

St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 20 Tuesday 30th June 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

We all know the experience of sitting in front of someone who we are having a conversation with but we notice they have 'drifted off'; their physical body may not have moved but their eyes seem to recede in some way, and we know attention has gone. And so not only do we feel not heard, but we actually feel disconnected. Attention connects us and when it flows well, we find people feel more strongly connected. Whether we have been using our powers of attention effectively is determined very much by the choices and intentions that we have; we will give our attention to the thing that matters to us in that one moment, however, increasingly research is highlighting our attention is being very easily distracted.

Cal Newport, assistant professor of computer science at Georgetown University, noticed a trend in which our ability to really concentrate intensely for a long period time is actually becoming more valuable in the knowledge economy at the same time that, due to distractions, this skill is also becoming rarer. There is evidence to suggest that multitasking is actually reducing our performance, with research highlighting that even if you are mainly working on one task but every 10 or 15 minutes you glance at your phone or glance at your inbox, this can give you a serious reduction in your cognitive capabilities. It is difficult not to be distracted in the modern world - the same devices that we now use ubiquitously at work, are also the devices that we use for socialising and, increasingly, shopping. It is very hard for some people to avoid the accompanying distractions.

Social media and our growing dependence on online devices can cause our attention to wander from what might be truly and immediately important. The psychology behind online media is so persuasive because it operates on a principle called a variable schedule reward; that if you give people a predictable reward, it's not as persuasive as when rewards are random. Some of the more distracting behaviours in the workplace are popular because they are convenient. For an activity to be deep work a person has to give something, unbroken distraction for a long period of time and the person needs to be pushing his or her mind to its limits - doing something that is cognitively demanding is

deep work. Homes, workplaces and classrooms are full of distractions and, while we need to accept the reality of some distractions, the research supports us in challenging distractions that can be avoided, have become 'common-place' through bad habits rather than sound work practice. The early nineteenth century American philosopher, Henry David Thoreau, lived alone in the woods for some time to avoid many distractions, and his following words provide us with food for thought as we ponder the importance of deep work as we educate children through our words and deeds: "A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone."

Regards,

Rod Linhart (principal)

SCHOOL CALENDAR

JULY

Thursday 2nd	Mrs Kingshott returns from leave
Friday 3rd	Final day of term 2 Casual Clothes Day - Gold Coin
Monday 20th	STUDENT FREE DAY
Tuesday 21st	Term 3 begins - Student Leaders for term 3 are announced.
Tuesday 28th	Sophie, school counsellor, visits Midyear Student Progress Reports distributed - opportunities for parent-teacher meetings (telephone or Zoom)
Wed 29th	Parent-Teacher Meetings
Thursday 30th	Parent-Teacher Meetings

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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Health and Wellbeing

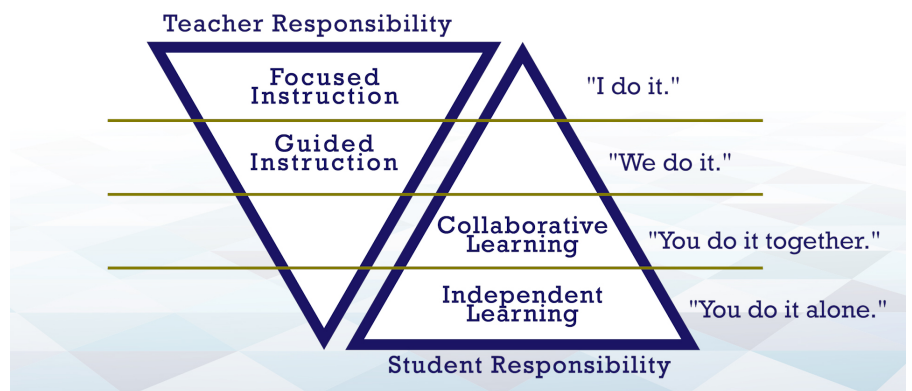
Any member of staff or student with flu-like symptoms (fever, coughing, sore throat, fatigue, aches and pains) will be directed to go home until no longer contagious as determined by a registered medical practitioner. Staff appreciate the support that we receive from families in our collective efforts to maintain an enhanced health and hygiene focus at St Patrick's as we come to terms with the 'norm' that is a heightened sense of good health being expected when engaging in learning at school.

Staff and Class News

Mrs Kingshott is away this week and will return Thursday 2nd July - Mrs Butcher and Mr Linhart are teaching Year 6; Mr Lowry is away until the beginning of term 3.

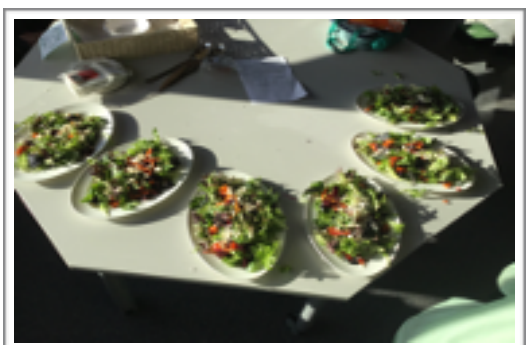
Staff Meetings Gradual Release of Responsibility - Focussed Instruction (Mr Atkins)

During Staff Meetings, our teaching staff have been looking at the Gradual Release of Responsibility (GRoR) Model, which is heavily researched and endorsed by Doug Fisher and Nancy Frey. GRoR is an instructional model that emphasises the importance of moving through phases of learning that gradually aim to shift the cognitive load from the teacher to the students. GRoR consists of four stages as shown in the accompanying diagram. The first phase of GRoR is called Focussed Instruction. This is where the teacher holds most of the cognitive load. During Focussed Instruction teachers provide explicit instruction for the knowledge, understanding or skills that are being taught. They also model for the students what they would expect to see, based on the Learning Intentions (goals for that lesson) and Success Criteria (what success will look like), giving examples. Teachers also model metacognition during this phase to explain the thinking process to students by using what we call "Think Alouds". Think Alouds are a chance for students to hear the expert thinking that we hope the students will eventually use to make decisions about the task they are completing. Because students can't hear our brains thinking, we need to say the thinking out loud for them, so they will know what their brains need to do when they have a turn. For example, "I think that I will need to multiply these numbers because the question uses the word product and when I look at our maths word wall, I can see that product means multiply".



Year 1 Gardening

Year 1 were excited to get back into garden and get their hands dirty after our long absence from our little project. We were happy to see that the vegetables we had planted in term 1 were still strong and healthy and many of them ready to harvest. Armed with our shovels and spades, we picked out the carrots, beetroot and spring onions that we could use to make our warm salad. Year 1 showed how handy they are around the kitchen with their preparation of our meal. Thank you to Mr Butcher and Mrs O'Brien for your help on the day and a big thank you to Mr Tim for keeping our garden going.



WEST Award

Congratulations to Lakyn Dezoete (Year 1) who received a WEST certificate, and Joshua Warren for receiving the June 'Aussie of the Month' award during Monday'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: Melanie G

Dooley House: Xavier P

Martyn House: Lucy C

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep: Jaxon Hampton for his great attitude and application towards his school work and great behaviour too.

Year 1: Victor Barker for a great effort with his writing and listening.

Year 2: Annabell Methorst for applying herself to improve her handwriting skills.

Year 3: Zara Omogbai-Musa for her application and effort with writing tasks, especially her explanation on the water cycle.

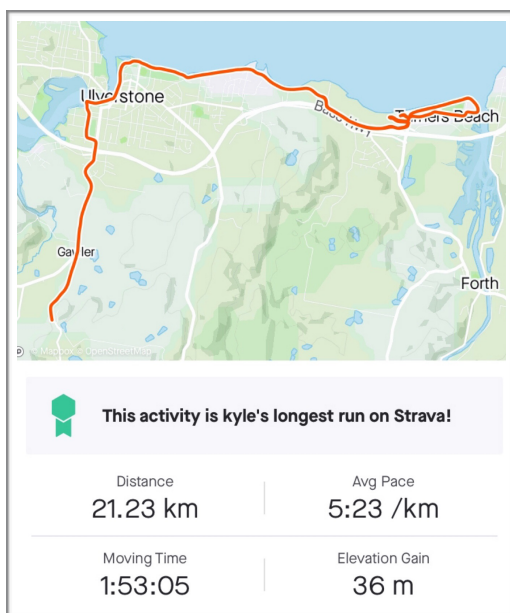
Year 4: Brad Jones for his improved effort and application towards the completion of his work. Keep up the good work.

Year 5: Gideon Barker for his outstanding work in HaSS particularly his poster on Norway.

Year 6: Eden Mayes for her courtesy and consideration and for her quiet attention to tasks.

Student Achievement

Kyle competed in a Half Marathon (21.1km) run finishing in the fast time of 1 Hour 53 minutes and raised \$100 for Rural Aid. Congratulations on this impressive effort Kyle!



Spirit of Jesus @ St Patrick's... Term 2 Week 9



- Frank - encouraging others in a game at recess
- Lachlan W - picking up sports equipment without being asked
- Jimmy - for helping a classmate to tell the time
- Allie - included me in her MJR group
- Annabell - helped Zita when her desk tub fell out

- Sienna - helped others with their work
- Kyle - for helping me
- Alivia - asked Jahzelle if she was okay when she fell over
- Oliver A - he is kind and caring towards others
- Tom - asked someone if they were okay
- Grade 6 students - let us on the swing and pushed us
- Bella - used her pocket money as a gold coin donation
- Dekota - for showing concern for Egan when he bumped his head
- Hailey - for her positive and encouraging comments to others about their work
- Oliver - offered to give his book to another student
- Mrs Adams - she is W.E.S.T, kind and nice
- A family friend - donated their old clothes to another family
- Chloe - sharing with classmates during literacy groups
- Harry - let Hamish have a turn
- Jed - included others in a game
- Jimmy - holding the door open for Livai when he was bringing in the lunch trolley
- Oliver - helping his friends pick up their rubbish
- Dawson - making Talei a 'coffee' from sand at recess

School P & F

On Friday the P&F will be selling hot chocolates from the hall kitchen at recess. They will be \$2.50 and come with a marshmallow and a choc chip cookie. No prior order is required.

School Bus News - Fares

As of Monday 6 July 2020 the Department of State Growth has advised that all regular fare paying bus services will no longer be free. This means students using these services from the beginning of Term 3 will be required to pay for the bus as they previously did before COVID-19. Merseylink has placed signs in all effected buses as well as posted on our social media page and Website.

Reporting student learning engagement: 'Student Progress Statements.'

In line with advice from Catholic Education Tasmania, this year teaching staff will produce **Student Progress Statements** to inform parents of student learning and achievement throughout terms 1 and 2. These will be distributed to families on Tuesday 28th July (week 2 of term 3) and there will be an opportunity for a parent teacher conversation following this. The traditional 'Mid-year Report', therefore, will be replaced by the 'Student Progress Statement': this Progress Statement will provide feedback about a student's progress in key learning areas aligned to the relevant Australian Curriculum and Good News for Living achievement standards. It is a snapshot of student progress up until the end of Term 2, inclusive of learning and assessment opportunities undertaken by students, while working at home. In response to Federal Government amendments regarding the reporting of student achievement due to the Covid-19 pandemic, an A-E rating will not be provided. Student progress will be described as either **developing**, **consolidating**, or **extending**, indicating achievement against the expected standard at the time of reporting. Staff will continue to work diligently in ensuring students are engaged in meaningful and curriculum-oriented learning experiences with each child's responses to these tasks and activities contributing towards a body of work that teachers will make a judgment on student attainment. **Tuesday 28th: Midyear Student Progress Reports distributed. Opportunities for parent-teacher meetings (telephone or Zoom) on Wednesday 29th July and Thursday 30th July (bookings for these meetings will be made directly through Compass - A step-by-step guide how to make a booking will be sent home later this week.)**

School Canteen

For the final two weeks of term 2 the school canteen will operate on a reduced menu - please ensure canteen orders this week reflect this menu. The updated menu went home with last week's Newsletter and is also located on our school web page in the 'News and Forms' tab - 'Canteen Menu - end of term 2.' and our school facebook page. Thank you to Carl, Kylie, Debbie and Talitha for your help last week.

Student Casual Clothes Day - Friday 3rd July (last day of term 2)

There are many families in our school community who benefit from some hospitality and support from our school's Care and Concern initiative. As a means to raise some money to support this school-based initiative students are welcome to dress in casual clothes (covered shoes only - no opened toe shoes or thongs) and contribute a gold coin donation towards our school 'Care and Concern' group that supports members of our school community. Thank you for your support.

Soccer - 2020 Season

The 2020 soccer season will resume on Saturday 25th July. Rosters and information regarding this season will be sent home to registered families once we have received them. **If we have any students who have not yet registered but would like to play can you please make sure you have completed the online registration by no later than this Thursday 2nd July. www.playfootball.com.au**

COMMUNITY NEWS & REMINDERS

Devonport Basketball

McDonald's and Basketball Tasmania are partnering to bring the **BTAS Macca's On Your Team Basketball Camps** to young basketballers born between 2007 – 2012. Our Holiday Camps offer junior basketballer's the opportunity to develop their skills while having fun! The camp cost is \$80 per person for the 2-day camps. Camp registration includes a Molten Basketball! By supporting these camps you are also support your local association! Checkout the flyer for all the camp details and register online: www.basketballtasmania.com.au

**Reminder - Student Free Day
Monday 20th July.**