

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 11TH FEBRUARY, 2022 ISSUE NO. 1

Dear Families,

What a start to the new school year. Who would've thought that we would be entering into a third year of restrictions on what we can or can't do and who is allowed at school and who's not. It's been a little frustrating that we haven't been able to have a get together and that our Start of Year School Mass has had to be postponed. I know that all our new staff are really looking forward to the opportunity to meet with you and get to know you all.

I would like to officially welcome all the new staff: Kirsty, Maryanne, Kerri and Zoe, and thank the existing staff and families who have made us feel so welcome. The learners have made an excellent transition back into school life and have really adapted well to all the newness around them.

The staff spent a day together on the Friday before the children returned where we launched a theme for the 2022 school year: "Hope - For Now and Whatever Lies Ahead". With so many new people and new opportunities this year, our hopes and dreams for ourselves, the students and our community are both exciting and a little bit scary. In this Sunday's Gospel we hear Jesus speaking to the crowds about what we now call The Beatitudes. The word beatitude means blessing and Jesus tells us that in times of difficulty we will be blessed and he gives us a sense of hope in the rewards we will receive if we stay true to him. As we start this new year, with all our hope and dreams before us, we pray that Jesus will bless us and be with us in our trials and triumphs, in our sadness and our joys.

Have a wonderful week

John O'Connor
Principal

TALAARAWAN

February

- 14th: School Photos
- 16th: Foundation Students Rest Day
- 18th: Pupil Free Day
- 21st: Australia Day Awards Presentation
- 23rd: Foundation Students Rest Day

March

- 1st: Shrove Tuesday
- 2nd: Ash Wednesday
- 9th: Gymnastics
- 11th: Swimming Sports
- 14th: Labour Day Holiday
- 16th: Gymnastics
- 17th: St. Patrick's Day
- 23rd: Gymnastics
- 30th: Gymnastics

St. Patrick's Primary School is committed to child safety.

We believe all children have the right to feel safe and to be safe.



HOPE - For now and whatever lies ahead.

Every day
COUNTS!

School success starts
with attendance

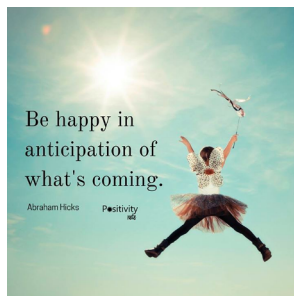
Chaplain's Chat

What have you been focusing on at the start of 2022? The what if's? All the changes or what drama is this year going to bring? Do you wake up going "just another day"? We can have HOPE in every situation, the choice to seek a brighter expectation on any day. Let's wake up with this quote in mind, **let's be happy in anticipation for what's coming.**

The prospective lens we look through, has the ability to impact our attitudes, behaviours becoming our actions. Make the everyday opportunities be met with your Happy anticipation, for in the ordinary, extraordinary things can happen. So looking forward to sharing the year 2022 with you all.

Leiza

School Chaplain



Tagalog Links

Mapagpalang araw sa lahat!

A new year and a fresh start. I feel welcomed and really glad to be working at St. Patrick's Primary School as a Language Assistant. It is my privilege to meet the staff and learners of this community. This makes me feel happy and has positive vibes.

Learners revisited some Tagalog greetings and were able to sing-along cheerfully. With this I am looking forward to wonderful times to share more learnings to our learners.

Keep safe and God bless.

Mary Anne Domingo

Language Assistant



Saint Valentine

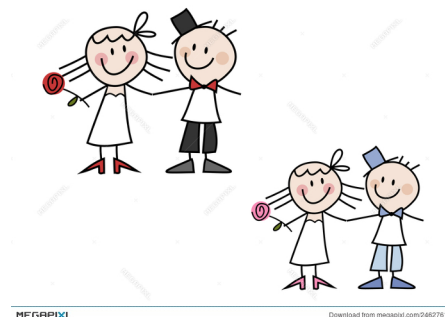
Something that surprises me is the way that we can know who some saints are without actually knowing their story and why the church honours them.

Saint Valentine is especially interesting. Being that he died in the year 269, it is tough for us to really know a lot about him... but there are many stories and legends of his life.

Saint Valentine lived when Claudius II was the ruler of Rome. Like all Roman leaders of the time, Claudius wasn't too fond of the Christians. He banned Christians from getting married and having children, hoping that they would eventually die out.

This made things really tricky for the Christians following God. First, they knew that God wanted them to worship Him, not the false gods of Claudius II. Second, they knew that God wanted them to get married and start families.

Saint Valentine, who was a priest, believed that he had a special role of being God's helper during this time. He decided that he would continue to marry the men and women who wanted to get married. This had to be done in secret as the Romans would have killed him if they found out, which is eventually what happened. This man was full of courage, faith and love and is why he is the patron saint of love and marriage.



INQUIRY UNIT LAUNCH



OUR BIRTHDAY CALENDAR -

February:

3rd - Jean Mann

Literacy

Our focus in literacy this week is Nouns and Narratives. Nouns are naming words and have a variety of different categories. We have proper nouns e.g. our personal names and the names of countries, cities and towns. We have common nouns which are the names of everyday objects and things such as table, hat and ball. Then there are abstract nouns which are the names of feelings and ideas such as love, creativity or democracy. Finally, we have collective nouns which names groups of things like a herd of cows or a school of fish. The learners will focus on these as they also delve further into narratives and story writing.



Inquiry Unit

This week saw the launch of our new Inquiry Unit. The learners had a lot of fun being problem solvers and using their creativity to make bridges. These were no ordinary bridges though, these bridges had to be made out of marshmallows and spaghetti! They also had to be strong enough to hold Kerri's full drink bottle.

The learners did an amazing job and all passed the test with flying colours. Check out the pictures in this newsletter to see some of the wonderful creations.



Mathematics

In Maths we're starting with place value. Place value is **the value of each digit in a number**. For example, the 5 in 350 represents 5 tens, or 50; however, the 5 in 5,006 represents 5 thousands, or 5,000.

We will also looking at skip counting which is the beginning of learning our tables and being able to count in 2s, 3s, 4s etc.



Music

Our Junior learners started looking at beat and rhythm this week tapping out different rhythms on the djembe drums.

The Senior students tried out the hand symbols for each note in a scale before making some music on the Incredibox website.



Learner free day

Next week as the 'Visible Learning' journey continues, staff will gather virtually with OLSH Elmore and St Mary's Cohuna on Friday 18th February 2022. Please place this date in your diary as this will be a Learner free day.

INQUIRY UNIT LAUNCH



CHILDREN'S CHATTER MATTERS!

Focus: Collective Nouns

Collective Nouns are the different names that we give to groups of things. There are some very common ones but also plenty of interesting ones as well. Like these:

A Parliament of Owls

A Pride of Lions

A Murder of Crows

A Business of Ferrets

A Prickle of Porcupines

A Mob of Kangaroos

A Pod of Pelicans

A Paddle of Platypus

Reminders



School photos on Monday. Casey Kent will again be doing the school photos. As per last year, she will email each family so that you can choose the photos that you'd like to purchase.

Rapid Antigen Tests. Please remember that each child is asked to be tested twice per week and to report any positive tests immediately to the school. We have been told that we should have more RATs to send home on Monday.

New School mobile phone. Our new mobile number is 0438 359 981. Please feel free to text or call this number if you need to contact us. The school landline and email are still available as well.

Mass postponed. A date for our Start of Year School Mass will be made when we are informed of changes to the current Covid restrictions.

Pupil Free Day Friday 18th Feb. The staff will be engaged in professional learning in regards to Visible Learning.

Foundation Rest Days. Our Foundation students will continue to have rest days on Wednesdays for the next 2 weeks.

Australia Day Awards. Dan Straub from Loddon Shire Council will be here at 3pm on Monday 21st February to present a couple of awards for the Australia Day literature competition.

Respectful Relationships

We will continue with the Respectful Relationships program this year.

Our first focus will be discussions around Loving Ourselves. Recognising our own gifts and talents is an important step towards positive self esteem. It also helps us in finding the gifts and talents in others.



Swimming Sports Change of Date

Our Swimming Sports were originally planned for next week but have had to be postponed due to the current Covid restrictions.

This event will now be happening on Friday 11th of March.

As per usual, this will be held in conjunction with Pyramid Hill College.

We're all looking forward to an enjoyable day.



INQUIRY UNIT LAUNCH



LEARNERS HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES!

Instead of choosing any particular students this week, the educators would like to congratulate all the students on an amazing start to the school year. We have seen collaboration in the classroom, willingness to work and smiles in the schoolyard.

What a wonderful way to start the year.