

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

PYRAMID HILL

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"Education For All"



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

MONDAY 4TH MARCH 2024 ISSUE NO. 3

Dear Families,

What a fantastic day we had at our Annual Swimming Carnival. The weather was perfect, the students were amazing and there was wonderful support from staff and families. All our learners had a go at the events and had a lot of fun with the group activities such as the 'Dance Off' and the 'Synchronised Swimming'. Congratulations goes to all who helped plan and prepare the day as well as to the children for their attitude and effort.

You may have noticed that some of our staff have been out of the classroom lately. This is due to our commitment that all people in our community are life-long learners. Many of our staff have been attending opportunities for professional development to ensure that we, as an educational institution, stay on top of recent developments in education, as well as upskilling our staff to be the best educators for your children. Some of the learning that has taken place for our staff have included a 2-day online course for Louise and Chris with 'Little Learners Love Literacy' on developing an evidence-based structured literacy program through explicit teaching, a carefully developed scope and sequence and a range of decodable books. Chris and Louise have also started a short course in teaching English in Multi-lingual Classrooms and have attended a day in Shepparton to become familiar with the updated Curriculum being developed by the Education Department. I attended a Principal's Meeting last week headed by the new Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst where she laid out her plan for the Diocese. Leiza was part of a day for all Wellbeing workers run by the Diocesan Pastoral Wellbeing Team. Mary Anne is in Shepparton today with the Language Teachers Network, working with other language teachers across the diocese on curriculum and planning. And on Friday, all our staff will be attending a Staff Spirituality Day with all staff from the Northern Plains Cluster of Schools. As you can see, learning doesn't just happen with the kids in the classroom; it's everywhere and for everybody.

Have a great week

John

TALAARAWAN

MARCH

5th: Parent Engagement Forum

6th ; SAKG

7th: CARITAS Fundraiser

8th: Pupil Free Day - Staff Spirituality Day

11th: Labour Day Holiday

13th: NAPLAN Begins

15th: Good Samaritan Cup in Kerang

17th: St. Patrick's Day

18th: St. Patrick's Day Mass and Activities at School - BBQ Lunch

22nd: SAKG

26th: Learning Conversations

27th: Last Day of Term

APRIL 15th: First Day Term 2

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

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

Behold, I make all

things new. Rev 21:5



Every day
COUNTS!

School success starts
with attendance

Pupil Free Day and Labour Day Holiday

Friday the 8th of March will be a Pupil Free Day. All staff will be attending a Spirituality Day in Echuca with the other Catholic Schools in our cluster.

Monday the 11th of March is the annual Labour Day public holiday.

This means a 4 day weekend for our students. Please note this on your calendars at home.

SAKG change for this week

Due to the Pupil Free Day being held this Friday, SAKG for this week will occur on Wednesday.

CARITAS Fundraiser

A Fundraiser for Caritas will be happening this Thursday. Please see the flyer in this Newsletter for more details

Chaplain's Chat

As below, there are 5 ways to wellbeing, today we are focusing on belonging. Biblical definition states: **belonging is to feel safe and secure, being connected in a trusted relationship. God created us this way.**

When it comes to our children this is very important. They develop a sense of belonging through time with family, friends and trusted adults outside the home who connect with them. We are often rushing them from one event to another. It's important to spend time together just at home. Sharing in family rituals, going to church, movie nights and Saturday morning clean ups are all good examples of the best rituals and don't cost. These times ignite individuality, fun, laughter and memory making. These times develop an important and strong sense of belonging, parents are at the forefront of how your family functions.

Your example makes a difference.

God bless

Leiza.



Swimming Carnival



OUR BIRTHDAY CALENDAR - MARCH & APRIL

26th March - Thomas

10th April - Leiza

19th April - Jace

Tagalog

Mapagpalang araw po.

We revisited our previous topic on Lent or Kuwaresma. Lent is derived from the Spanish word "cuaresma," which originated from the Latin word "quadagesima," meaning fortieth. It is a time of remembrance for Jesus Christ's 40 days of fasting.

As we observe the Lenten Season, we reflect on The Good Samaritan Parable, a Bible story found in Luke 10:29-37. Then, we also had an engaging activity called "My Hands Can Help Others" after discussing the parable.

On the other hand, the Languages Film Festival 2024 has the theme for this year "Languages for a Better Tomorrow," and our learners were actively involved in the discussion. We can't wait to witness the next steps and encourage everyone to stay tuned and updated.

Have a blessed week ahead.

Mary Anne Domingo

Language Assistant

St. Patrick's Day

March 17th is the Feast day of St. Patrick. This year though, St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday, therefore we will be celebrating the day at school on Monday 18th March with our usual festivities, activity day, Mass and BBQ lunch.

Parent Engagement Forum

We will be having our first Parent Engagement Forum for the year tomorrow afternoon at the school.

Starting time is 4:30 and we aim to be finished by 5:30.

All Welcome.

NAPLAN

The annual NAPLAN testing gets underway across Australia next week. This will involve our Year 3 and Year 5 students. A letter with more information is attached to this Newsletter for those students taking part.

Learning Conversations

Term 1 Learning Conversations will occur after school on Tuesday 26th March. More information will be sent home in the coming days.

Good Samaritan Cup

Next week, on Friday 15th March, we will be travelling to Kerang for our Annual Good Samaritan Cup. This event involves ourselves, St. Joseph's Kerang and St. Mary's Cohuna.

Play Group

Don't forget that Playgroup runs every Monday morning from 10:00 - 12:00 in the school library. All welcome.

Swimming Carnival



Word Association

Here's a fun game to play around the table or in the car to get kids thinking.

One player starts by saying a word. The next player says a word that is related to the first word. It can be related in any way. If another player cannot see how the words are related, he/she can challenge, and the connection needs to be explained. Keep going until a word is repeated or a connection cannot be explained.

Here's an example: 1st person says Egypt – 2nd person says Mummy – 3rd person says Dad – the next says beard – then Santa Claus – Christmas – trees – leaves etc.

What's Happening in the Classroom?

Welcome to Week 6 of learning everyone. The students have been working hard on their learning goals in preparation for our Parent/ Student/Teachers Learning Conversations in Week 9, (Tuesday 27th of March 5:30pm). A separate letter will be sent home about this next week. It has been a very insightful experience for us to see what strengths the students have identified in their learning and the areas they would like to improve on. We look forward to supporting them as they work towards their goals for the remainder of the Term.

Literacy: F-2 This week the students will begin to learn about the parts of a story with a focus on the characters and story structure. It's been wonderful to see them develop a love for traditional fairy tales during their reading block. The students also continue to work on their sounds, letters and words. This also includes handwriting with a focus on the correct way to hold the pencil. **Literacy: 3-6** Students have been introduced to the features of Narrative stories structure. They have used a picture prompt to inspire ideas of their choice and wrote their ideas in a template to organise their thinking. Different 'Sensational Story Starters' to hook the reader in were experimented with and the students have introduced more than one problem to be resolved into their stories. The students have shown great imagination in their stories with creative ideas.

Numeracy: F-2 As we continue our daily practice of counting and number work the students will also focus on measurement. For the next two weeks they will be using a variety of objects to measure the length of different items in the classroom. They will also be comparing and ordering the length of various objects such as their hand, lunchbox and drink bottle. **Numeracy: 3-6** We completed our lesson sequence on place value where students showed many different ways to show the value of a number. We have moved on to our unit on Shape, with the students labelling the different features of 3D objects and connecting them to 2D nets to construct.

Religion: This Thursday our senior leaders will be selling Zooper-Doopers and Waffle Cones as part of our fundraising for Caritas. We will continue to learn about the wonderful work Caritas does and the difference we can make for Future Generations.

Inquiry Social Justice: F-2 The students have been learning about how many cultures can be found around the world and that we value and respect others. They will be continuing to learn about other cultures' differences by cooking foods from a range of cultures. Yum! **Inquiry - Social Justice: 3-6** The students are learning about the biggest problems facing children around the world. They will also further their knowledge about the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child and the important agreement between countries who have promised to protect these rights.

Chris and Louise

Classroom Activities



Calendar Events

Please keep an eye on all events listed on the Calendar on the front page of this Newsletter. There are a number of events coming up so please make yourself aware of these.

The Calendar is updated each time the Newsletter goes out.