



# St Patrick's School

Ovens St, Wangaratta, Vic 3677 Phone: (03) 5721 5795 Fax: (03) 5721 9604  
Email: [principal@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au)

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

4<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

### Families

If COVID19 has made me reflect on anything, it's the importance of COMMUNITY!

Even during the most troubling and stressful times this year, I am aware of the sense of community that exists here at this school. In some ways, I see it as a big family.

Now I know that family life doesn't always run smoothly. I have three brothers and we didn't always get on well. But it is one thing to fight with your brothers (and we often did – most started as play fighting and then got a little more serious!), but it's another thing entirely for someone to say or do anything regarding a member of your family. There is an emotional glue that binds families together. Most would call it LOVE! I love my brothers dearly and there is nothing that I would not do for them. Oh, I'm aware of their failings and idiosyncrasies as they are aware of mine. But we are family and we look out for each other.

This year has taught me a lot about this school family of ours. I've seen teachers supporting parents and vice-versa. I've seen a commitment to be the best for the students which brings out the best in us. I've also seen students "step up" and make the most out of a "not ideal" situation. For that they should be congratulated and applauded.

Being a Catholic School, we have a commitment to community. To being inclusive. To support those in need. To model values of respect and empathy. To be a model of Jesus, which has at its core, to love one another. We won't always get it right but that should never stop us from trying.

Dear Parents,

Well, I've just welcomed the first group of Foundation students and their parents into our school. I have to admit, this year, it feels a bit surreal as we can only have ten students at a time with their parents. So, today, we had a number of small groups through the school. Although this was exciting enough, you can't beat the whole cohort together. I would have loved to offer our new parents an opportunity for a coffee and a chat and I can only hope that I get to do this in coming weeks should COVID restrictions continue to ease.

**THANK YOU 360 PLANS BUILDING DESIGN & DRAFTING FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL**

## Parent/Teacher Interviews

Thanks to the great co-operation between parents and teachers, our Parent/Teacher interviews have gone better than I could have hoped. As you all know, these interviews are being conducted mainly by telephone due to COVID restrictions currently in place. Feedback from teachers is that it has been very successful with great communication occurring. Thank you to our parents for their continued support and to the teachers for their diligence and professionalism.

## KIRRA PENDERGAST – PARENT SESSION

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend our virtual meeting with Kirra Pendergast on Monday evening. I have had a few conversations with parents who attended who said they thought that it was excellent. Kirra was able to expose a number of issues of safety when using Apps and programs popular with students. It was a bit of an “eye opener” really. She was also able to contextualise the use of technology as something that is firmly embedded in everyone’s lives, so “blanket banning” technology will do little to address the problem. Education is key.

The work Kirra did with the teachers on Monday was also invaluable. It gave us great cause to do a bit of a rethink around the measures that we take to keep our students safe in the cyber world.

There will be some changes made in coming days as I have become aware of some students accessing their phones at school which is not allowed.

Although we agree that, in some instances, phones can provide an added layer of protection for students (especially bus children), I have been made aware that some children are accessing them during the day which is forbidden at school. Students who bring phones to school will now be required to either keep them in their bags or hand them to their teacher to look after for the day (collecting them at the end of the day). The means of overseeing this will be dependent on individual teachers.

Use of mobile phones at school is forbidden (always has been) as it can be a breach of privacy and expose students to potential dangers when unsupervised. Any student found with a phone in their possession will have it taken from them and parents notified. Our aim is to keep our students safe.

Kirra will visit St Patrick’s in 2021 to work with students around some of the themes discussed with parents and teachers.

## Foundation Transition Days

The remaining Foundation (Prep) transition days are set down for the following dates:

19<sup>th</sup> November (Thursday) – time to be advised

8<sup>th</sup> December (Tuesday) – time to be advised

There will also be a Parent meeting on the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> November commencing at 6.00pm in the school hall. This meeting is to assist parents in preparing their child for school. It runs for about an hour.

We have had to do this whilst complying with COVID19 restrictions so the first meeting will be a little different to our usual gatherings. Hopefully, in coming weeks, we will be in a position to do what we normally do.

## REMEMBRANCE Day

Next Wednesday is Remembrance Day. It marks the day the guns went silent in WWI. As a school we will remember and celebrate those who gave their lives for our freedom.



REMEMBRANCE DAY  
*Let's We Forget*

THANK YOU MILAWA HOTEL FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

## HATS and SUNSCREEN

Just a reminder to parents that, in keeping with our Sun Safe policy, hats are required to be worn at recess and lunchtimes. We have given students a bit of leeway for the past week to allow time for them to be found. Students without a school approved hat (broad brimmed – no baseball caps) will be required to play under the pavilion only. Sunscreen (Cancer Council Approved) is also available in all of the classrooms for the students to access. However, if you would prefer your child to use a certain brand, then by all means send it along in your child's school bag.

## Closure Days for Term Four

The closure days following days are set down for this term:

30<sup>th</sup> November – School Closed (Report Writing Day)

17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December – Planning Days

## School Photos 13<sup>th</sup> November

Our School photos were rescheduled from June due to COVID19.

School Photos will be held on **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November**. Bookings can be made online.

# ONLINE BOOKING



Your school has decided that school photos will only be available to order online this year

### THE BENEFITS OF BEING ONLINE

- No need for envelopes to be returned to the school office.
- No cash on school grounds or children's bags.
- Easy order tracking and record keeping

St Patrick's Primary School Wangaratta - 2020

Contact: [info@leadingimage.com.au](mailto:info@leadingimage.com.au) or call 1800 750 586

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### INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY PHOTOS CAN BE ORDERED WITH THE SAME ACCESS KEY

To order your school photos you need to log onto  
**[www.leadingimage.com.au](http://www.leadingimage.com.au)**  
and enter your school access key.

**Access Key: C8RNWCJK**

Packages are available to order with this access key.

**Family photographs must be ordered by 4:30pm the night before photo day.**  
**IF YOU DO NOT ORDER BEFORE THIS TIME YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE A FAMILY PHOTO TAKEN.**



THANK YOU ALPINE GRANGE DEVELOPMENTS FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

# COVID NEWS

The current restrictions include:

- limiting visitors on site – all visitors to the school will need to enter via the office and sign in.
- cleaning and personal hygiene
- appropriate mask wearing by staff and visitors
- asking students who are unwell with flu like symptoms to stay at home

Hopefully as restrictions ease, then so, too, will some of these limitations. I look forward to the day when parents can come and go freely as they used to do.

## **Health Requirements**

One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

### **What you need to know:**

- \* If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school as soon as possible.

**If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they must remain at home until they receive their results:**

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell or taste.

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms.

## **CARITAS Raffle**

OLIVIA SMITH has collected an extra set of “OOSHIES”, and she came up with an idea to raffle them off to raise money for CARITAS. Given that it will probably be a pretty “lean” year for Caritas at a time when they need to support people the most, I thought it a good idea. The BUTERA family also donated a set of “Coles Little Shop 2”.

There will be three prizes. First place gets to choose their prize, followed by second and third. Tickets will be 50cents each or 3 for \$1.00 and all money raised will go to CARITAS. I am so proud of students who can see the needs of others and want to do something about it. Thank you to all involved and to ticket buyers for supporting this worthy cause. Tickets available from the office.

## **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@spwangeratta.catholic.edu.au](mailto:abeitzel@spwangeratta.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 REMEL 185 FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL**



# 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>

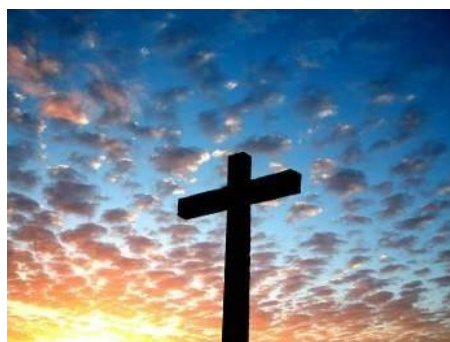
You will need to join our "Class" after you install and sign up - @spatwang, or St Patrick's Primary School Wangaratta



## Mass Times

- \* ~~Saturday 6.00pm St Patrick's~~
- \* ~~Sunday 8.00am St Patrick's~~
- \* ~~Sunday 9.00am Our Lady's~~
- \* ~~Sunday 11.00am at Our Lady's-~~
- \* ~~Sunday 10.30am St Patrick's~~
- \* ~~Sunday 10.00am Moyhu~~
- \* ~~Sunday 10.30am Whitfield (1st Sunday)~~

<https://catholicwangaratta.wixsite.com/wangaratta>



*Terry*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER	4 <sup>th</sup>	-	3.50pm – 6.00pm Parent Teacher Interviews
	13 <sup>th</sup>	-	School Photos
	19 <sup>th</sup>	-	Prep Transition Day
	19 <sup>th</sup>	-	6.00pm Foundation Parent Information Evening
	30 <sup>th</sup>	-	SCHOOL CLOSURE – Report Writing Day
DECEMBER	8 <sup>th</sup>	-	Whole School Transition Day
	16 <sup>th</sup>	-	Last Day of Term 4
	17 <sup>th</sup>	-	SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY – Planning Day
	18 <sup>th</sup>	-	SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY – Planning Day

THANK YOU **GABBY HANDMADE JEWELLERY** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

## **EVERYDAY COUNTS – SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

We all want our students to get a great education and the building blocks for a great education begins with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child's future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they'll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

Remember, everyday counts!

## **ST PATRICK'S CHURCH MASSES** **Bookings are essential – 57221970**

Saturday 5:00 PM  
Mass at (St. Patrick's)

Saturday 6:00 PM  
Mass at (St Patrick's)

Sunday 8:00 AM  
Mass at (St. Patrick's)

Sunday 9:30 AM  
Mass at (St. Patrick's)

Sunday 10:30 AM  
Mass at (St. Patrick's)

# PAT ON THE BACK

- Foundation**  
Mrs Levesque  
Congratulations to *MIA HILL* for being so caring towards her peers. Mia is always helping and showing kindness to others. How lucky we are to have Mia in our room!
- Foundation**  
Mrs Shaw  
A very big congratulations to *WILL STAMP* for his excellent writing efforts. He is really taking his time and thinking about what his writing needs. Will's finished products are simply amazing. Great work, Will!
- Year 1/2**  
Bray/Cornish  
A big pat on the back to *NIXON GALES & ELI PORTA* for the wonderful efforts they have been putting into their writing. I am pleased with the 'super sentences' they are using and the way they are looking over their work. Keep it up superstars!
- Year 1/2**  
Cassidy/Barry  
Congratulations to *PIPPA KEANE* for reaching 150 nights reading this year. You are such a beautiful reader, Pippa and your teachers love listening to you read each day.
- Year 1/2**  
Ms Rinaldi  
Congratulations to *WANDI MPOFU* for the achievements he has made with his reading this year. He has worked hard to make improvements and he should be very proud!
- Year 1/2**  
Mr Capper  
Congratulations to *HARLAN WITTE* for being a conscientious, self-motivated and hardworking student who always puts forth his best effort. He is a popular class member who is a joy to teach!
- Year 3/4**  
Mrs Nicoll  
Congratulations to *MAKYBE AUGER* for actively engaging in literature discussion groups. Makybe asks interesting questions and she also provides considered responses.
- Year 3/4**  
Miss Sirianni  
Congratulations to *LYLAH BEVAN* for her fantastic reading and comprehension work. Lylah has demonstrated that she can use punctuation to read a text as its author intended. Super work, Lylah!
- Year 3/4**  
Mrs Rizzo  
A big pat on the back to *FINN NEWTON* for the detailed and considered responses and sketches that he is producing when reflecting on text that he is reading or listening to in class. Keep it up, Finn!
- Year 3/4**  
Ms Whitehead  
A big pat on the back to *JAKE O'CONNOR* for the wonderful way he has been applying himself to his writing in class. Jake has been writing some fantastic, detailed procedure texts. Keep up the great work, Jake!
- Year 5/6**  
Mrs O'Connor  
Congratulations to *EDWARD CLAYTON* for the positive behaviour he has demonstrated in the classroom and playground. He has demonstrated the respectful relationships we value at St Patrick's.
- Year 5/6**  
Mrs Ackerly  
Congratulations to *COOPER EYKENBOOM* for the kind and caring approach he regularly displays to others in the classroom and playground. Keep it up!
- Year 5/6**  
Mrs Rickard  
A big pat on the back to *CAMERON DALTON* for his creative story starter using Mrs Wordsmith's word of the day 'petrified'. Great work, Cameron!
- Special Award**  
Mrs Rickard  
A big pat on the back to *MRS ACKERLY* for organising and running our St Patrick's Virtual Show. Thanks for everything you did to get the show going. It was amazing to see all the entrants and the students engaging in their activities.

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

## **FOUNDATION – Caz & Trish**

We hope you enjoyed the extra-long weekend with your children. A short week for learning but nevertheless a busy one!

Thank you to the Parents and Carers who have made an appointment to discuss your child's learning with us.

We thank you for your continued support in not sending your child to school if they are unwell and have symptoms of a cold. We know it can be difficult but in these current times it is essential.

We have had head lice present in the Foundation area. Could you please check your child's hair and treat appropriately if necessary?

## **REMINDERS -**

**HATS** - All students must bring their hats to school this term. Please ensure they are named.

### **SPORT DAYS - MONDAY AND THURSDAY**

Students are to wear their sport uniform on these days. Sneakers to only be worn on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS.

### **Reading Diaries - Monday**

#### **Religion**

The students continue to explore the Religious Education unit called, 'Our Church'.

The students have been discussing ways that you can and do celebrate in their families. They have responded through discussion and drawing times when they felt they belonged at a family celebration.

#### **Literacy**

We have been investigating non-fiction books. The students continue to discover many facts about different topics.

We will continue to find rhyme, syllables and synonyms from words in the big book. The students are busy concentrating on using correct punctuation in their writing. They are providing information in their writing about facts they have learnt from listening to the Big Book.

#### **Levesque - Rainforests**

#### **Shaw - Ladybirds**

#### **Maths - Place Value**

This week the students will revise 'Place Value', and that numbers all have a value.' They will be identifying the number words in sequence, backwards and forwards, and reasoning with the number sequences, establishing the language on which subsequent counting experiences can be built.

They will be developing fluency with forwards and backwards counting in meaningful contexts, including stories and rhymes. The students will understand that numbers are said in a particular order and there are patterns in the way we say them.



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> - Parents/Teacher Phone Call Interview 3.50pm-6pm**

**Friday November 13<sup>th</sup> - School Photos**

**Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup> - Transition day for Kindergarten students.**

**Monday November 30<sup>th</sup> - Report Writing Day - Pupil Free day**

THANK YOU everyone for your continued support, have a wonderful week.

Carolyn and Trish.

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

This week is the fifth week of Term 4. Just a reminder that due to COVID Restrictions the bubbler taps are still not available, therefore, it is important for the children to bring their own water bottles.

Thank you to those parents who availed themselves for Parent/Teacher interviews this week. The teachers took part in a Professional Development with Kirra Pendergast on Monday. Kirra was brilliant. As teachers we were blown away by what we had learnt. Hopefully you had the opportunity to tune in on Monday.

### **Reading:**

Independent reading continues. The reviewing of the student's progression over the course of Semester Two continues. Please remember to ask your children some questions about their books content as this is a good gauge in relation to comprehension. Our assessment is showing some excellent, fluent reading; however, comprehension can still be problematic. Some children are continuing to read their own books which is wonderful however we would recommend that children read "take home" books as these are levelled to your child's ability.

### **Writing:**

The topic on poems will continue. The children will carry on looking at rhyme. in order to expand their confidence in writing poetry.

### **Spelling:**

This week's spelling is

- Group C - 'ear' as in near
- Group B - 'ould' as in could
- Group A - 'sm' as in smog, 'sn' as in snap

### **Numeracy:**

This week we will review Money.

### **Science**

Earth and Space are again the focus.

### **Religious Education:**

Mission and social justice continues

THANK YOU **ROBERTSON'S PHARMACY** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

## Visual Arts

The children will listen to the story of Wendy and the Wallpaper cat before constructing their own.

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

We hope everyone enjoyed the long weekend! Our teachers enjoyed the parent teacher interviews which were held on Monday and look forward to catching up with the other parents this afternoon. It is fantastic to talk about the achievements of your children and the wonderful things they have done this year and also set goals for the future.

On Monday evening Kirra Pendergast ran a parent information session on being safe online. If you missed this session you can access information on Kirra's website -

<https://www.safeonsocialtoolkit.com/pages/toolkit>

### **Important Dates:**

**4<sup>th</sup> November:** 3:50pm – 6.00pm Parent/Teacher Interviews

**13<sup>th</sup> November:** School Photos

### **Literacy:**

**Reading** - this week the students are continuing to focus on identifying and understanding the purpose and features of non-fiction texts. They are practicing responding to comprehension questions related to non-fiction texts. The students are also focusing on 'Procedural' texts which explains how to do or make something. They are exploring the different ways procedural texts may be presented - that is, in spoken, written or visual format. They are also being guided to see that the way a procedure is written, and the language used, will change according to its purpose and the intended audience.

**Writing** – 3/4 students have been working on procedural writing by recording their own set of instructions about something they could confidently guide another person to make, do or play. They have also spent time discussing and classifying different types of procedural texts, as well as identifying the author's purpose.

### **Numeracy:**

Continuing on from last week, the students are focusing on fractions and the different ways it can be represented – part of a group, number line, fraction bar, fraction circle. The students have been learning to accurately represent fractions (***less than one > improper fractions*** and ***mixed numbers***) on a number line and using number lines to compare different fractions. Following on from this the students are beginning to look at how fractions relate to decimals.

### **Religious Education:**

This week the students continue to explore the Four Steps of Reconciliation - ***admit responsibility, say sorry, receive forgiveness, make amends***. The students are also looking at everyday situations of conflict and discussing the effect that a refusal to forgive would have on friendships, families, class and the school community.

### **Homework:**

There is no homework this week due to it being a short week.

THANK YOU **PROVINCIAL HOME LIVING** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

## **Uniform:**

- A reminder that all students need to be wearing their **school hat** each day when outside at recess and lunch and also during sports sessions. Please check that your child has their name on their hat.
- Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform to school each day, including Sports uniform on each of their two designated Sports days. As per our uniform policy, coloured sneakers should only be worn on Sports days. If your child is not wearing the correct school uniform for a particular reason, please kindly advise their classroom teacher via email or a note.

## **Water:**

For obvious reasons the children cannot use the school bubblers, so please ensure your child/children have a **bottle of water** with them **each day**, particularly as the weather is getting warmer.

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

Lots happening in the 5/6 Unit this week.

- Well done on all of the entries the students submitted for our Virtual Show. The winners were presented at our Assembly last Friday. The website for families to access which will have all of the entries and winners for everyone to look at will be available this week.
- The Foundation students enjoyed the work the students did on their marble runs. There were lots of smiles and laughing as the Foundation students tried out the creativity of the year 5/6 students.
- The Year 5 students have voted on their TShirt colours for next year (more information to come) and the Leadership roles for 2021.

## **Dates for your Calendar**

*November 13<sup>th</sup> - School Photos*

*December 16<sup>th</sup> - End of Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation Celebration (TBC)*

## **Mathematics**

This week we continue reviewing the four operations using the Bar Model; mental and written strategies. Students are also exploring language and concepts relating to angles to assist planning and improving their marble runs. Mrs Patterson's sessions with the Year 6 students have been successful and will continue throughout the Term. Mrs Patterson will also be assisting classroom teachers in assessing Year 5 students on an individual basis.

## **Literacy**

The focus in Literacy will be Literacy Circles, exploring vocabulary and discovering etymology of known and unknown words. Students will continue to focus on expository texts and will be constructing a variety of non-fiction writing to accompany their STEM and Virtual Show tasks. Students have made circuits this week and looked at explanatory scientific texts.

## **RE**

Discovering our Christian Heritage - Students explore Christianity in the context of its origins in Judaism. Students will also be made aware that there are strong links among the basic beliefs of the world's three monotheistic faiths – Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Students have explored the book of Genesis and have discussed why and when this was written.

# VIRTUAL SHOW WINNERS

	Category	Judge	WINNER	Viewer's Choice Judge	WINNER
1	Amazing Animals	Helen Lyons	Photo - Lainey Draper smiling dog  Tricks - Ryley Canning - Bonny	Foundation	Sausage Dog-  The Lyster family
2	Art & Photography	Abby Batey	Art - Hugh Sharp  Photography - Harper McGrath	1/2 Rinaldi/Capper	Art - Will Stamp  Photography - Mollie Hogan
3	Cooking	Helen Rickard	Roxy Smithwick (Pizza Cake)	1/2 Bray/Cassidy	Piper Atteridge
4	Show Bag	Annette Beitzel	Patrick Hunter	5/6 Rickard	Hayley Nesbitt
5	Arcade Game	Jess Whitehead	Kyle Hennessy	5/6 Ackerly	Meg Winter & Annabell Martino
6	Floral Arrangement	Andrea O'Connor	Lily Girolami	3/4 Whitehead/Rizzo	Emily Bevan
7	Homecrafts	Janina Rinaldi	Ada Overberg (blanket)	5/6	Lara & Chelsea Maples
8	Lego Model	Ellie Sirianni	Aidan Wilkinson	3/4 Nicoll/Sirianni	Frederick Huhn
9	Design a Course	Sharyn Ackerly	Hannah Styles	5/6	Patrick Reidy Jesse

## MAYFAIR SHOWBAGS

WANTED PLEASE –

McDonald's Toys (in the wrappers),  
COLES Little Treehouse Books  
SAFEWAY Lion King Ooshies, Keyrings,  
Lanyards  
Woolworths Tiles  
for Mayfair 2021 Showbags

Please deliver to the office, thank you.



THANK YOU **DESIGN HOUSE INTERIORS** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL



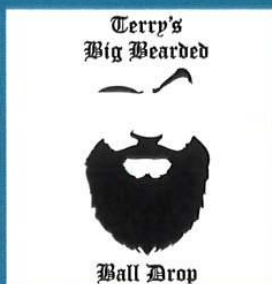
# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

To raise money for the Albury Wodonga  
Regional Cancer Centre

Terry's Big Bearded Ball Drop is inspired by Markwood resident Terry Greaves, who in January 2020 was diagnosed with Metastatic Melanoma and without treatment was given six weeks to live.

The father of three commenced treatment immediately and recently received the positive news that he is in remission, and his life expectancy has increased to two to five years..

For Terry and wife Heather, this campaign is about giving back. With the help of 100 Ambassadors, a small fundraising group is aiming to raise \$200,000 for the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre.



To donate visit  
[www.balldrop.com.au](http://www.balldrop.com.au)



# Safe on Social

## Social Media Tips for Parents

### Cheat Sheet

#### Social Media - Top Tips for Parents

- Talk to children about online privacy issues, making sure they know to never to identify personal information such as their full name, address, age, school and don't ever post photos in school uniform.
- Teach your children to respect people's privacy and don't share anyone else's personal information online without permission.
- Don't tag photos of your children at their school if your accounts are not set to completely private. This is a child safety issue as anyone driving past can search the school on Instagram and see all of the photos that have been tagged at the school, often by parents who have not set their account to private on Instagram. If your account is not completely private, anyone can see your photos of your child, their name, the name of the cat ,where you go on holiday, what your family does on weekends, when birthdays were and other information about your family and your life. Therefore a complete stranger could make up a story that could be very convincing to your child by using the information you have shared in a public forum of more than 500million users.
- If you are going to post anything with a significant fact, check it first.
- Teach your children to understand the importance of passwords, keeping them private and changing regularly.
- Learn how to recognise a scam. If it is too good to be true, it probably is.
- Make sure the apps you allow your kids to use are age appropriate.
- Don't be patronising or insulting to anyone. This kind of behaviour validates bad behaviour in children as they often see it if you are connected to young people on social media.



- Ban devices from the bedroom from as young as possible. Set boundaries around use.
- Share pictures and videos only with consent. And respect the privacy of others.
- Keep your love-life and arguments off social media.
- Stay positive. If you see something you disagree with – don't engage.
- Consider the fact that children in the background of photos or videos you take at your child's school may be on "no publish" lists. Some children are in protective custody or witness protection and an innocent photo posted on social media could be disastrous.
- Teach young people not to say, or repeat anything that they wouldn't say if the person were standing right in front of them.
- Recognise that other people's opinions may be different to their own and that does not give them permission to attack those opinions online.
- Remember that even an emoji can be taken out of context by someone reading it.
- Use your head and your heart and don't let emotion be the only thing driving you to post.
- Make sure you respect classification on games, they are there for a reason.
- Make sure the young people in your care know that under no circumstances they should go and meet up with anyone they meet online. Stranger Danger rules apply because they are now literally on digital steroids and 24x7.

w: [safeonsocial.com](http://safeonsocial.com)  
 e: [wecanhelp@safeonsocial.com](mailto:wecanhelp@safeonsocial.com)

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# safe on social

## Among Us



[www.safeonsocial.com](http://www.safeonsocial.com)

### Age Recommendations-

Apple 9+

Google Play 10+

Includes : In app purchases, and ads

This online game has become the go-to Pandemic entertainment of the past few months.

The game is very simple, and has been in existence since 2018, but its popularity has exploded with the advent of the global pandemic.

The game is available on all mobile devices and on computer where it has a substantial following on Discord, and Steam.

Players on the game streaming service Twitch, TikTok and major YouTube stars have all played with millions of viewers tuning in. As an example of just HOW popular this game is – a recent New York Times articles referenced at least 200 millions hours logged by users viewing others playing the game on Twitch alone just this year.

The majority of players come from the 13 -20 age group, but the numbers of adults participating is increasing.

### What it is?

The premise is simple.

The game involves 4-10 players being confined on a space ship in desperate need of repairs. Every player is given a random designation as either a crew mate or an imposter. Players must move around the space ship trying to complete given tasks while trying to out the imposters before they destroy the ship.

Players suspected of being the imposter are voted off the ship by team members, with the loser being ejected from an airlock into space.

An imposter is actually an alien, seeking to murder the crew before the repairs can be completed. The crew wins when they complete the repairs, the imposter when all the crew have been taken out.



The graphics are very simple, with minimal graphic realities that are typical to many online multiplayer games.



In reality there is a considerable similarity to old school board games such as Cluedo. This is an online whodunit , where once dead, the player may still watch the outcome, but must remain silent about their death and who killed them.

There is a 90 second window offered at times throughout the game where players are able text chat and grill the other players on their suspicions and deductions.

Most messaging is between player is via text windows, and the language content is heavily censored. Drop the F- bomb, and all you will see is \*\*\*\*. Users names may at times border on the offensive but the language control is excellent.

At this time, the game itself does not offer multiplayer live chat.

## **BUT.**

It is possible to use third party chat apps whilst playing, with Discord being the most versatile and the most common. Given that Discord is largely an invite only chat room host, players can control the access to voice chat, not allowing random players to join the conversation without an invite to a private chat space. Children must always be advised not to communicate with strangers online.

## **Issues.**

The behaviours required to survive on the space ship, and ultimately obtain victory over team mates involves flattering the strong, attacking the weak, lying, obfuscating and engaging in deceptive behaviours. The subterfuge necessary to stay on the space ship may not be reflective of values parents wish to see their younger children engaging in or learning about, nor may the requirement that the imposter must assassinate all other team members to win appeal.

The most risk comes from the group of 10 playing being randomly selected from global participants and players failing to keep their personal information secure.

Players have reported individuals sharing Snap Chat and other social media contact details via the text chat option, and all people playing this game should be reminded that keeping personal details offline whilst playing such a game is vital.

In app purchases are available. This maybe irresistible for a child, so using a prepaid credit card with a set limit can prevent any accidental purchases being run up without a parent being aware.

The developer's original intent was for this game to be played in the same room as the other players- and as a family activity – this could provide an entertaining option, and allow parents to engage with their children online, and at the same time model good digital behaviour.

## **Summary.**

Play this with your children and respect the age restrictions.

Play the game with your child and decide for yourself if this game is appropriate for your child. Advise younger players to keep all personal details and other social media accounts private and never chat with strangers.

Create a group of your child's personal friends to play together.

"Among us" is everywhere right now and looks to only expand in popularity, of the games being played during the pandemic – this is possibly the most innocuous if basic online safety rules be followed.



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#lightupwangeratta

Saturday  
5 December  
8pm - 10pm



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