

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 19TH FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE NO. 2

Dear Families,

What a lovely Celebration we had for our Start of Year Mass. It was wonderful to see so many families, parishioners and community members not just at the mass, but also back at school to share some time, stories and pizza together. Thank-you to all who were able to attend.

Our Swimming Program is in full swing. The students are putting in a lot of effort and showing lots of courage as they try new things and work on improving their abilities. This Friday is our Swimming Carnival but please note, swimming lessons continue into next week.

We had a very successful day making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Due to the extreme nature of the weather we had to cancel our arrangement with the Neighbourhood House and instead cook the pancakes at school. This didn't deter the pancake lovers out there as we were well supported by the Pyramid Hill community and raised well over \$100 for Caritas.

Ash Wednesday also occurred last week and this was celebrated with a liturgy in the classroom. This also marked the beginning of Lent. The Church encourages us to focus on 3 major things throughout Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Fasting often seems to be the one that people talk about; "What are you giving up for Lent?" being a familiar question at this time of year. In days gone by, kids would be encouraged to give up lollies or soft drink and I know many adults who would try to stay off the beer. But, in these more contemporary times, many people take a more practical and action oriented approach and give up something that benefits others as well. One of the most important things we can give up is our time. Time to be with others, to talk with others, to care for others. We could also give up complaining, gossiping, holding grudges, making excuses or selfishness. These are just a few ideas that may help us prepare for Easter.

Have a great week

John

Behold, I make all things new. Rev 21:5



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.

Swimming Carnival

Our Swimming Carnival will be held this Friday, 23rd February. As in past years, this event will be held in conjunction with Pyramid Hill College.

All students in Years 3-6 are asked to go straight to the pool and arrive between 8:45 and 9:00. F-2 students need to be dropped off at school and they will head to the pool around midday.

SAKG change for this week

Due to the Swimming Carnival being held this Friday, SAKG for this week will occur on Wednesday.



The Importance of Reading at Home

There is no more important skill for a child to master than the skill of being able to read. The following excerpt is taken from an article by the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Reading to Young Children-A Head Start to Life: Key Findings

The frequency of reading to children at a young age has a direct causal effect on their schooling outcomes regardless of their family background and home environment.

Reading to children at age 4-5 every day has a significant positive effect on their reading skills and cognitive skills (i.e., language and literacy, numeracy and cognition) later in life.

Reading to children 3-5 days per week (compared to 2 or less) has the same effect on the child's reading skills at age 4-5 as being six months older.

Reading to them 6-7 days per week has the same effect as being almost 12 months older.



Swimming Lessons



OUR BIRTHDAY CALENDAR - FEBRUARY & MARCH

3rd February - Jean

26th March - Thomas

Tagalog

Magandang araw po sa inyo.

Last week, we dived into the topic of Lent or Kuwaresma. Did you know that Kuwaresma comes from the Spanish word "quadragesima" which also has Latin origins meaning "fortieth"?

We also tackled the story of The Turtle and the Monkey or Si Pagong at ang Matsing written by the Philippine National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. The learners truly enjoyed this tale with its moral lesson of kindness and generosity.

In our upcoming lesson, we will begin crafting the story plot for our languages film festival entry themed "Languages for a Better Tomorrow."

Stay safe and stay tuned for more updates!

Mary Anne Domingo

Language Assistant



Chaplain's Chat

It is truly moving to take part in pausing to acknowledge what the Lord would have us do during Lent and then Ash Wednesday. In families we can often take for granted that our children know why we do things. Having a discussion around why Lent and Ash Wednesday are important for you as a family. Our children observe us in many ways and often through unspoken words. It is a blessing to share our faith with our children so that as in biblical days the message is passed on. You are God's pattern for your children

God bless

Leiza.

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 and activity day.



Classroom Activities



Syllable Awareness

Syllable awareness is the skill of hearing the sounds within words and recognising that words can be broken into syllables or word parts. The skill requires counting, tapping, blending (e.g. kan-ga-roo = kangaroo) or segmenting words into their word parts.

wordwall.net/resource/28385711

What's Happening in the Classroom?

Welcome to Week 4 of learning everyone. It certainly has been busy in the classroom with Swimming, Shrove Tuesday and a special Ash Wednesday liturgy. In the classroom we have introduced Reading Diaries, with many students getting closer to achieving their 'ten nights of reading' certificates. Please read the article on the previous page by the [Victorian Department of Education](#) which has some interesting information about the **Importance of Home Reading**.

Literacy: F-2 The students are learning how to write recounts about their weekend and swimming lessons. They are using the five Ws in their writing: When, Who, Where, What, Why/How? In Phonological awareness our Preps are learning the upper and lower case letters of the alphabet and the common sounds they represent. This is taught through songs, puzzles, craft and listening activities. Our Grade 1s and 2s are learning about digraphs (two letters making one sound) such as chat, ship, etc. In Reading we have been listening to the story *Clark the Shark* and learning about the characters and setting of narratives. **3-6** In Literacy 3-6, students have finished their drafts on recounts of their favourite holiday. We will be now looking into narratives and how to create an engaging story to start to hook the reader in.

Numeracy: Our F-2 students are practising their counting skills. This includes counting forwards and backwards by 1s up to 20 for our Preps. Our Grade 1/2 students are skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s from 0 to 100. They are also learning to locate and order numbers on a number line. **3-6** In Maths, students have been sharing their understanding of place value by ordering and creating visuals of numbers. We will be continuing to show numbers in their different parts.

Inquiry: Our topic for the rest of the Term is Social Justice. The students are learning about fairness and equity. Through hands-on activities such as projects, artwork and cooking the students will deepen their understanding of the similarities and differences between cultures and generations. **3-6** In Inquiry, students have been learning about the rights of children and will be continuing to research into organisations that support children.

Religion: As we begin the season of Lent we are called to strengthen our relationship with God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The students are being introduced to many learning experiences, beginning with our Lenten promises where they are encouraged to give up the gift of time to help others. Over the coming weeks the older students will deepen their understanding of the forty days of Lent which represent the period that Jesus spent in the wilderness during his temptation.

Pancake Tuesday



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.