



School News

St. Patrick's Primary School
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Newsletter No.1

"Never see a need without doing something about it"

6th February 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

Welcome to the school year of 2015! I hope everyone had a blessed and restful Christmas or New Year break. It is wonderful to see all of the students beautiful smiling faces back safe and sound. This new year brings many wonderful new beginnings. We warmly welcome Father Eugene Dela Corte who is extremely happy to be here. We offer Father Eugene our prayers, support and encouragement as he serves the collective communities of Pyramid Hill, Cohuna and Kerang. We also officially welcome Miss Wilson who is settling in to the Junior room. We also offer our prayers to Miss Wilson as she begins her teaching career here at St Patrick's.

Over the holidays we had several small improvements made to the school grounds that the children identified straight away. The outside toilet block was rendered in a cream and we will now have the gutters and eaves to be replaced. The children are eager to have some targets and tennis lines painted on the outside as well! The whole internal school was re-carpeted to freshen the place up as the carpet had been here for over 15 years. We have upgraded our bins inside the school to encourage a focus on accurate recycling. The most exciting renovation is our new sandpit! Our past sandpit did not cater for all of us so over the holidays it was doubled in size. The children worked really hard at moving and spreading the sand this week as they were eager to play in it! We are in the process of obtaining quotes to put a shade sail over the top. Hopefully on Monday night when you are here you will notice all of the improvements!

Father Eugene has made great efforts in meeting and connecting with the children, families and community of Pyramid Hill. We are truly blessed to have him. Father Eugene will say mass every Thursday at 9:15am in the Church or the classroom. We would love to see anyone who is available to come along. On the first Thursday of the month mass will be said in the classroom, however there will be a notice on the Church door on these days. Father also aims to be in the Pyramid Hill area each Thursday every week if anyone was needing him.

Welcome to Matilda Matthews and her family, Kelvin, Shelley, Jacob and baby Abraham. We know that everyone will make the Matthew's family welcome and help Matilda to settle into her first year in Prep. Matilda made headlines this week in the Loddon Times. We know that St Patrick's will be a community they share many memories with! In support of Matilda starting Prep Matilda has the beautiful Year 6 Buddy Brianna Stevens to help her learn where and how things happen at St Pat's. Matilda and Brianna have a lovely little friendship already.

This week the Year 5 and 6 students prepared and presented speeches to the whole school as to why they would make the best school captain for St Pat's in 2015. All students should be proud of their preparations. We must congratulate Brianna Stevens, Year 6 and Lizzie Newell, Year 5 on taking on the responsibility of being our school captains this year. It is a very big responsibility and one I know the girls will commit to and do extremely well. Congratulations girls.

The teachers this week had the opportunity to carry out individual assessments on all of the children in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. This allows the teachers to gain insight as to where the children are at and where to pitch their learning. All students did well and we will be using the data to assist us in directing our teaching over the term. The teachers will continually assess the children to be sure that we are teaching to their needs and abilities.

This week the whole school revised what it means to be a responsible Digital Citizen. We are constantly educating the children on how to be safe online and they are growing in their understanding every year. Our children love learning with technology and do so very safely. It would be a great conversation to have with your children at home so that they are carrying over their learning to their devices at home.

This term in our Inquiry the whole school will be looking at the ***"The Learner I Am"***. *This unit will explore every individual's understanding of learning, the learner they are and thinking tools and strategies that we can use to help us to be the best learners we can be. At times throughout the term we will be sending home tasks that may require some parent support. The teachers will provide you with instructions of the task to complete with your child. As a school we are aiming to improve the level of learning and increase the children's ownership of it. Throughout the term we will keep you informed of the different areas we are exploring.*

Next week a Curriculum Newsletter will come home from your child's classroom teacher informing you of the focus for each Curriculum area in Term One. This would be a great read with your child and encourage them to tell you more about their learning at school. A Curriculum newsletter will come home each term so that together we can support the children in all of their learning journeys and experiences. It will also inform you of special dates and occasions.

I apologise for the amount of communication coming home however it is important to set ourselves up for the year. I appreciate you all taking the time to read all of the communication and returning any forms promptly. It makes for a great start to our 2015 school year so thank you.

This coming Monday is our Parent Information night and your allocated times will be coming home today. If you did not return your time preference, a time allocation has been provided for you. This interview is more of an opportunity for you the parents to share your insights about your child which may assist us in providing the best possible experience at school. It is quite informal but a great help to us as teachers. I look forward to seeing you all there and hopefully available for the general session for all parents between 6:00pm and 6:30pm.

Again, our beginning of year Mass and BBQ at the pool was a huge success! Thank you all for coming and sharing time together as a community. I know that my family and I had a great time and am hoping you all did too. It is always wonderful to see our families attend these functions as the children not only have a wonderful time however the parents were giggling and catching up also. Thank you to the wonderful life guards at the pool who kept us safe! We are lucky that we have the capability to do such things as a community.

Finally, thank you all for getting back into the school routine with us. The children seem well rested, well prepared for school, in beautiful uniform and generally happy to be here. I know that it is hard starting of the school routine again after such a long break but appreciate everyone's commitment! Looking forward to another wonderful year together.

Jasmine Ryan
Principal

Our Lenten journey

Lent, which begins shortly, on Wednesday 18th February, invites us into a time of reflection in our relationship with God, with others, with our world. Caritas Australia's Project Compassion provides an opportunity to open our eyes to injustice and to stand in solidarity with the poorest and enable them to take control of their lives. Project Compassion 2015 takes the theme **'FOOD FOR LIFE'**. Once again we will open our Caritas Cafe each Friday during the season of Lent. Those who dine at our Cafe during these 5 weeks are asked to donate money towards the meal. All proceeds will be directed to Caritas Australia. Last year we raised \$1159.90 which was an incredible and generous amount. Please help us as we will try to surpass that milestone this year.

Important Dates for February:

9th - Parent Teacher Information Sessions
13th - Swimming Carnival with PHC at the pool
16th - School Board Meeting @ 6pm
17th - Shrove Tuesday
18th - Ash Wednesday
19th - LENT begins
28th - St Patrick's Working Bee

Our New Sandpit!



Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Day



St Patrick's School Captains

Brianna Stevens & Lizzie Newell.

Congratulations girls!



Welcome to our new Prep girl

Matilda Matthews



BEGINNINGS. Prep student, Matilda Matthews spent her first official day of school last Thursday at Pyramid Hill's St Patrick's Primary School exploring the Stephanie Alexander Eitchen Garden.

SWIMMING FUN AFTER BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS

