

St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 9 March 31st 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Through my readings of Abraham Lincoln, I am a quiet fan - I appreciate him as a man who acquired significant responsibility and had broad and enduring positive influences despite enormous obstacles. He stated, "As our case is new, we must think and act anew." We are certainly in times that expect us to 'think anew' and this can offer us challenges, which, if we have sufficient time and talent in our midst, enable these challenges to transform into significant **opportunities**. Staff at St Patrick's are certainly involved in considerable conversations regarding how we, with sufficient guidance and support, can offer opportunities for positive student learning outcomes in the midst of considerable change enforced upon us by cultural constraints.

Sunny Verghese, the founder and chief executive of the world's third largest agricultural conglomerate, Olam International, is quoted as saying, "I'll begin with a confession. I'm 59 years old and until the age of 45, 15 years ago, I had absolutely no clue about what sustainability, what nature and what the environment meant to our lives. My 'road to Damascus' moment was through my children. Fortunately my wife has environmental intelligence, and our children took after her, so they also have some environmental intelligence. So my children told me that you have operations in roughly 70 countries, 74,000 employees, dealing with 4.8 million farmers. What is the purpose of all this overwhelming effort if you can't use that influence and reach to leave this world a better place?" Although a canny businessman, it is heartening to appreciate the value he places in his children's views - he learns from his children. Such a lesson should encourage you as parents as many of you enter a phase of indeterminate and, most probably, a not inconsiderable length, where you will have a more ongoing and constant relationship with your children. These are times of enormous opportunity! I appreciate that they will be tempered by considerable challenges that result from a different social paradigm, however, by listening to and working with your children, I can only imagine at what wonders may emerge.

Please be assured that our staff are working collectively and creatively on a model of educational delivery for term 2 that will hopefully be engaging and interesting. Please also be assured that you remain an important part of a unique, supportive school community - please feel welcome to ring me at any time to discuss question, raise concerns or just to talk. I certainly encourage you to take courage from the following scripture reference and to be buoyed by the prospects that might appear challenges, but through diligent preparation and with a lens of hope, become opportunities: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". Philippians 4: 6-7

Regards,

Rod Linhart (principal)

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Monday 30th March- Friday 3rd April: 'At-school' education for students whose both parents are 'essential services' or those families who are not able to support or supervise learning at home.

Friday 3rd 9.00-10.30am 'Set-up For Success' - Inquiring Minds birth to 4 program in the kinder classroom - Online via the Inquiring Minds Facebook page

Monday 6th April - Thursday 9th April: Student-free days/ commencement of a three-week holiday period for students.

SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2020

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

WEST Award

Congratulations to Tanner Davis (Year 3) who was nominated with a WEST award 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) in recognition of the previous week's efforts. We also congratulate Amelia Jones (Year 5) for being awarded 'Aussie of the Month' for displaying responsibility and consideration of others in her daily endeavours.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep: Jackson Ryan-Woodhall for a great effort towards all his school work.

Year 1: CJ Porteous for amazing efforts in learning his Oxford words.

Year 2: Harry Phegan for his dedication in applying place value concepts in maths.

Year 3: Tanner Davis for making positive choices and being a responsible learner.

Year 4: Oliver Gatehouse for his enthusiasm and efforts in Music activities.

Year 5: Eamon Young for his good manners and for being a quiet, respectful learner.

Year 6: Paul Barrass for his enthusiasm and engagement in designing, creating and recording evidence of his 'Leprechaun Trap' in technology.

Staff and Class News

Ms Stuart was away yesterday and today; Miss Moore was away today; Mrs Klug was away today. Early childhood classes have been combined (a total of 11 children); middle primary classes have been combined (a total of 10 children); upper primary classes have been combined (a total of 6 children.)

Parent-Student-Teacher Meetings

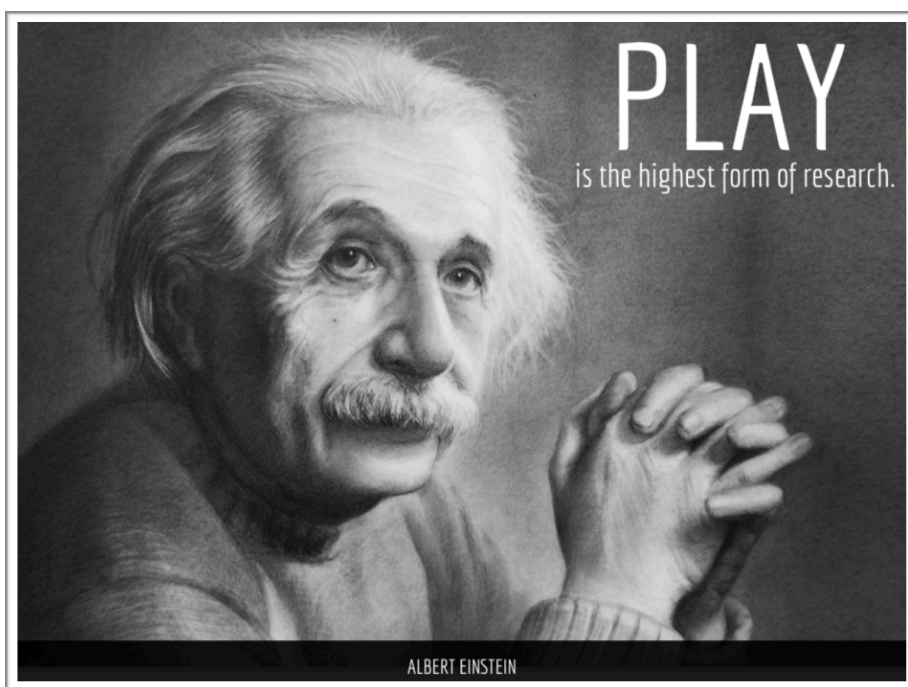
Today teachers have been ringing those parents who responded to our invitation to be involved in Parent-Teacher meetings to discuss some of their child's or children's achievements and challenges in 2020. Some goal-setting should also be an important feature of these conversations. These meetings will continue tomorrow and Thursday.

Teachers have also been making contact with all families in their respective classes yesterday and today. The purpose of these discussions are three-fold:

- Offer any guidance on the 'School-supported, Home-based Learning Resource packs that were distributed to families last Friday.
- Advise families that a number of meals are available to support families – families are requested to contact Mr Linhart, Tameka or Lennice to confirm a meal is available and if they can pick the meal up before 5.00pm (or a meal can be delivered.)
- Clarify that Term 2 education delivery will incorporate aspects of **online learning, print-based learning** and **regular 'catch-ups'** including evaluations and feedback from teachers to the student and parent. We envisage the program to be quite structured and resource rich.

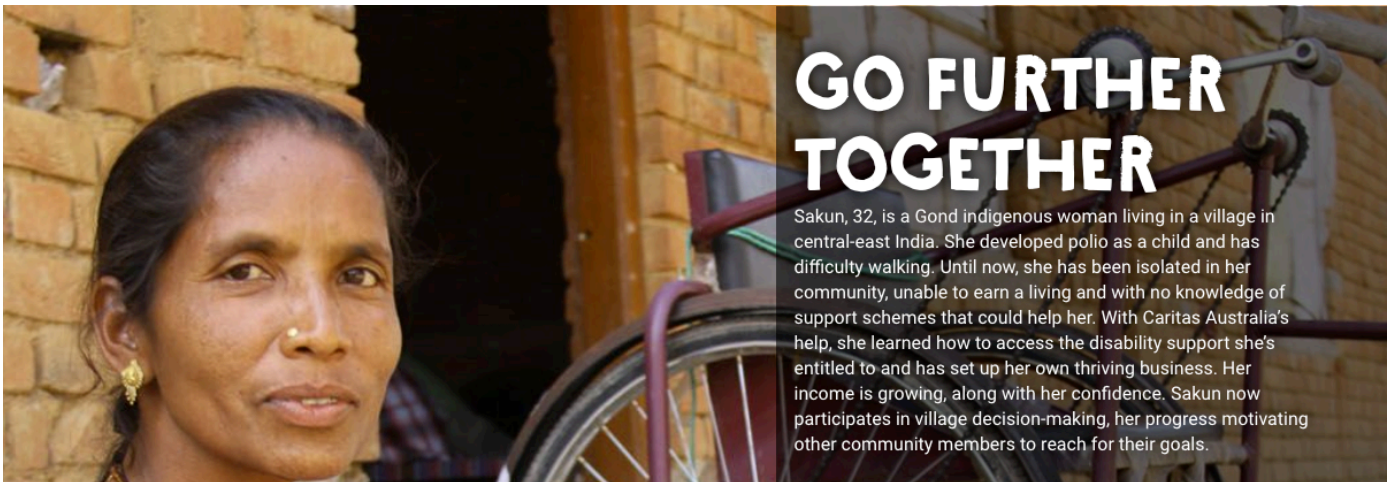
Home-Based Learning Tips

- Create a Daily Schedule that reflects a typical school day - literacy focus of 90 minutes; numeracy focus of 90 minutes; other studies of 60 minutes; ensure children are aware of time expectations for tasks (e.g. 'after 20 minutes of productive work, have a 5 minute break - walk, look out the window, stretch etc; stop work altogether after 90 minutes and have a longer break.)
- Set up a distinct learning space; relatively free of distraction.
- Encourage other interests.



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

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 and communities who are in significant need of our assistance. Due to the difficulty for families to bring their Project Compassion boxes to school for collection and forwarding to Caritas, we are asking families to either make any donation online to Caritas that reflects their home collection, or to wait until our normal school routine resumes. Thank you for your support of initiatives that display compassion, mercy, respect and hospitality to those in various communities who benefit greatly from our generosity.



2020 Sacramental Program

Father Mike has advised that the 2020 Sacramental Program has been cancelled and he looks forward to working with these families and children in 2021. Father Mike has emailed the families involved.



Project Compassion

Holy Week - Beginning this Sunday 5th April

"To pray is to pay attention to something or someone other than oneself" This quote by W.H. Auden epitomises the central theme of Holy Week – God's unqualified love for us as expressed by Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday. The stories associated with Holy Week are central to our Christian faith. They are stories that reflect qualities that would appeal to any Hollywood producer: Love, drama and deceit followed by betrayal, which leads to the horrific death of the main character. Churches will be closed for the usual Holy week obligations, however, faith is as much a personal, inner response as it is a celebration of shared perspectives by way of gathering together. As we, as individuals, celebrate Palm Sunday this Sunday we can only gain a glimpse of Jesus' feelings as he rode into Jerusalem, knowing that the same people welcoming him with joyous acclaim would turn on him and demand his death by Friday. How often have we turned on those who bring news that does not accord with our own selfish desires? Are we Palm Sunday people in all things, or do we allow our own concerns to predominate our relationships so that we become 'Good Friday people', diminishing others and being unproductive? Just as members of our school and wider community come to terms with the lack of the intimacy of many former daily relationships with others, perhaps our Holy Week journey this year might invigorate within us a deeper sense of the love that God has for through the story of sacrifice and renewal that is the Easter story.

Learning at Home' initiative for Term 2 2020

With greatly reduced student numbers this week, although staff are rostered to supervise students, the extra time away from face-to-face teaching is allowing teachers to commence the important and challenging task of discernment and action in our collective goal of creating a new form of educational delivery to commence at the start of term 2 that will be school-supported and home based, which will have the title, 'Learning at Home.' A model for planning and delivery that staff any St Patrick's will be working on this week and next week is outlined below:

1. Using Term 2 Scope and Sequences, teachers develop intentional packages of learning organised into two week blocks. Each two week block may be further broken down into smaller packages appropriate to the age of students and frequency of the subject.
2. The first two week block is prepared, resourced and distributed, either electronically or in hard copy, in readiness for the first day of Term 2. Clear learning intentions and success criteria will be developed to accompany each two week package.
3. Teachers supporting learning at home divide their time between three learning and teaching activities:
 - Real time connection with students (students connecting online or by phone.)
 - Providing timely feedback to students for work being undertaken.
 - Preparing the next two week package.
4. This three-step process will provide a useful structure to guide the preparation of learning opportunities:
 - Acquire knowledge and skills
 - Make meaning
 - Transfer understanding
5. The two week cycles of delivery (*Now*) and planning (*Next*) will support teachers to be flexible and adaptive in responding to collective and individual student needs, and to the ever changing situation, while at the same time providing structure and direction. It also supports teachers in identifying ongoing opportunities for collecting evidence of student learning.

We plan to offer families an opportunity to trial this new model early next week; we will be communication with you via Compass, with the same communication lodged on our school website under the tab, 'Learning at Home'. Having these two sources of communication is an effort on our behalf to convey the same information to all members of our school community at the same time - a reminder for families to please register for Compass to be notified of any updates; these updates will also be lodged on the school website for future reference. This is a challenging, and quite exciting, opportunity and our staff are working as effectively as ever in being collegial and student focused.

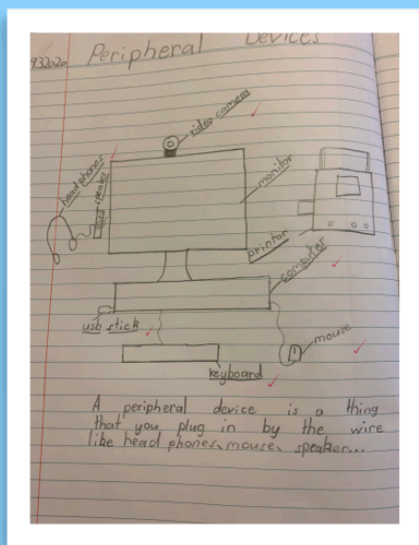
Lessons from nature

I took this photo of a tree that I see on my daily walks. I generally have a wry smile when I pass it as it is a terrific reminder to me of the power of determination and resilience when confronted with challenge. The tree, when being confronted with the large rock chose to bend and continue to grow. As the tree has grown, the once 'puny' seedling, can be seen to now be moving the rock. A testament to what we can achieve in moving 'rocks' in our lives if we are patient and determined.

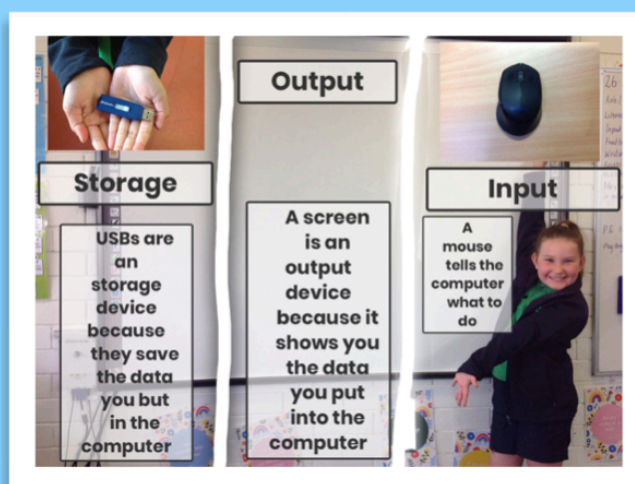


Year 3 News (Ms Stuart)

In Year 3 we have been exploring peripheral devices (keyboard, mouse, speaker, printer, USB, headphones, screens ...) After watching a Youtube video and having a class discussion, students were asked to record their current understanding of peripheral devices using a diagram and written explanation. Our next step was to explore how we could classify peripheral devices. We discussed what some of the devices were used for and watched a Youtube video on input, output and storage devices. We used Seesaw to present our understanding of an input, output and storage device and how they help us use our computer.



By Jimmy



By Rose and Melia

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TASMANIA OFFERS SUPPORT TO PARENTS FINANCIALLY IMPACTED BY COVID-19 (Media Release by Dr Gerard Gaskin, Executive Director Catholic Education Tasmania)

Catholic Education Tasmania is offering support to parents financially impacted by Coronavirus, who may be experiencing difficulty paying school fees. Executive Director of Catholic Education in Tasmania Dr Gerard Gaskin, reassured parents experiencing genuine financial hardship that their child's enrolment is safe.

"Your child is an important part of our community. An inability to pay fees at this time will not compromise your child's place at our schools. We will work with you to find a solution to what will hopefully be a temporary financial hardship," Dr Gaskin said.

Catholic Education Tasmania's Fee Assistance Policy forms the basis of a response to affected families. A condensed Fee assistance application form is now available (via our school website or upon request from the school office) to parents and guardians, allowing them to provide an explanation of their current circumstances and the assistance they feel they need at this time. School finance staff will assess each application subject to criteria.

"I am aware that many families will have unfortunately lost employment or business income due to Coronavirus. Catholic Education Tasmania is committed to providing fast, flexible and confidential financial assistance to support families with managing school fee commitments for 2020." Dr Gaskin thanked Catholic Education Tasmania teachers and staff who are committed to continue working and supporting students and families through the complex months ahead.



Nothing in MY Bag TODAY



Today I did my Maths and Science - I toasted bread. I halved and quartered, counted, measured, used my eyes, ears and head. I added and subtracted on the way, I used the magnet blocks and memory tray. I learnt about a rainbow and how to weigh. So please don't say, "Anything in your bag today?"

You see I'm learning as I play, I learn to listen and speak clearly when I talk. To wait my turn, and when inside to walk. To put my thoughts into a phrase, To guide my crayon through a maze. To find my name and write it down, To do it with a smile and not a frown. To put my pasting brush away, So please don't say, "What, Nothing in your bag today?"

I've learnt about a snail and a worm, Remembered how to take my turn. Helped a friend when he was stuck, Learnt that water runs off a duck. Looked at words from left to right, Agreed to differ, not to fight. So please, don't say, "Did you only play today?"

Yes I played the whole day through, I played to learn the things I do. I seek a problem, find a clue, and work out for myself just what to do. My career sets the scene and stands nearby, To help me when I really try. They are there to pose the problems, and to help me think. I hope they'll keep me floating, and never let me sink. All this is in my head, and not in my bag. It makes me sad to hear you say, "Haven't you done anything today?"

When you attend your meetings and do your work today, I will remember not to say to you, "What, nothing in your bag? What did you do today?"

Author Unknown

***Almighty and All-loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we pray to you through Christ the Healer
for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19
in Australia and across the world.***

***We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss
of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease.***

***Give wisdom to policymakers,
skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,
comfort to everyone in distress
and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress.***

***This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
who showed compassion to the outcast,
acceptance to the rejected
and love to those to whom no love was shown.
Amen.***



Office of the eSafety Commissioner



Online risks ▾ Staying safe ▾ Multimedia reviews ▾ Online safeguards ▾ Get help

Welcome to iParent

Where you can learn about the digital environment and how to help your child have safe and enjoyable online experiences.



Screen Smart Parent Tour

Our 10 minute interactive tour is for parents of pre-teens and young teens (10 to 14 years). It has plenty of tips and practical steps along the way so you can help your child explore safely and manage online issues should they arise. This is especially important at this age as they strive for independence and peer acceptance.

There are no right or wrong answers and you'll get to see how other parents responded to the same questions.

Get started >



HYMN

Care is the cure.
It is slow,
It is raw,
It is pure.
It is simple and bare.
It is real,
It is bold,
It is there.
Nothing is newer
Or older,
Or wiser,
Or truer.
Care is the cure.



SETUP for SUCCESS

COMMUNITY NEWS & REMINDERS

Care and Concern

Thank you to the many families who have contacted the school to offer to prepare meals or donate ingredients and items - your offer of support far exceeds our current request for assistance.

A reminder for all families that we have some prepared meals - pasta dishes, lasagne, quiches, soup - that are available this week and into next week until Thursday. Please contact Mr Linhart or the school office staff if you would like a meal put aside for pick up or 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 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: St Patrick's Inquiring Minds Facebook page

WHEN: Every Friday during school term

TIME: 9am - 10:30am

WHAT TO BRING: A hat, water bottle, piece of fruit & gold coin donation

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

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