



# School News

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

7th August, 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we celebrate the Feast of St Mary Mackillop. Mary MacKillop as many of us would know is Australia's first ordained Saint. Her work with the poor is recognised nation wide and especially in schooling and education. This week we remember her dedication to the underprivileged and acknowledge her perseverance. We constantly aspire and try to live in her philosophy, " Never see a need without doing something about it."

It is with great sadness this week that I am announcing to our school community that Mrs Wendy Farrant will be retiring at the end of the school year. Mrs Farrant is and has been for the past 8 years a dedicated staff member of St Patrick's Primary School. Mrs Farrant has given her all to the students she has taught, not only in an academic light but provided our students with wonderful worldly experiences and many words of wisdom. I know that the students will remember her fondly. It will be extremely sad to see Mrs Farrant leave us but we wish her every happiness as she retires. We are positive that she will return to visit us for the occasional lunch on Friday or in between her travel adventures. We know Mrs Farrant's family and husband Gary will be extremely happy to have her around more. We wish them all every happiness and look forward to having a wonderful final term with Mrs Farrant. The children have been told by Mrs Farrant and there were many tears, some may need an extra cuddle tonight.

This term is another busy term with many learning experiences that will take place outside of the classroom and away from the school grounds. Permission slips from parents are a legal requirement and we will not be taking any child from the school grounds if permission slips are not completed and signed. I am legally not allowed. This is also a reminder to parents that if your child is to leave school early or not take part in a regular after school activity, the school too requires a signed note so that we have met all legal requirements.

The Senior room will soon depart to school camp in week 9 of this term. The permission slips will be sent home next week to Senior student families and we ask that you complete them as promptly as you can and return them to school. This year the Senior students will be heading to Billabong Ranch on the outskirts of Echuca. There is an abundance of wonderful activities that the children will take part in, including horse riding. Specific details and requirements for the camp will also be sent home to ensure that all families have ample time to get together what they need. If you would like to read up on the camp, please visit this website: <http://www.billabongranch.com.au/>  
We know the children are extremely excited about heading away for a few days with Mrs Farrant and myself!

I am in the process of making arrangements so that the senior students can take their laptops home. Today I am sending home a questionnaire to the senior children's parents to gather information so that I can formalise the paperwork and ensure that the children and technology will be cared for and used responsibly if taken home. Could you please complete the form and return it to school as soon as you can.

Sadly this week we also had a near miss incident that could have been terrible. Mrs Farrant arrived early to school one morning this week and fell over a scooter. It was still dark and Mrs Farrant fell terribly hard. We are extremely lucky that she did not injure herself seriously. I am happy for the children to play on the school grounds after hours, however if carelessness possibly puts others at risk I will have to lock the school gates to ensure everyone's safety.

This term throughout the whole school we have been exploring the wonderful and amazing human body, its many parts, organs and bones. The children are extremely engaged with their learning. The senior grade has been dissecting animal organs and the juniors have been building skeletons through arts and crafts. This week is National Healthy Bones week so some further information has been attached for your reading. When learning about the body we always explore how to best keep the body at it's healthiest. This has created great discussion with our students and it is building a better awareness as to what we need to eat to be healthy. We all enjoy our 'sometimes' foods but we are all trying hard to improve what we eat at school to allow our bodies to get the best that they need. We have been encouraging the children to have a fruit, vegetable or dairy snack at recess and a sandwich or cheese and biscuits at lunch. School lunches should be as fresh and as healthy as possible especially when we are asking our children to learn and concentrate. We are hoping that parents will support this. Children are not to bring soft drink to school at anytime, water and juice boxes are acceptable. Yesterday in class, the whole school brainstormed healthy meals that they like to have. We will publish it and send it home to parents for ideas.

On Monday we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Caritas. Caritas is an organisation that we have generously supported for many years and recognise the important work that they do. With the St Patrick's school community being such advocates of Caritas it is with pride that we acknowledge their 50 years on Monday. On Monday the students and staff do not require any lunch as we will be having a lunch of bread and butter to empathise with the people who rely on the support of Caritas and the many organisations who contribute to their work. If any members of the community would like to join us, we warmly welcome you. Our liturgy will begin at 1:00pm, followed by our bread and butter lunch. Please still send a snack for your children.

As many of you may have noticed this year the teachers and I have been going to great efforts to improve the students learning capabilities and improve their individual understanding of themselves as learners. At times the students can become distracted and tired and that is natural. Sometimes, however the students seek out distractions. It is for this reason that I am not allowing any child to bring personal toys to school. We too frequently have to confiscate toys that are being fiddled with during learning times. This causes disruption to the learning of everyone and upset to the child. St Patrick's is extremely well resourced and therefore there is no need for toys. The children have plenty to entertain them at recess and lunch. We ask for your support on this.

In week 6 we celebrate BOOK WEEK! This year we will do a range of activities and have many guests visit throughout the week. On Wednesday the 20th August the whole school will join in with Pyramid Hill College and Pyramid Hill Preschool for a day of fun and activities. On this day all children have been asked to dress up as something related to food or the garden. The theme this year is "Let's Connect" and collectively we are going to connect with our community over food and the garden. It would be great to see some wonderful costumes for the street parade. Some ideas might be; a flower, a bee / butterfly, a fruit or a vegetable or gardener, or any food you like...just google some ideas and try your best.

Thank you everyone for your ongoing support.

Jasmine Ryan  
Principal

### **Healthy Bones Action Week**

Our Inquiry Unit this term coincides beautifully with 'Healthy Bones Action Week' this week! The students have been learning many new facts and making their own discoveries about their skeleton and the names of some of the 206 bones located in their body. Please pop into the classrooms at any stage to check out their learning. The students would appreciate the opportunity to share their work and achievements.

### **Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop - August 8th**

Loving God we thank you for the example of Mary MacKillop who in her living of the Gospel witnessed to the human dignity of each person. She faced life's challenge with faith and courage.

We pray through her intercession for our needs. May her holiness inspire us to be people of hope, love and forgiveness. We make this prayer through Jesus the Lord. Amen

### **IMPORTANT DATES—2014**

<b>AUGUST</b>	
Friday 8th	Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop 12.30pm. Mass in the Church
Monday 11th	Caritas Solidarity Bread Day
Friday 15th	Feast of the Assumption 12.30pm Mass
Mon 18th-Fri 22nd	Book Week
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Tuesday 2nd	Athletics Day with Pyramid Hill College
Wednesday 3rd	Grade 5 & 6 to Melbourne for Ballet
Thursday 4th	Whole school to Shepparton-Sandhurst Arts on Show



## St. Patrick's Primary School

### MELBOURNE WAREHOUSE

### SHOPPING TRIP

Due to the success of our 2012 Warehouse trip we have booked in again on

**Saturday 8th November 2014.**

Put this date in your diary!

It's a great day out and a fun way to get your **Christmas shopping** done!

The bus will leave from St. Patrick's Pyramid Hill at 5.30am and a pick up will be allocated in Bendigo if need be. **The cost will be \$61.00 per person to be paid on booking**

Contact Jacinta on 54557220

### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

This term we are focusing on relationships. We will be discussing the different kinds of relationships we have with our family, our friends, our school, our community etc..

In the first two weeks we spoke about what qualities make a good friend, being a good listener and being a good conversationalist.

#### **This week we are focussing on friendships.**

As a family it would be beneficial for the students if you could talk to them about these issues. Discuss what qualities you look for in a good friend. Discuss the different relationships you enjoy as a family and as individuals.



## LEARNING CELEBRATIONS

### 100 nights of Reading Award

Well done to:

James Bojo  
Chloe Stevens  
Kevin Coronacion



### 125 nights of Reading Award:

Well done to: Jeff Pacala



### 25 nights of Reading Award:

Well done to: Riley O'Toole



Congratulations to all these students and keep reading each night to practice your skills.