Nativity Play (REMINDER)

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:

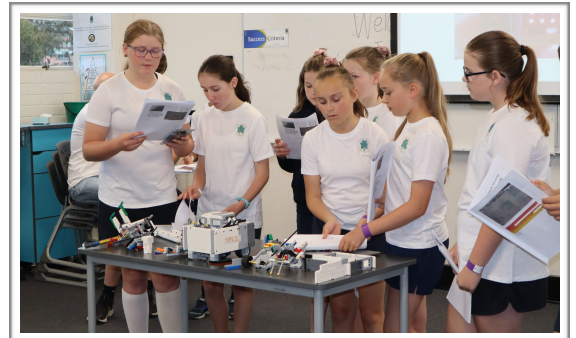
1. Friday 11th December at 10.30am - Prep parents and family members are welcome.
2. Monday 14th December at 9.30am - St. Patrick teachers and students.

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 once again included in this Newsletter.)

## First Lego League Regional Tournament (Mr Atkins)

On Saturday 14 November our two First Lego League Teams from St Patrick's took part in the Hobart Regional Tournament. The students took the judges through all the hard work that they had put into developing their Innovation Project, their Robot Design and Coding. They also had to continually display the First Lego League Core Values of Teamwork, Cooperation (Cooperation and Competition) and Gracious Professionalism. Both teams did extremely well in the judging section, with one of the teams winning one of the minor trophies, the 'rising all star award'. Both teams managed to score well in the Robot Game also. The Robot Game is where the teams have 2.5 minutes to show how many of the missions their robot can complete successfully. All the hard work that goes into building and coding the robot comes down to three 2.5 minute sessions, however the judges only count the best score from the three attempts. Both teams from St Patrick's managed to place in the midfield with scores of 165 points (equal 10th place) and 155 (12th place). All of the students enjoyed seeing how other teams went about building and programming their robots to complete the missions and everyone learned a lot and had fun on the day.



## Parents and Friends News (Tameika Anthony)

Thank you to Kirrily Jones, Lorraine Young and Anita Tueon for helping out on the chicken and chip day a total of \$451.25 was raised for the day. The Christmas raffle is currently underway and will be drawn on Monday 14th December. If you require more raffle books please see Tameika at the office.

**Our last fundraiser this year will be held on Wednesday 9th December. We will be selling Frogs in the pond at recess for \$2.00.**



## COMMUNITY NEWS & REMINDERS

### 2021 Stationery Packs

- 2021 class stationery packs are 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.

### Care and Concern

A reminder for all families that we have the ability to prepare meals and to let the school office or Mr Linhart now if you would like a meal delivered. Please feel welcome to be included in our Care and Concern Volunteer List - thank you to the many school community members who are already on this list and are assisting others: *Always please contact the office staff or Mr Linhart if you feel we could offer support in any way to anyone in our school community in need.*





## 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.