

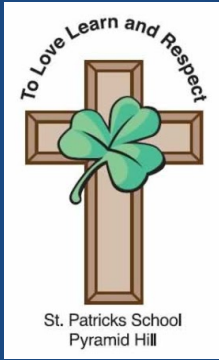
# ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PYRAMID HILL

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***'Never see a need without doing something about it' - St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop***

**St. Patrick's is a welcoming community where all are encouraged to *'Love, Learn and Respect'* in the Josephite Tradition.**

**FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY, 2021 ISSUE NO. 34**

Dear Parents,

It is wonderful to be back at school and into the routine of our day and week. Every Learner arrived on day one with a smile and excitement to see their friends after what seemed like an eternity to these little people. Our three Foundation Learners have settled in seamlessly as our Transition program in 2020 has supported this change, as well as the welcoming smiles and helping hands of every other Learner at St. Patrick's.

Our beginning of the school year Mass was a beautiful way to commence our year together. It was wonderful to be able to connect with each of you again as we embark on yet another year of great learning and achievements. Our community is a unique one and one that we should be proud to embrace and contribute to.

Renovations will commence in the coming days as we welcome McLoughlin builders from Cohuna who will upgrade the pergola area and Kitchen/Art room providing ramp access to this area as well as views from the kitchen to the garden. New shelving will provide ease of access to supplies and kitchen utensils as well as visibility to all kitchen areas from within this room. The additional building of a room will provide Staff with a planning area which will importantly be separate from the staff room. The Master plan will also include upgrade to the existing vinyl cladding, replacing with iron and a new foyer. All stakeholders will benefit from these upgrades including our Learners, staff, parents and community members.

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2021 as the year of St. Joseph. Saint Joseph's "creative courage" emerges especially in the way he dealt with difficulties." "The carpenter of Nazareth," explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility. Our focus this term has also been to use the courage exhibited by St. Joseph as we approach new challenges and tasks. Courage to stand up and to be the best that we can be.

With the change in School Governance brings both excitement, new times and learning. On Thursday 11th March, Joan Coldwell will be presenting to the School Advisory Board and all parents presenting some of these important changes and what it means for our School community. This meeting will be held in the classroom at 5.00pm. I encourage all parents to attend. Child minding will be available in the School Library. Please let me know if you will need this service to support your availability to attend. Thank you in advance.

During the season of Lent we are asked to have courage to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak or those in need. Our fundraising efforts throughout the season of Lent bears witness to this courage. We are asked to give of ourselves and to serve.

The season of Lent is a journey. In these difficult and uncertain times, it can feel like we're lost in the middle of a desert. But we're not alone, and the desert offers us an opportunity to grow. Every Lent, we walk with Jesus on a journey through the desert. We take time to cut out distractions and to renew our faith in God and love for each other. And on the other side of the desert is the joy of Easter and the hope of better days. So join us this Lent as we look at what we can learn from the desert experiences in our lives. Together with Jesus as our guide, we can find "Hope in the Desert."

Keep safe in these uncertain times.

Stay well and positive.

Colleen Hampson  
Principal



***'Waiting is painful. Forgetting is painful.  
But not knowing which to do is the worst kind of suffering.'***

*- Paulo Coelho*

**Every day  
COUNTS!**

School success starts  
with attendance

## Loddon & Terrick Swimming sports

Today our Grades 3 - 5 Learners participated in events which involved either width or length events. All Learners exhibited courage to persist when the distance looked very long, or the stroke was challenging. Thank you to Jo and Leiza for supporting these Learners throughout the days events.

During the afternoon our Foundation to Grade 2 Learners worked very hard to demonstrate their skills and willingness to have a go. Thank you Sam for leading these young Learners throughout the afternoon session.



## Tagalog Links

Maligayang Pagbabalik!

It's nice to see all of you and the smiling faces of new Foundation Learners, who will be learning another language this year.

Such a good one that we've started the day with our prayers with the sign of the cross in Tagalog and ended it up with Salamat po! (Thank you). Great remembering.

Learners were able to present their ideas by creating a video with their classmates. With these interactions, it helps them to learn by doing and collaborating too. A very creative way to put their learning into action. Together with learning skills and learning strategies, we are looking forward to more fun learning outcomes for Tagalog.

Let's enjoy learning!

Maraming Salamat!

Nizelle Sawit  
Language Assistant



## Chaplain's Chat

What a start! What a beginning! It can happen over and over in a day. When we are starting to get back into the school routine it can be met with opposition, tears, frustration, overtiredness, overwhelmed and moody little people.

It can be an exhausting time for many parents, we can often feel defeated and want to just give in. As adults we know change is never easy but it can have good effects on our life, day or moment. Little steps can make a difference, a calm voice can calm a storm, a hug can relax a tired body. Go gently in this time of transition. Little people need your praise and support no matter what part of the routine they come up against. Simple, clear and consistent!

Bath Time



Brush teeth



Book and Bed



God bless.

Leiza  
Chaplain

## Learner free day

On Friday 26th February, Staff will be participating in professional learning alongside staff from St. Mary's Cohuna and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Elmore.

Together the three schools have embarked on a three year journey to promote learning and to make this learning visible for all. Learners achieve greater success when they know what they are learning and why.

All staff are very excited to embark on this journey and to enhance their teaching and learning skills for our Learners.

This day is a Learner free day.

## 2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM



L - R:

**Gillian Pacala**

School Captain &  
Pastoral  
Wellbeing Leader

**Ivee Rian Pantig**

School Captain &  
Catholic Identity  
Leader



## OUR BIRTHDAY CALENDAR - February:

**2nd** - George Hammond

**3rd** - Jean Mann

**14th** - Nizelle Sawit

## Literacy

People can be similar and different. This is what makes storytelling about people's lives so interesting. This fortnight, Learners have been reading and writing Personal Narrative and Biography texts which describe the lives of others and the impact that their actions had on society while they were being the best that they could be.

Our Learners have embraced the new structure of the Literacy block with Reading and Writing together. One Learner stating "It's easier for me to write" and another saying "I use what we are reading in my writing."

## Inquiry Unit

What are problems and challenges and who experiences them? This is the question that our Learners have begun to investigate within our Inquiry topic over the last fortnight. While participating in some challenging team work activities, Learners have come to the conclusion that everyone experiences problems in their lives, even teachers and parents!

During our Inquiry launch, Learners' bravery, confidence and persistence was on display as they performed Disney karaoke in Kelly Park, asked questions and began conversations with local community members, decorated cakes and worked together as a team to solve challenges. We commend all Learners for striving to be their best.

## Music

We are excited about Music this term. Music fits so well with our pattern learning in Math and is also an ideal platform for exploring being the best that we can be.

We are creating our own musical patterns as we imagine, explore and experiment with a range of musical ideas including rhythm, pitch, dynamics and tempo.

Our 3 - 6 Learners will also be creating their own composition.

## Mathematics

Patterns are all around us: in colours, shapes, noises, sizes and numbers. Learners are investigating patterns and developing the skills to utilise patterns in solving problems.

Junior Learners have shown great awareness of patterns in their environment and are beginning to use language to name and describe the patterns that they copy, create and continue. Senior Learners have been setting and working towards goals in their Math as they look for adding and multiplication patterns.

Learners are enjoying the extra time in Mathematics as they are presented with time to set goals, reflect on their successes and challenges as well as use the skills that they are learning to solve real problems.



## Respectful Relationships

All Learners have loved diving back into Respectful Relationships this week! Each Learner has shown respect and kindness toward others when they are sharing their feelings toward experiences which is wonderful!

F-2 Learners have enjoyed participating in activities that involve describing how they feel and displaying the body language for each emotion.

Grades 3-6 Learners worked together to create a human freeze frame to display an emotion and their peers were asked to guess the emotion they were expressing. Learners could then describe a personal experience when they felt this feeling.

WELCOME  
TO  
OUR  
FOUNDATION  
CLASS



L - R:  
**Maia Sawit,**  
**George Hammond,**  
**Phoebe Bojo**



## CHILDREN'S CHATTER MATTERS!

### Focus: Complex sentences

Using longer and more complex sentences supports children to think deeply about what they are thinking and saying:

1. Play a game that your child is very familiar with and ask them to give you step by step instructions on how to play the game. (Pretend you've never played the game before and follow their instructions literally!). The same activity can be done with assembling a jigsaw puzzle together – take turns to tell each other where to place the pieces.
2. For every simple question you ask your child ask 2 complex ones. For example; 1. What's that a picture of? 2. Tell me how you made/drew that. 3. What do you think that character might be saying in this picture?



# Strategic Plan

Each fortnight we will identify how an aspect of our school life is supporting our Strategic Plan.

## Wellbeing

*'Fostering healthy, safe and hope-filled communities committed to the dignity of each person' (CoSSI)*

## Strategic Intentions:

To provide a safe and welcoming learning environment that allows Learners to acknowledge, embrace and accept challenges.

## Success criteria:

To build on individual strengths.

In these first three weeks of the new school year our Learners have been building their skills in persistence and courage. Singing in public, reading at Mass, speaking to an audience and participating in swimming events to showcase their skills! Just a few of the courage building experiences.

## The season of Lent



During the season of Lent each grade will be responsible for organising a fundraising event for Caritas Australia.

Throughout the forty days of Lent we seek to support those who are in need. Each Wednesday Learners are asked to bring a gold coin to contribute to this fundraising event.

Our School Captains, Gillian & Ivey Rian will support each grade to promote their fundraising event.

The timetable of these fundraising events was sent home to each family on Wednesday. We encourage families to display this timetable in a prominent position to enable Learners to be organised for each event.

## SHROVE TUESDAY



On Tuesday 16th February, staff and Learners will walk to the supermarket to celebrate Pancake Tuesday and to cook and sell pancakes.

We will depart school at 11:00am and return to school by 12.30pm. Learners and staff will walk to local businesses to sell pancakes. Learners are asked to bring a gold coin to purchase a pancake on the day. All funds raised will be donated to Caritas Australia.

Upon our return to school we will participate in the Burning of the palms liturgy in readiness for Ash Wednesday.

At 1.15pm we will depart for our first Gym session at Cohuna.

A busy day!

## Gymnastics

Four sessions have been scheduled at the Cohuna gym! Our first session will commence on Tuesday 16th February. Learners will need to wear their sports uniform for the next four Tuesdays to be prepared for this learning.

A permission form has been included with this newsletter.



## LODDON & TERRICK SWIMMING SPORTS



## STRIVING TO BE OUR BEST!

**Name: Jores Correa** - For quickly settling back into the school routine, being a great support for younger Learners and displaying growing confidence as she shares her knowledge with her teachers and peers.

**Name: Reece Fernandez** - For working hard towards his Math goal, showing courage and persistence when learning seemed difficult. Believing you can learn is so important, you should be proud. It's going to be a great year!