

St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 15 May 26th 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

There is a distinct joy to life when encountering new experiences. As we slowly emerge from a time that was characterised by empty highways, singularly-focused news events and unclear horizons, it is timely to reflect upon our experiences from being part of the quite dramatic change in our social, emotional and vocational horizons. Hilaire Pierre Belloc was one of the most prolific writers in England during the early twentieth century and his Catholic faith was a strong influence on his works. He stated, "There was a shepherd the other day up at Findon Fair who had come from the east by Lewes with sheep, and who had in his eyes that reminiscence of horizons which makes the eyes of shepherds and of mountaineers different from the eyes of other men." As people of hope, we come to terms with, and endeavour to make the very best, of times when our horizons are obscured, living with the expectation that circumstances will change, that "this too, shall pass."

A reflection of our school community's endeavours to 'expand the vision' in the midst of a diminishing horizon includes:

- Staff who have certainly worked collaboratively and creatively to support learning in quite disparate circumstances that often had pressing deadlines, providing meaningful learning opportunities regardless of context, including timely and focused feedback.
- Parents who patiently restructured routines, communicated concerns and celebrations respectfully and who embarked with a refreshing enthusiasm on supporting school-based educational initiatives, no doubt appreciating the important role that relationship plays in any learning experience.
- Students who participated with due consideration of the increased level of independence required, taking on responsibility that no doubt will provide a subtle empowerment of their own role in future formal learning engagements.

As individuals who are part of various communities we bring to, and take away with us, various knowledge, skills and understandings. School staff will be reflecting on our school's delivery of education during this time of considerable imposed change, with the intent to identify aspects of our response that we might incorporate, or use as an example when we plan to support student outcome, while also sustaining staff welfare. As our individual and collective horizons become clearer again, our current reflections will hopefully remind us that we have an individual and collective capacity that is often untapped and that quiet, solitary introspection has as much merit as attending meetings and collective agendas, which is expressed well by the nineteenth century American poet James Lowell, who stated, "Solitude is as needful to the imagination as society is wholesome for the character."

Regards,

Rod Linhart (principal)

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Thursday 28th School canteen begins - Winter menu located on school website.

Friday 29th 9.00-10.30am Inquiring Minds - Set-up for Success (Online)

JUNE

Friday 5th 9.00-10.30am Inquiring Minds - Set-up for Success (Online)

Monday 8th Queens Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 12th 9.00-10.30am Inquiring Minds - Set-up for Success (Online)

SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2020

Term 2 Mon 4th May- 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 Routines

Staff are greatly appreciative of the support that we have received from parents. Some notes regarding school routines that reflect our temporary 'new norm' include:

- Signage at school supports our regulatory obligations that reflects being a COVID-safe school; we appreciate your support of any signage such as respecting the 1.5 metre social distancing by adults and for non-staff members to stay outside the school building please (with the exception of the school office.)
- This week classes will focus on formative assessment, maintaining supportive class routines that allow for fresh air breaks, focusing on the positive and expecting the children to follow our example as adults, and allowing everyone time to become familiar with being back at school.
- A reminder that no homework will be issued this week, however, our school diaries continue to be an important home-school communication tool. Home readers will be issued, as will library borrowing.
- Parents of Kinder, Prep, Years 1 and 2 are welcome to pick children up any time from 2.30pm if parents would like to avoid being in a space that could potentially attract more people than is desirable in these times of limited gatherings of adults. Please notify your child's teacher in advance by a diary note to help us support your request.

Staff and Class News

Mrs O'Brien will be taking leave from Thursday 18th June to support the birth of her and Mr O'Brien's baby - we hope to interview for Mrs O'Brien's replacement during the first week of June. Miss Moore will be teaching Year 5 on Mondays and Tuesdays as of Monday 22nd June (instead of Thursdays and Fridays.)

Library News

Book Club Issue 4 is out now! There are some wonderful new books in this issue! You can order online or return your order to the office for processing. Please have your orders in by Friday 12th June. Thank you for your support.

Online schooling from home v school. (Zaria and Maddy 13th May)

Zaria: I enjoyed working from home but there were lots and lots of distractions. The thing I enjoyed most about working from home is you can eat whenever you want. The thing I most enjoy about school is that you get to see some friends and I can ask for my teachers help. Home schooling is a bit boring as well because you don't get to go outside to play with friends. I feel this especially as I am an only child and I don't have any friends who live reasonably close to me. Home schooling might be better for people who like to work in peace and quiet as school can get very noisy. Being at school is great for parents who have still got their jobs but work in a very unworkable or 'not for kids' place. School is a good place for kids who want to go outside with other people or want to play.

Maddy: Today is hard for some people like parents and kids, because some people have lost their jobs for now. I was at home for about 6 weeks and it was frustrating but I had to get used to it because I knew that I was going to be at home for a while. It is normal for kids and parents to be scared or frightened. I felt a bit like that at the start. I honestly think that I prefer online school at school because you still get to see your friends and your teachers. With only some people here, you get to play with some people you don't normally play with or talk to so you get to learn about new people and with only some people at school sometimes there is not as much noise. Online schooling at home is good sometimes but I got quite frustrated with myself. A couple good things about working from home is that you have family with you and you get to eat basically whenever you want and I sometimes found that great .



School Uniform

Thank you to all families for their support of children wearing their full winter uniform. A reminder that students in all grades may wear their **sports uniform every Monday and Thursday**; winter uniform on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Tameka or Lennice, in our school office, are available during school office hours (8.30am - 3.30pm) to assist with the supply of school uniform items. Details regarding the school uniform are located at the front of the school student diary.

NBN Assistance for families during term 2.

Catholic Education Tasmania is proud to announce that NBN (tm)'s \$150million COVID-19 relief and assistance package includes the following initiatives to support the community during this difficult time.

Initiative 1 Low-Income Family Support:

NBN is assisting low income families by working with retail service providers to offer low cost NBN connections to families that have no current NBN Connection. Each provider is offering slightly different options for families, but please advise your families to ask the following when contacting providers:

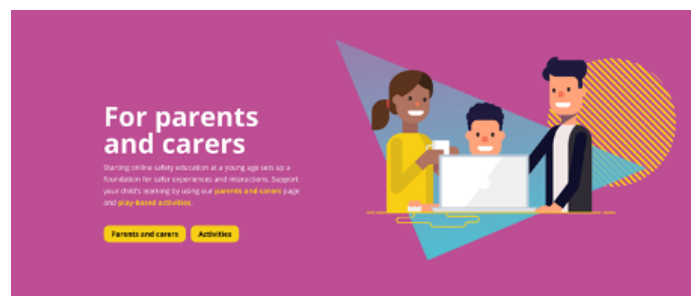
- For a copy of the eligibility criteria (as each provider is different).
- For a "No Lock in Contract".
- For a full summary of any and all costs that could be incurred between now and 30 September 2020 (Example costs include; Install Charge, Setup Fee, New Development Charge, Modem Cost, Monthly fee, Exit Fee).

Please download the "COVID-19 Education Assistance Package Update #3" from the school website under 'News and Forms.'

Playing it safe Cyber Awareness (Mrs Badcock)

The **Playing IT Safe** early learning initiative has been developed in partnership by the Australian Federal Police, the Alannah & Madeline Foundation and the eSafety Commissioner. **Playing IT Safe** aims to help parents, carers and educators teach prior to school age children how to stay safe online. It can be accessed by the following link www.playingitsafe.org.au

The initiative believes that starting online safety at a young age sets up a foundation for safer experiences and interactions. The site includes parents and carers pages and play based activities.



- There are three play-based activities that parents, carers and children can play together. The activities introduce children to basic online safety concepts.
- The play-based activities also allow parents, carers and children to share what they do in the online space and create a safe online culture within the family.
- This includes developing a family online safety plan, discussing what needs to be considered when sharing photos online and getting support from a trusted adult when needed.



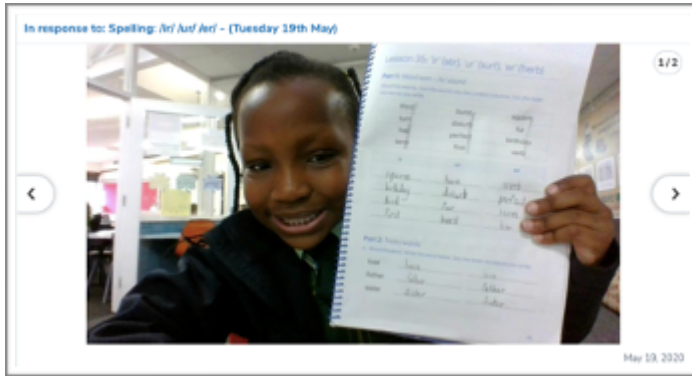
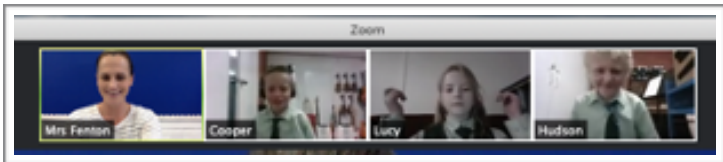
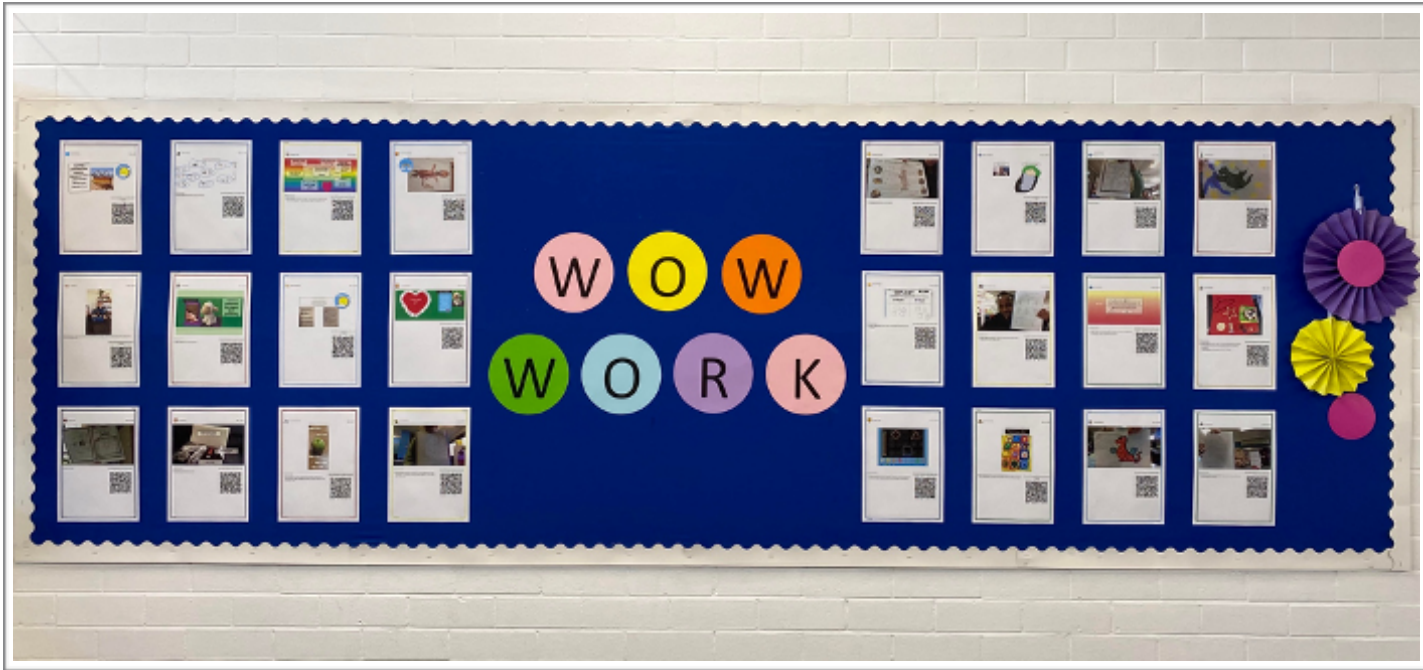
Family technology plan

The family technology plan helps parents, carers and children establish rules around the usage of smart devices in and around your home.

Play

Year 2 – In the Cloud (Mrs Fenton)

It has been impressive to observe the adaptability and perseverance of Year 2 students over the past couple of months. We have admired students' growth-mindsets as they navigated our online 'classroom' during Learning@Home. We thank the many family members operating behind the scenes - helping with entering logins, troubleshooting technology and assisting with Zoom sessions. Students were engaged and respectful participants in each of their Zoom reading groups. Reflecting upon the unique challenges and opportunities presented by remote teaching and learning, we remain in awe of our students' resilience and positivity. We are so grateful to be welcoming students back into the classroom this week!



Canteen

Amy Davis will begin offering her usual delicious food items from the school canteen from this Thursday 28th May. The updated Winter Menu is included in this Newsletter and is also available from the school website under 'News and Forms.'