

# St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 8 March 24th 2020

## PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Chris Hatfield is a Canadian retired astronaut, engineer, and former Royal Canadian Air Force fighter pilot. The first Canadian to walk in space, Hadfield has flown two Space Shuttle missions and served as commander of the International Space Station. His workplace was such that observance by individuals who were part of a team regarding procedures and written rules ensured safety and security for all. A more important note that he raised that has particular relevance for our school philosophy and values is an unwritten rule that his team undertook while on mission – each member of the crew had to do one unsolicited kind thing for every other member of the crew every single day of the mission – a mission of five months. Hadfield credits this one unwritten rule had the most impact on the success of the mission. Some interesting points (some of which appear counter-intuitive) that he highlights in supporting teamwork or a sense of community include:

1. **Have an attitude:** In NASA terminology, your attitude is your orientation relative to two positions: in life, losing your attitude – drifting from your path – is way worse than not reaching your destination.
2. **Aim for zero:** In any given situation, according to Hadfield, you're either a 'plus-one', a 'zero' or a 'minus-one'. If you're a plus-one, you're actively adding value. If you're a zero, you're generally competent and don't get in the way. Being a minus-one implies being a liability and may actively cause problems. However, if you're a plus-one and you walk into a situation trying to prove how great you are, you can go from a plus one to a minus one – your 'I've got this' mentality might easily irritate and prove detrimental to the dynamic. So the best thing to do in a new situation? Aim for zero. Listen. Observe. Offer advice. Don't try to take control of everything.
3. **Utilise the power of negative thinking:** By thinking about what could go wrong in any specific situation, you preempt problems with your own solutions.
4. **Sweat the small stuff:** it's about learning and understanding all the little things that develop into a bigger issue
5. **Do care what others think:** It is hard to accept we are not in control of our own destiny. When the stakes are high preparation is everything. If the only opinion

you're worried about is your own, you're probably going to limit your progress.

6. Put groupthink at the core of your teamwork: The key question to ask when you're part of a team is: "How can I help get us to where we need to go?"

At what most people consider is quite a critical moment in time, where we are all asked to be effective 'team' or community members Hatfield's propositions are interesting – empathy and a sense of humour are often very important to effective teamwork. He also suggests that searching for ways to lighten the mood is never a waste of time, because it encourages expeditionary spirit – everyone pulling together in extraordinary circumstances to collectively accomplish a shared goal.

Regards,

Rod Linhart (principal)

## SCHOOL CALENDAR (Red colour = newly added)

### March

Tuesday 24th School Book Fair - **CANCELLED**

Wed 25th School Book Fair - **CANCELLED**

### June

**Monday 8th Public Holiday - Queens Birthday**

**Thursday 11th NW Cross Country - Stella Maris (TBC)**

### July

**Monday 20th Staff Spirituality Day - Student free day**

**Every Friday during school term - until further notice  
9.00-10.30am 'Set-up For Success' -  
Inquiring Minds birth to 4 program in the  
kinder classroom - On-line only.**

## SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2020

Term 1 Thursday 6th February - Thursday 9th April

Easter break Friday 10th April-Tuesday 14th April

Term 2 Mon 27th April - Friday 3rd July

Term 3 \*Tues 21st July 2020 - Friday 25th September 2020

(\* Monday 20th July: Staff PL Day - Student Free Day)

Term 4 Mon 12th October 2020 - Thursday 17th Dec 2020

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BSB Acct: 067-000 Acct: 1027-3325

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

### WEST Award

Congratulations to Indiana Bowkett (Prep) who received a WEST certificate this week. 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 on Mondays in recognition of the previous week's efforts.

### House Raffle Winners

Byrne House:

Dooley House:

Martyn House:

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

**Prep:** Archer Parry for great work writing his name.

**Year 1:** Aleks O'Toole for good listening and trying hard with her work.

**Year 2:** Jakk Burgess for improvement in his listening skills.

**Year 3:** Livai Sesara for his positive application to tasks and always being willing to help out in the classroom.

**Year 4:** Salma Ragheb for working hard in all areas and for being an enthusiastic learner.

**Year 5:** Adam van der Hulst for outstanding effort in writing.

**Year 6:** Ava Chamley for her consistent display of the WEST values and her positive attitude.

### Coronavirus: School Update

- **Health and Wellbeing:** In addition to heightened general cleaning protocols after hours, staff are undertaking at least twice daily 'spraying and wiping' of classroom surfaces, toilets, online devices, doorways, bins, the water bubbler and general thoroughfare surfaces. Students are expected to wash their hands or apply sanitisers throughout the day as they undertake activities, and shared equipment is minimised with the school purchasing additional stationery items to allow more personalised use.
- **Care and concern:** Families whose financial situation has changed due to the economic downturn associated with the Coronavirus are **strongly encouraged to contact the school** and discuss how the **school can assist**. As a school community that is strongly influenced by our Mercy values (Hospitality, Compassion, Mercy, Respect) we can assist families with meals and assistance with school fees. Please contact Mr Linhart - call the school on 6426 1626 during school hours to be directed to Mr Linhart, or call the same number after hours to be directed to Mr Linhart's mobile number. Please be encouraged by our genuine offer of support.
- **School attendance:** Parents, please advise the school of any intention to withhold sending your child to school to allow us to record this in our database and prevent us contacting you daily regarding your child's absence. Our staff are still very busy and are involved in providing teaching and learning for students at school - teachers will, as per our usual protocol, endeavour to provide work for students who are absent with a justification from a doctor. Currently, our direction from Catholic Education Tasmania is that, if a parent withdraws their child's attendance at school as a precaution, there is no assumption that work will be provided as schools continue to operate.

### Parent-Student-Teacher Discussions

By now, your child's teacher or teachers have had the opportunity to get to know your child's strengths and challenges and it is early enough in the year to now discuss some strategies to ensure 2020 is a year of academic and social growth for your child or children. As part of our reporting schedule, teachers will be making themselves available for parent-teacher **telephone discussions** between 8:30am and 6:00pm on Tuesday 31st March and on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd April from 3.30pm-5.00pm. The intent of these 15 minute discussions is to have the opportunity to talk openly and honestly regarding your child's progress this year, whilst also discussing some areas that might require some work. Teachers will prepare to lead the discussion by outlining some noted and evidence-based strengths, some noted and evidence-based challenges, and some relevant goals that we, as parents, students and teachers, can collaborate with that has the intention of enhancing student outcomes. Parents who are interested in confirming a time next Tuesday 31st March, or after school on Wednesday 1st April or Thursday 2nd April, are requested to please return the request form that is included in today's Newsletter **no later than this Thursday 26th March**.

### Home-School Communication

Home-School communication at St Patrick's is an important aspect of our collaborative approach to enhance student outcomes. Our daily review of student diaries, and the opportunity offered to parents to contact Mr Linhart by telephone after hours, are examples of what we believe are effective methods to support respectful and effective communication and also recognises the importance of staff welfare. Meetings - currently over the telephone - can be arranged at the earliest mutually convenient time. Our school does not support families emailing staff. Thank you for your support.





## GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Sakun, 32, is a Gond indigenous woman living in a village in central-east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. Until now, she has been isolated in her community, unable to earn a living and with no knowledge of support schemes that could help her. With Caritas Australia's help, she learned how to access the disability support she's entitled to and has set up her own thriving business. Her income is growing, along with her confidence. Sakun now participates in village decision-making, her progress motivating other community members to reach for their goals.

### Project Compassion

Thank you to the many families who are putting small change in their family Project Compassion boxes that will be used by Caritas Australia to assist families who are in significant need of our assistance. Project Compassion boxes will be requested during Holy Week - the week beginning Monday 6th April.

### Prayer Resources for Individuals and Families (Father Mike)

During this time of social isolation it is important that we pray and stay connected to our community. A range of online resources are available to assist with this. These include daily prayers and readings, prayer services, the Sunday Office, commentaries, homilies and reflections as well as Gospel based activities and resources to support personal and family prayer. Go to: <https://liturgyhelp.com/aus/hobart/pray> and follow the prompts to access. Hopefully these resources will help create prayerful solidarity with our community and the whole Body of Christ. From Sunday, 22nd March, I will be live-streaming Mass at midday most days – all you need do is send an email to [mike.delaney@aohtas.org.au](mailto:mike.delaney@aohtas.org.au) and I will send you a link with instructions how to use the Zoom program. The email will also include dates and times when Mass will be celebrated. I will also be available on Monday 23rd March from 9am - 11am if anyone has any problems making the connection.

### NAPLAN 2020

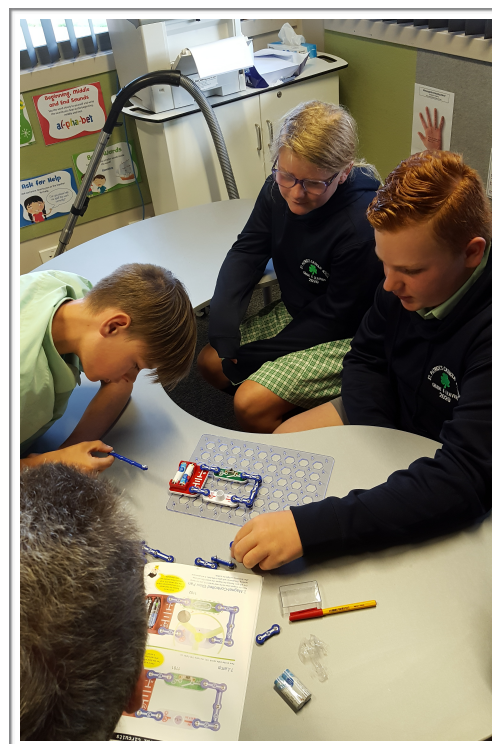
NAPLAN in 2020 was due to be held from Tuesday 12 May until Friday 22 May for our Year 3 and Year 5 students, HOWEVER, **this national test has now been cancelled**, due to concerns by the commonwealth government over social distancing and uncertainty regarding attendance numbers for the tests.

### Home Learning Support - Survey

We are investigating how we can support student learning in the event of school closures. **We would appreciate it if you could please complete** the following short survey that will assist us in our planning. <https://forms.gle/52s71DCZtHucBdsu9> we will also send this link via Compass. Thank you.

### Year 6 News (Mrs Kingshott)

Year 6 students have been introduced to a unit on electricity and through a pre-assessment, in the form of an online quiz, it was discovered that many of them had the misconception that a 'closed' switch meant 'off' and so students believed the circuit was not complete. Where in reality if a switch is 'open' it means the circuit is broken and so the flow of current is broken. Students are now working with Mr Angliss with an electron set to explore this concept.



## Student Achievers

Earlier this month Stella, Samuel, Lachlan and Emilia participated in Run Devonport. Stella completed the 5km race; she placed 44th out of 172 in a time of 24 minutes and 49seconds. Samuel completed the 1km race; he placed 10th out of 93 in a time of 4 minutes 49 seconds. Lachlan completed the 1km race; he placed 12th out of 93 with a time of 4minutes 58 seconds. Emilia completed the 1km race. She placed 33rd out of 93 in a time of 5 minutes 52 seconds. All the children were happy with their efforts and medals.

## School Fee Assistance

As a small school we have a limited discretionary budget that we can commit to support families who have applied for fee assistance - families are encouraged to discuss any request for fee assistance with Mr Linhart at the earliest convenience please. We are yet to be guided by a new Catholic Education Tasmania Fee Assistance Policy, however, **we will do our best to support families who request fee assistance.** Please contact Lennice (School Executive Officer) or Mr Linhart for any advice.

## Inquiring Minds' - Setup for Success Birth to 5 Program

Due to Inquiring Minds being postponed on school grounds we cannot offer our normal face-to-face session on Friday mornings. **We would still like to keep in touch online** with families of our birth-5 children and we will endeavour to do so through an online platform. Each week we will share links to different play ideas, interesting articles and general information through our **Inquiring Minds Facebook group**. We would love for you to join us by uploading photos of any activities that you are undertaking with your children during this time . You can access our Facebook page by clicking on the link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/265771697675097/>. We will also be available between 9:00am - 10:30am each Friday during school terms to 'chat online' should you have any questions or ideas that you would like to add. We look forward to continuing to build our sense of community online during this interesting time in our lives.

## P&F NEWS (Tameika Anthony)

Our recent sausage sizzle and golden syrup dumpling lunch day was a sizzling hit! \$388 was raised from the day. Thank you to Lorraine Young, Julie Dewrance-Milligan, Bart McGann and Anita Tueon who all helped on the day. The St Patrick's day 'green' treats were popular amongst the children. We had a wide range of goodies, toffee apples, cupcakes, jelly slice, marshmallow cones, frog in the pond, and gingerbread men, to name a few. \$330 was raised from the day. A huge thank you to all the parents who contributed to the event by cooking or supplying goodies. Renee Young, Hannah Bakes, Andrea O'Grady, Jo Mulcahy, Kate Warren, Anita Tueon and Kirilly Jones. Thank you also to Lorraine Young and Anita Tueon for helping on the day.

***In light of the recent travel situation our major raffle will be postponed until Term 2.***

## CANTEEN

Canteen will operate this week; however, due to stock availability it will be a limited menu which has been sent home today with students. There will be no over the counter sales until further notice.

## COMMUNITY NEWS & REMINDERS

### Care and Concern

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 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.**



## Inquiring Minds at St Patrick's

### A play-based Birth - 5 program open to all families

Qualified early years educators plan developmentally appropriate experiences for you and your child to explore together.

Our educators work with families to support parental understanding of the development of early literacy, numeracy and communication skills.



**WHERE:**

**WHEN:**

Every Friday during school term

**TIME:**

9am - 10:30am

**WHAT TO BRING:**

We look forward to welcoming your family to our Birth-5 Sessions

55 Bradshaw Street, Latrobe  
Phone: 6426 1626