



# 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

25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### **You've got to try a little kindness!**

**This week, I focussed on seeing the good around me. At a time when ninety percent of the media's reporting is centred around the COVID-19 virus, I made a mental note to look out for good things (because, eventually, the negative "stuff" starts to wear me down a bit).**

**I saw lots of good things.**

**The charity volunteers (St Vinnies, Anglicare, Brotherhood of St Lawrence – to name a few) who are going out to care for the homeless, the lonely and those needing economic relief. These people are potentially putting themselves at risk and all the while saying to these people that "you are important". I read of acts of kindness from people preparing food for others to the independent supermarket owner who, instead of letting there be a stampede on toilet paper in his store, he broke open the packets and bagged them in threes and GAVE them to people entering his store (for free!).**

**I watched as some of the out of town staff here at school were struggling to get toilet paper and other staff members popping down the street and getting them some when they knew there was some there. They didn't have to do that. They did it because they care! A beautiful way to be!**

**If Jesus were alive today, that's exactly what he'd be doing (not buying toilet paper... showing he cared!). In a very real way, those who show such acts of kindness are, in fact, the hands of God in the world, reaching out to others in a time of need.**

**At this time, I'm reminded of the mantra of Australia's only recognised Saint, Mother Mary MacKillop who said, "Never see a need without doing something about it". Those words cannot be more true given what we, as a world community, are facing today.**

**Finally, in the words of singer/songwriter Glen Campbell, it reminded me of one of his songs, "(You've Got To) Try A Little kindness". Relevant lyrics at this time. Pop into my office and I'll give you a rendition on the guitar!**

**Stay safe and well, everyone.**

Dear Parents,

At this time, my thoughts are with our families. Life has changed so much in the last week or so. I know that things will improve in time but, right now, there is a huge amount of stress in people's lives as we battle a situation that none of us fully understand. Stay safe and stay well. Know that if we, the school community, can be of any assistance, then you simply need to contact us. We're all in this together and, together, we'll get through it.

## Beginning of Term Two

At this stage, term two will begin on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April for the staff and on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> for the students. I haven't been "privy" to any further insights but I don't have to be a "rocket scientist" to know that, given we are being requested to prepare for remote learning, there is a strong chance that students will not be returning on that date.

As soon as I know anything, we will communicate it via email, Remind App and Facebook to ensure our whole community knows what's going on. Personally, I'd love the students to return on that date and get things back to normal but that can only be done if it's safe to do so.

## Planning for next term

These last few days have been highly productive for the teachers and staff as we prepare for the beginning of term two, still unsure if we will be teaching face-to-face or remotely and/or online.

Yesterday, after an initial briefing, we worked in our unit groups to plan across the range of subject areas. We checked in, as a whole group, a few times during the day to ensure that there was continuity in our planning and to share thoughts and ideas for presenting work. I really feel that tremendous progress has been made and I am very confident that the students will have a very effective program to work on. Clearly not as effective as face-to-face learning but significant, nonetheless.

Teachers are very mindful of maintaining communication with home and we have quite a few options up our sleeve. Our See-Saw App will be useful as will Google Meet where we can gather as a group online (where possible), telephone calls, emails just to name a few.

I cannot stress too highly the importance of communication at this time. You will never be a bother, you will never be a nuisance because, we know, that working closely with our families gives our children the best support possible.

## Easter Egg Raffle – When school resumes

Things happened so fast on Monday that we didn't get a chance to draw our Easter Egg Raffle. We will draw the raffle when the students return. Remember, all money raised will go to CARITAS who will be needed more than ever in the months and years ahead.

If, on the "off" chance that they all melt, then I'm happy to sit in a corner and eat the lot in the interests of keeping the school healthy! The things I do for this community! LOL



## Ladies Long Lunch (LLL) – Postponed not cancelled!

What a "die hard" bunch of stayers the organisers of this event have shown themselves to be. They don't want to cancel the LLL, they want to postpone it until later in the year. Okay, I'll take my "smart alec" hat off now because I really think that's a brilliant idea. At the end of what we are currently going through, it will be a "light at the end of the tunnel" that people participating in the LLL can look forward to. It will be great to be able to kick up their heels and begin to move on. Shame I'm not a "lady" really! The actual anticipated date will be promoted once we know what is happening.

THANK YOU ANITA HAMILTON HAIRDRESSING FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

# PAT on the Back (POTB) Awards

If I was going to do POTB awards this week, then the clear winner would be the staff.

Our **Administration Officers** have “ploughed on” and kept things running (Well done **Annette and Rosie**).

Our **Education Support Officers (ESO’s)** have done whatever has been needed and they constantly look to see where they can help out – Thank you **Jodie, Ali, Lyn, Michelle, Shirley and Linda**.

Finally, our **teachers (classroom and specialist)** who have used their powers of innovation and their teaching skills to devise programs to support our students. Again, this great bunch are putting the needs of the students ahead of their own needs. Too many teachers to name (and I’m scared I might accidentally leave one out!) but you all know who they are, and I don’t think they know how much I truly appreciate all that they do.

## 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



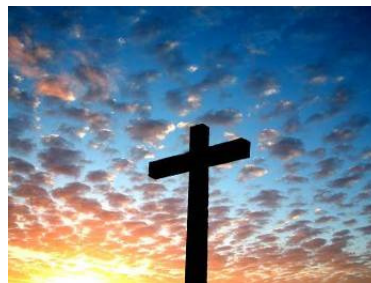
## Newsletter

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.

## *Mass Times (CANCELLED until further notice)*

- \* ~~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)~~



*Terry*

# DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL	13 <sup>th</sup>	-	EASTER MONDAY
	14 <sup>th</sup>	-	9.00am Term 2 for Staff commences – unless otherwise notified
	15 <sup>th</sup>	-	9.00am Term 2 for students Commences – unless otherwise notified
	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	-	Confirmation/Eucharist - postponed until further notice
	20 <sup>th</sup>	-	P & F Meetings - cancelled until further notice

## POLICE WANGARATTA

Due to an increase in the theft of bikes, we need to remind the children to lock their bikes up when they are not using them, especially when they are at home. Bikes need to be out of sight of pedestrian traffic as bikes are being stolen by opportunistic thieves.



### What are reasonable excuses for being absent?

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

## 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 **STAMP ELECTRICAL** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL