



# St Patrick's School

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St Patrick's Primary School, Wangaratta, would like to acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation, whose clans include Bangerang (Pangerang) Kaitheban, Wollithiga, Moira, Ulupna, Kwat Kwat, Yalaba Yalaba and Ngurai-illiam-wurrung, as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our school is situated.

This school supports the CHILD Safe Standards (Ministerial Order 870) and actively seeks to ensure that all students are kept safe from all forms of harm at all times.

## ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2020

### **ANZAC DAY Vs COVID-19**

This Saturday we remember all those Australians who fought and served in wars. When I think of the bravery and dedication of these men and women, then, to me, it makes the sacrifices that we are currently going through seem a little insignificant. I had two grandfathers that fought in World War One in Europe. They stopped and trained in Egypt before heading to the Somme. I have postcards and letters from them when they were in Egypt. They paint a picture of what they were going through, the excitement and a sense of trepidation. I wonder, how many of their comrades didn't return? Such sadness and loss.

I was privileged to visit an Australian War Cemetery in Ypres (Belgium) a few years ago. Imagine being buried so far from home. The sadness of the families left behind with not even a grave to stand in front of to mourn their loss, to mark that they were once a part of a family who loved them and walked with them on this beautiful planet of ours.

It sort of makes being house bound for a little while and putting up with different ways of doing things because of COVID-19 seem a little tame really!

In all of these things though, there is a presence of God. The soldiers who risked their lives so selflessly to save others, the nurses who went above and beyond to help the wounded and to let them know that people valued and cared for them. For me there is an intangible but very spiritual presence involved, a deeper and more respectful understanding of the beauty of a life.

Today, we see many acts of kindness and charity. Helping those who are in need. Finding ways to connect with those we love and still keeping the social distancing relevant. All little things but each has at its heart, love which, to me, is the essence and presence of God in our world.

When I get a moment, I often pray for those who have passed away whether in armed conflict or as a result of this terrible pandemic and I thank God that I live in a country that has shown such value for life and protecting others. Something that cannot be said of all countries around the globe!

***"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them."***

***Lest we forget***

Dear Parents,

WOW! What strange times we are living in. Who would have thought, at the beginning of the year, that Term Two would look like this!

I want to begin by thanking you, the parents, for the huge support that you have been, not only to your children, but also to the staff. The feedback from home has been, in the most part, extremely positive. I get a sense that our parents know the extra mile that the teachers, Learning Support Officers (LSOs) and Administration staff have gone to in order to make remote learning as successful as it has been. It has certainly surprised me.

This week, I have sat in on a few remote learning lessons in the senior school. It was so nice to see the students faces again and the maturity with which they are tackling this situation, leaves me breathless. I have read the work being produced and I am blown away by the depth of the reflections.

It is not all plain sailing though. I know we have parents who are concerned that it's not all going to plan! NO! Everything won't be exactly the way it should be all the time (although, I'd hope things will gradually improve as the time wears on). Mistakes will happen and that's okay. A mindset that mistakes are the gateway to getting things right is probably the best attitude to have at the moment. You are not being judged on the support that you give to your children; you are being admired for the fact that you are prepared to "have a go!" I know that there is lots of communication happening between home and school using a range of strategies, make sure that you ask if you have any questions or concerns.

## Teachers and Staff

Each day we have a minimum of staff working onsite. We are trying to keep staff away and as safe as much as possible. If you are an essential service worker and you need to send your child/ren to school even if it's just for a day, then you need to communicate with your child/ren's teacher who will refer the matter to me. We cannot have students turning up unannounced as we would not have sufficient staff onsite to cater for them.

If you are not an essential worker but need to send your child for a day for compassionate reasons, then you will need to contact me (Terry) to discuss the issue. Clearly, we are here to support you in whatever way we can. That said, we still need to stick with the governmental advice as much as possible that states that, "children who can work from home, should work from home".

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

## Reminder about entering the school

If you are entering the school for any reason, you will need to enter via the Office as, during this time of COVID-19, we are trying to minimise the number of people entering the school in order to maintain as safe an environment as possible. If your child is a little anxious coming into school (the younger students especially), then you may escort them in but please do not enter the classroom, just drop them off at the door.

## ANZAC Day



This Saturday is ANZAC Day. I am so disappointed that our students will not be involved in the ANZAC Day service. I know that there are lots of things happening in "classes" around this important event and I believe that some of that great work will be shared with parents/families. Something to look out for.

THANK YOU ANITA HAMILTON HAIRDRESSING FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

# Easter Egg Raffle

We didn't get to the Easter Egg Raffle before the holidays. We plan to draw the raffle this Friday. If you have tickets to go into the draw, then they can be left in a basket just inside the front door, along with the money. This will alleviate the need to come into the school unnecessarily. Thank you to Alison Simonetti for putting all the prizes together so beautifully!

I will publish the raffle results via email and on Facebook.



## St. Patrick's PS APP REMIND

If you want to keep up with what's happening around the school, you can join REMIND.

It can be downloaded from the app stores to your devices using either of these links:

Apple - <https://goo.gl/IHQHGn> or Android - <https://goo.gl/FJWEv>

You will need to join our "Class" after you install and sign up - @spatwang, or St Patrick's Primary School Wangaratta

## Newsletter

Our newsletter can be accessed on our website and our Facebook page. Annette (in the Office) also has a mailing list that she is happy to include you on.

Simply email Annette on: [abeitzel@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au](mailto:abeitzel@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au) or phone the office (0357215795) and Annette will put you on the list. If all else fails, you can request a hard copy from the office.



THANK YOU WANGARATTA JEWELLERS FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

## Mass Times

- \* ~~Saturday 6.00pm St Patrick's~~
- \* ~~Sunday 8.00am St Patrick's~~
- \* ~~Sunday 9.00am Our Lady's~~
- \* ~~Sunday 10.30am St Patrick's~~
- \* ~~Sunday 10.00am Moyhu~~
- \* ~~Sunday 10.30am Whitfield (1st Sunday)~~



On hold until further notice.

*Terry*



### What are reasonable excuses for being absent?

- illness or accident
- Attending or observing religious event
- Bereavement

## CHATTER MATTERS

As you read a story with your child, encourage your child to count the number of words in a sentence. Use your fingers to help. For example, 'How many words can you hear in this sentence?' She loves chocolate biscuits (has 4 words).

For older kids, say a sentence out of their reader/book and see if you can reorder the words to make new sentences. For example, the sentence "I can run fast and swim far" can be reordered to make: "I can run far and swim fast" or "can I run fast and swim far?"

Here are some sentences to start you off (remember to choose sentences from your child's book/reader):

- a. Mike has a red lolly and Sarah has a blue ball.
- b. She went to the shops after she went to the pool.
- c. Please move quickly to the door.
- d. Lucy painted a picture of Mike while he rode his bike.

# PAT ON THE BACK

<b>Foundation</b> Mrs Levesque	Congratulations to the <i>FANTASTIC FOUNDATION LEVESQUE PARENTS</i> for all the work, patience and skills they have used during the first week of remote learning.
<b>Foundation</b> Mrs Shaw	Congratulations to <i>FOUNDATION SHAW PARENTS &amp; CARERS</i> for the amazing efforts they have all put into assisting their children with remote learning. You are all AMAZING!
<b>Year 1/2</b> Bray/Cornish	A big pat on the back to the <i>WONDERFUL PARENTS OF 1/2 BRAY/CORNISH</i> for the way you are supporting your children. Thank you! You are all superstars!
<b>Year 1/2</b> Cassidy/Barry	Congratulations to <i>MUMS, DADS, NANNAS &amp; PAS</i> who have been supporting us all with our learning at home. We appreciate all your hard work and dedication to remote learning!
<b>Year 1/2</b> Ms Rinaldi	An enormous pat on the back to all the <i>PARENTS &amp; STUDENTS OF YEAR 1/2 RINALDI</i> for embracing remote learning and making it a positive experience – I am so proud of all you. Keep up the fantastic work!
<b>Year 1/2</b> Mr Capper	Congratulations to the <i>PARENTS OF 1/2 CAPPER</i> for the wonderful work they are doing at home to support their child's/children's education during Term 2.
<b>Year 3/4</b> Mrs Nicoll	Congratulations to the <i>STUDENTS &amp; PARENTS OF 3/4 NICOLL</i> for the positivity you have shown towards our online learning. This is a journey that we're all going on together. Keep up the great work!
<b>Year 3/4</b> Miss Sirianni	Congratulations to the <i>STUDENTS &amp; PARENTS OF 3/4 SIRIANNI</i> for the positivity you have shown towards our online learning. This is a journey that we're all going on together. Keep up the great work!
<b>Year 3/4</b> Mrs Rizzo	A big pat on the back to the <i>STUDENTS &amp; PARENTS OF 3/4 RIZZO</i> for the positivity you have shown towards our online learning. This is a journey that we're all going on together. Thank you and keep up the wonderful work!
<b>Year 3/4</b> Ms Whitehead	A big pat on the back to <i>STUDENTS &amp; PARENTS OF 3/4 WHITEHEAD</i> for the positivity you have shown towards our online learning. This is a journey that we're all going on together. Keep up the great work!
<b>Year 5/6</b> Mrs O'Connor	Congratulations to <i>BRAYDEN LINCOLN</i> for the persistence he has shown in organising his work and managing his time during remote learning!
<b>Year 5/6</b> Ackerly/Levesque	Congratulations to <i>5/6 ACKERLY &amp; THEIR FAMILIES</i> for showing persistence, patience and kindness in surviving the first week of Home Learning!
<b>Year 5/6</b> Mrs Rickard	Congratulations and well done to <i>EVERYONE IN 5/6 RICKARD</i> for the way you have adapted to remote learning for the start of Term 2. I couldn't be prouder of how you have tried really hard to navigate your way around Google Classroom, get organised for our daily Google Meets at 9am and generally having a go at this new way of learning. Awesome effort everyone!
<b>Special Award</b> Mrs Patterson	A special pat on the back to <i>LIAM HENNESSY</i> for the way he has adjusted to completing his Reading Recovery sessions via video conference during remote learning. It's lovely to be able to continue these sessions with you, Liam.

# **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM**

## **FOUNDATION – Caz & Trish**

Well here we are into the second week of term 2 with most of us learning from home!

Firstly, we would like to thank all the parents and carers for the way you are going about teaching and assisting your children from home. A great job done by everyone!

We have been really happy with everyone's positivity and support at this time.

The wonderful recordings of the student's work have been exceptional, and we thank you all. If you need any more readers, there are books available on Wednesday and Friday. Remember we are here if you have any questions.

Keep up the great work!

Have a calm week and stay well.  
Carolyn and Trish

## **YEAR ONE/TWO – Janina, Amanda, Elise, David, Karen & Leah**

Welcome to a very unusual looking Term Two!! First and foremost, our sincerest thanks for being such wonderful educators at home and supporting the learning for your child. This is such a team effort and we couldn't be any happier with the job that you are all doing. Thank you for making the time to access materials and emails when we know that you have your own workloads and burdens. Please know that it doesn't go unnoticed.

We have received copious amounts of positive feedback from you, which is so reassuring for us and the task we have at hand. Seesaw has proven to be a successful platform for communicating with our students and families and, although we are new to it all, we are slowly learning and developing some new skills (teachers included!). Please try not to be overwhelmed by all the material provided to you. In the 1/2 unit, we tried to design a system that would allow for flexibility and self-directed learning. As we have mentioned, please only complete what your day allows for. If not all tasks are completed, that is okay too!!

We continue to reiterate that we are here to support families the best possible way we can. Please don't hesitate to contact us through email or Seesaw if you have ANY queries.

Another reminder that on a Wednesday and Friday, staff are available to assist you in changing your take home readers. In addition to this, we will have a new remote learning pack available for collection next week.

Finally, remember to just show as much love and reassurance towards your children during this time. This is not a time to be stressed about what learning has or hasn't occurred. The children will catch up when they return to school. Care for one another and try to find the positives in this unique time.

Take care!

## **YEAR THREE/FOUR – Karen, Nara, Ellie & Jess**

We would like to thank all our parents and students for all their hard work last week. We are blown away by all your wonderful efforts! Many of our students are joining us on Google Classroom to receive and upload their tasks and it has been wonderful to see all their amazing work through

THANK YOU **GINGER & THYME** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

remote learning 😊. Some of our children are working on hard copy packs at home and completing tasks independently. While other students have been completing their remote learning work here at school as their parents are unable to work from home.

All of your efforts are greatly appreciated.

## **YEAR FIVE/SIX – Andrea, Helen, Sharyn & James**

Wow, we have started Term 2 in such a positive way.

Well done to everyone for the very positive approach you have all taken to our Remote Learning program. Obviously, we would love to all be at school together, but understand, respect and appreciate that this is the situation for now.

Thank you to all the parents who completed our Survey on how things are going for you and your child at home in the first week. We will get together as a group and implement some things that will be better for everyone.

We are all in this together, learning from each other and know that there will be glitches along the way.

We have loved seeing all of your ANZAC wreaths coming in. You are all being so respectful of this significant day to thank our ANZACs for the sacrifices they have made to our country. We will be making an iMovie and we will share it with you on Friday.

Here are a few so far.



Finally, please keep up the communication with us. We are here to help as best we can.

Helen, Andrea & Sharyn

## **MAYFAIR SHOWBAGS**



WANTED PLEASE –

McDonald's Toys (in the wrappers),  
COLES Minis,  
SAFEWAY Lion King Ooshies,  
Keyrings, Lanyards  
Woolworths Tiles (in wrappers) for  
Mayfair 2020 showbags.

Please deliver to the office, thank you.



THANK YOU **LINDENWARRAH** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL