



# School News

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*"Never see a need without doing something about it"*

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## St. Patrick's Primary School - Pyramid Hill

Dear Parents and Families,

We have arrived at the end of our first term together and what a wonderful opportunity for me to thank you all for welcoming me so kindly into the St Patrick's and Pyramid Hill community. This term has been a busy one but in the same instance, a successful one! I have met many lovely people, have come to know the wonderful students that make up our school and have great staff to work and achieve along side! I am extremely proud to be leading St Patrick's and be apart of this community.

With Easter only a short time away the children have been learning extensively about the Stations of the Cross and Holy Week. We have attended Mass weekly throughout Lent with Father Peter reminding us this week about the importance of giving thanks. At Easter time we specifically give thanks for Jesus and his sacrifice that allows us eternal life. As we approach Easter let us all give thanks for the wonderful people, opportunities and pleasures that we have in our own lives.

Last week we took our learning outside of Pyramid Hill to learn about the landmarks and attractions that we have in the State of Victoria. The Senior students visited the MCG museum, exploring sports that are dear to us as Australians. We even walked on the ground of the MCG! The Juniors went to the Royal Melbourne Zoo and everyone visited an animal of their choice. Throughout the day we walked the banks of the Yarra River, went through Federation Square and rode on busy trams! The day was fantastic. The children were exceptionally well behaved and represented the school with pride. The return trip on the train was also fun filled with bellies loaded with sugar and lots of noise and laughter, all commuters knew who we were! I would take the children of St Patrick's anywhere without reservation.

This week the school board discussed the importance of parent engagement and how integral it is to our school. The board came up with some great ideas that we hope the wider school community will support. We are planning on having two Working Bee's held over two Sunday mornings. The board discussed that having two teams, on two occasions would allow families to commit to at least one. We recognise that the weekends are family time and that some families have work commitments. The representatives at the board thought that having two availabilities would allow all families to be involved. We will set the dates early in term 2. We also discussed an annual fundraiser for the school. The Parents and Friends will plan a Christmas is July dinner and invite the Mum's and Dad's to come along for a social evening of dinner and great fun! We have set the date for **Friday 25th July**. The event will be held at school and we would encourage the school and members of the community to join us. Please put the date on the calendar.

Last night we had our first Learning Expo for 2014 and what a fantastic turn out! The parents and children eagerly shared their learning and practices in the classroom. Every student had learning that they were extremely proud of and showed their parents. Mum's, Dad's and family members thank you for making the effort to come in and recognise the great achievements of our children. Having parents engaged in their children's learning is a great way of achieving better student outcomes. Thank you also to our talented children who prepared nibbles to share! Delicious!

Today we celebrated our last Caritas Cafe. The Caritas Cafe during Lent has raised a total of 613.75. We clearly understand the need to give to the poor and I thank everyone for contributing. We have had many visitors who have been extremely impressed by the children's cooking skills and table manners. We hope to see these community members pop in from time to time even though the Caritas Cafe has finished.

Congratulations to our winners of our annual Easter Raffle. First prize went to Christopher Quinn, Second prize went to Terry Wood, third prize was won by Fiona Moon, Fourth Prize Carol Gibson and Fifth Prize Colleen Hampson. Thank you to all of the families who contributed either through the donation of chocolate eggs, buying raffle tickets or spending some of their weekend time selling raffle tickets out the front of IGA. The funds raised are all spent benefiting the children and providing exciting learning experiences. We would like to especially thank Lisa, the Manager of IGA for supporting the school.

Next term there will be a few subtle changes to our learning timetable that we would like to let you know about. As I mentioned earlier in the term our day will now begin at 8:45am with fifteen minutes spent as Reading Conference time. The teachers will spend one on one time with the students, individually helping the children to focus on one area of their reading. We will have an over arching school focus that we will all be working towards over a week at a time and will inform you of this in the newsletter. On a Friday also the children will be taken to the library for borrowing. Please make sure that all children have a library bag. If you are wanting to purchase a school library bag, they are available from the office for \$3. We are overall trying to promote the importance of reading to our students and a commitment to exposing our children to as much text as possible. This is a great way to engage them as readers. The Senior children (Yr 3 - 6) will be starting Indonesian on a Friday. We will be learning virtually with St Mary's Inglewood and at times in person or online. The children are at an optimal age to learn a second language and we hope to have it offered in the Junior years soon as well.

Sadly this week we offer our condolences to the Fernandez family. Richard's mother and Elijah and Toby's Grandmother passed away suddenly in the Philippines earlier this week. Our prayers and thoughts are with Richard Fernandez and his family during this time. Please continue to keep the Fernandez family in your prayers.

We also farewell Brandi Hoare this week. Brandi and her family are moving away from Pyramid Hill so sadly Brandi will be moving schools. We wish Brandi and her family every success in their new home, school and community.

With all hard work comes a need for a break and I am sure that many families are welcoming the rest from school routine. I wish everyone a happy and safe Easter and look forward to seeing you all back at school in term 2. Thank you for a wonderful first term!

If anyone is in the area over the school holidays, and is available to water our Garden for us, this would be greatly appreciated.

Jasmine Ryan

### ***The Gift of the Eucharist***

Lord Jesus Christ

You give us yourself in the Eucharist

You teach us with your Word

You nourish us with Holy Communion

You strengthen our faith in you Lord.

You help us to serve others as you did

You listen to our prayers and petitions

You bless us with grace in abundance

You forgive us your life and your love.

Lord you come to us in the Sacrament

May we come to you in thankfulness

May we never forget your great love.

### **Level 2 First Aid Course**

St. Patrick's will be running a Level 2 First Aid Course for Staff/Parents/Community members on Thursday 7th August from 3.30pm - 5.30pm. To speed the process along the Theory section of this course needs to be completed prior to the date. I have the link available and can email through to anyone interested in registering for the Course. Cost \$150.00 per person. Please contact Jacinta at the office.

### **LEARNING CELEBRATIONS**

#### **Reading Awards**

Congratulations to Brandi and Toby who have both received their 25 nights of Reading Award.

Please continue to read in the holidays and practise all that you are learning at school.

Well done to both of you!



### **IMPORTANT DATES—2014**

<b>April</b>	
<b>Tues 22nd</b>	Term 2 Commences
<b>Wednesday 30th</b>	Whole School Closure Day
<b>July</b>	
<b>Friday 25th</b>	Christmas in July!

### **EASTER MASS TIMES - PYRAMID HILL**

**17th April - Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 5pm**

**18th April - GOOD FRIDAY  
Celebration of the Passion - 1pm**

**19th April - Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil 5pm**

**Easter Sunday - No Service**



## Social and Emotional Learning

### Junior Room Writing

This week in the Junior Room we have been focusing on Persuasive Writing. We have been trying to persuade people to do something, and to change their mind. We wrote two persuasive texts about climbing Pyramid Hill and why people should travel by train. We hope that we can persuade people to climb the Hill in the School Holidays!

### Climbing Pyramid Hill

Pyramid Hill is a great place to climb. It is fun to explore the tunnels and the tracks and exercise. You can get strong and fit.

Climb the Hill and see the view of Pyramid Hill. You can see the houses, the Quarry and some shops.

Animals have made their own habitat on the Hill. Wallabies make their habitat in the caves.

The Hill is amazing. It is great climb.

