



# 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

9<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

### One Solitary Life

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, I am often reminded of this little reflection that I found years ago. It can be guilty of simplifying things a little too much but, in its simplicity, lies a story of hope for the world and an amazing life.

Here is a man who is born of Jewish parents, the child of a peasant woman.

He never wrote a book; He never held an office;

He never owned a home; He never had a family;

He never went to university; He never set foot inside a big city;

He never travelled 200 miles from the place where he was born.

He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness

He had no credentials, but himself.....

While still a young man, the tide of opinion turned against him

His friends ran away.... One of them denied him.....

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves

His executioners gambled for the only piece of property that he had on Earth..... his coat

When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty wide centuries have come and gone, and he is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of a column of progress

I am far within the mark when I say..... that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built have not affected the life of people upon Earth as powerfully as has that .....

### One Solitary Life

Dear Parents,

Well, there's just a week of school left before the Christmas holidays. Anyone would think that I'm looking forward to stopping. They would be correct too! I also want the staff to stop. I want the parents to stop. I want the students to stop. I want to breathe in the year that was and exhale slowly reflecting on how we have triumphantly lasted the distance.

THANK YOU **STAMP ELECTRICAL** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

It has been a most unusual year filled with highs and lows. The lows were clearly the COVID lockdowns and the pressure placed on families during these times. The highs, for me at least, are the way we came together as a staff and as a school community and supported each other and the students.

I know that many of you are used to hearing me “rabbit” on about our school staff. Sometimes I just want to shout it to the world. “Look at these girls and guys”, I’d say, “They are St Patrick’s staff and they are incredible!”. They are the greatest gift to my principalship. Their work during COVID was exemplary.

I also got to see the students grow emotionally, academically and spiritually. They faced quite a few “hurdles” along the way, and most are better for the experience. It was strange to see such positives in such adversity but, I think, that it says something about the human spirit.

## **ADVENT Liturgy**

On Monday, the Middle School led the students through our second Advent liturgy in the Pavilion at school. The teachers and students do such a great job of organising these special events. It really does help young and old alike to focus on the heart of the Christmas. The birth of Jesus and the gift that he was and is to the world.

Our final Advent liturgy will be held on Monday morning in the Pavilion. I’m sure it will be another great way to prepare for Christmas.

## **Last day of Term**

Students finish for the year next Wednesday at 3.30pm. Staff will work on for the following two days preparing for next year.

## **Transition Day**

Yesterday’s Transition Day was a huge success with lots of positive comments from students and teachers. 2021 is shaping as a very good year.

## **End of Year Liturgy**

We will hold an End of Year Liturgy on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am. Fr Mike will lead us through the celebration of what has been a most unusual year. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, it will be held under our pavilion with students and teachers only.

We hope to be able to record it and send you a copy so you can see what a special occasion that it is.



## **Emailing Reports**

We plan to send out the end of year reports electronically (as we did in mid-year). If your email address has changed since the mid-year reports, could you contact Annette ([abeitzel@spwanganaratta.catholic.edu.au](mailto:abeitzel@spwanganaratta.catholic.edu.au)) or Rosie ([rpane@spwanganaratta.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rpane@spwanganaratta.catholic.edu.au)) in the office with your new email address. Hard copies of the report will be available upon request.

The reports are due to be emailed out on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**THANK YOU FRANKLIN ECO FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL**

## Zooper Doopers

Annette is co-ordinating the sale of Zooper Doopers at recess each Thursday and Friday. Cost is 50 cents and money raised will go to Caritas.



## Year Six Graduation – 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm

This year will see our Graduation Ceremony run a little differently due to the COVID19 restrictions still in place.

We will hold our Graduation ceremony under our pavilion at school with graduating students, their parents and teachers. I know that the Year 6 teachers have been in contact with the students involved. It should be a great evening to celebrate their journey through St Patrick's School.

## ICT changeover

We are about to take delivery of our new ICT equipment in coming weeks (iPads and Macbooks). To this end, we will be withdrawing our current equipment to prepare it for resale through our supplier.

Our current equipment served us very well especially during the COVID lockdown periods. It's now time to prepare for the next generation equipment to be introduced across the school.

This will mean that all students in Years 3 to 6 will have their own device next year.

## School Concert/Alternative Plans

We are hopeful of sharing an online version of our Christmas Concert as we cannot have parents at school due to ongoing COVID19 restrictions. I will email parents with the details once I get a full picture of what's happening.

## 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:

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

## 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 **GINGER & THYME** 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>

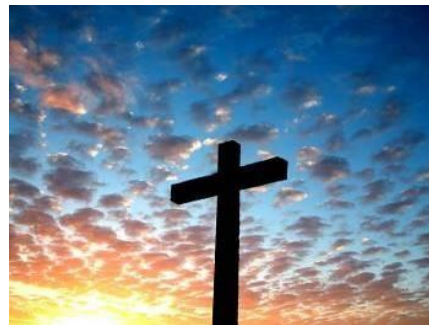
You will need to join our "Class" after you install and sign up - @spatwang, or St Patrick's Primary School Wangaratta



## Mass Times

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

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



*Terry*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER	14 <sup>th</sup>	-	Reports Going Home
	16 <sup>th</sup>	-	6.30pm Grade 6 Graduation
	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
JANUARY	27 <sup>th</sup>	-	Staff Planning Day
	28 <sup>th</sup>	-	Students Start Term 1 - 2021

THANK YOU **HAMEX** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

## AFTER SCHOOL CARE 2021

As we are approaching the end of the year, we require confirmation as to what days you will be requiring After-School Care for next year, to ensure that your child receives a place. Could those who utilise the After-School Care program, please fill out the form below to show what days your child will be attending next year. Your prompt response would be appreciated. Please fill this form out no later than Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

The Link for the Survey is: <https://forms.gle/WCUvUiwEQJvrBbxL8>

If you haven't used the After School Care previously and require it for next year, you will need to fill out an enrolment form which can be collected from the office.



# EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

### Why it's important

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

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years 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.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

### Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

### What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

**"Day off"** – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Tuancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school 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.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

**For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:**

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)

Department of Education and Training



THANK YOU LINDENWARRAH FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

# PAT ON THE BACK

- Foundation**  
Mrs Levesque  
Congratulations to *AMELIA WESTON* for her detailed and descriptive writing. She enjoys sharing her work with her peers.
- Foundation**  
Mrs Shaw  
Congratulations to *IMOGEN REA* for the wonderful writing she is doing. Imogen is working very hard when forming her letters. Great work, Immy!
- Year 1/2**  
Bray/Cornish  
Congratulations to *VIOLET BUSK, INDIANA WINSLADE, RILEY GRASSO & HUDSON SCULLY* for the wonderful year of learning they have had.
- Year 1/2**  
Cassidy/Barry  
Congratulations to *YEAR 1/2 CASSIDY/BARRY* for the fantastic year's learning, all together. How lucky we are to have been your teachers this year!
- Year 1/2**  
Ms Rinaldi  
Congratulations to *YEAR 1/2 RINALDI* for being an outstanding group of students, who made our classroom a happy place to be. You all showed resilience and determination throughout a very difficult year and I couldn't be prouder of you all!
- Year 1/2**  
Mr Capper  
Congratulations to *YEAR 1/2 CAPPER*. Thank you for being such a beautiful, wonderful, hardworking class who have made my final year of full time teaching such a wonderful experience. Cheers!! Mr Capper!
- Year 3/4**  
Mrs Nicoll  
Congratulations to *HENRY ACKERLY* for the persistence and determination that he has demonstrated in developing his automatic recall of the multiplication tables. Well done, Henry!
- Year 3/4**  
Miss Sirianni  
Congratulations to *CLARITY WARD* for the wonderful effort she has put into her handwriting. Clarity has worked hard to write neatly in her books and has remembered to present her work when finished. Well done, Clarity!
- Year 3/4**  
Mrs Rizzo  
A big pat on the back to *YEAR 3/4 RIZZO* for being an amazing class this year. You have been through so much and have come out shining. I am so proud of you. Thank you and good luck to all of you next year!
- Year 3/4**  
Ms Whitehead  
A big pat on the back and thank you to *YEAR 3/4 WHITEHEAD* for working hard at achieving great things and making this year special. I am so proud of you all!
- Year 5/6**  
Mrs O'Connor  
Congratulations to *YEAR 5/6 O'CONNOR* for being an amazing class this year and I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas.
- Year 5/6**  
Mrs Ackerly  
Congratulations to *ISABEL MCCLLEN* for the initiative and kindness she demonstrated in making a buddy card, without being asked, so the Prep buddy did not miss out.
- Year 5/6**  
Mrs Rickard  
A big pat on the back to all the wonderful students in *YEAR 5/6 RICKARD*. This has certainly been a year like no other, but you have all put in 100% to all of the learning opportunities presented to you and you should be very proud of all your efforts. Super well done!

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

## **FOUNDATION – Caz & Trish**

Well we are nearly there!

Yesterday your child spent four hours in their new class with their teacher and peers for next year. I'm sure they had a marvellous day and are very excited for next year. Although we are sad to see them go, we are so proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing them next year. Last day for students is on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> December

**Your child's report will be sent to you by email on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**If this is an issue for you, please contact your child's teacher**

## **REMINDERS –**

### **ALL READERS AND READER BAGS TO BE RETURNED BY THIS FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER**

#### **Religion**

This week we continue the unit, 'We Celebrate Christmas'. In this unit, the students will explore the celebration of Jesus' birth and the concept of waiting and preparing for special events in their lives. They will have an understanding of waiting and how it applies to their lives. Advent means waiting, it is the four weeks before Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Christmas.

#### **Literacy**

We are reading lots of stories about Christmas and completing tasks relating to the books. We will continue to find rhyme, syllables and synonyms from words in the books. The students are still busy concentrating on using correct punctuation in their writing and using their THRASS strategies when spelling unfamiliar words.

#### **Maths**

We will be revising topics and also playing lots of board and card games. Daily counting will be continued. We are counting by 2s, 5s and 10s.

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Monday - December 14<sup>th</sup>** - Reports emailed home to parents.

**Wednesday - December 16<sup>th</sup>** - Last day of school for students. **Finishing time at 3.30pm**

Thank you everyone, stay rested, keep smiling and have a very happy week.

Carolyn and Trish

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

The countdown is on. This time next week the children will have completed their last day of school for 2020.

The take home readers will not be going home again this year. This will give us a chance to sort and check the readers in preparation for 2021.

Can you please check under beds, in bookshelves, in bags, etc. Likewise, with library books. We need all books returned as soon as possible please.

THANK YOU THE BAKER'S WIFE FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

Your children have all spent time with their new teachers and class for 2021. The placement of children is a task that takes the teachers many hours of discussion and consideration. Our primary aim is to place your child within a cohort that will best suit their needs educationally and emotionally.

We feel very privileged and honoured to have had the opportunity to teach and enjoy the opportunity to have your child in our 1/2 classes this year. Our team wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful and very happy 2021.

Good luck and God Bless.

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

#### **Dates to remember:**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** - End of Year School Mass  
Students last day of school for 2020

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> & Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - School Closure Days (Staff Planning Days)

#### **Literacy:**

**Reading** – This week students are reading and studying a range of Christmas poems to help raise the Christmas spirit while learning about different forms of poetry and the wide array of literary devices they use. Some of the literary devices, students are looking for in the Christmas poems include; alliteration, rhyming, metaphors, similes, personification and repetition.

**Writing** – The 3/4 students are developing their own Christmas Poetry Books as a part of this week's studies into Poetry. Each day they will focus on writing in a particular form of poetry and will learn about the features and rules associated with each form. Students will be learning specifically about haiku's, acrostic poems, limericks, cinquains and colour poems. They will then draft, edit and publish their own Christmas poems in each of these forms into their very own Christmas Poetry Books.

**Spelling** – This week for spelling students are looking at words which have a change to their basic spelling to become plural. Here are the plural words for this week: mice, women, gentlemen, geese, men, teeth, oxen, children and lice.

**Numeracy:** This week students are continuing to develop their understanding of multiplication and division using both concrete materials and written strategies. They will draw on the multiplication tables as they solve a range of problems. Please continue to encourage and support your child's automatic recall of the multiplication tables facts at home.

**Religious Education:** This week the students are continuing learning activities and tasks through the unit, 'Christmas the Message of Joy and Peace'. They will develop their understanding of Christmas as a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and that it is a time of sharing joy and peace to the wider community.

**Homework:** This week for homework students can practise their automatic recall of the multiplication tables facts.

Students are also expected to read 15-20 minutes each night and discuss the text they have read with an adult.

#### **Reminders:**

- All students need to be wearing their **school hat** each day when outside at recess, lunch and also during sports sessions. Please check that your child has their **name** on their hat.

THANK YOU **BRENDAN KEIR CARPENTRY** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL



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

Welcome to the last full week of the Year! Today students found out their new classes for next year. Please take time to listen to your child about how they are feeling, but also use this as an opportunity to focus on the positive experiences that your child will be involved in next year and see it as an opportunity to further develop a growth mindset towards both academic and social learning.

- Year 5 T-Shirts have been ordered for next year and the proof looked fantastic. 47 Students; 4 Teachers; Principal and Deputy Principal makes a full T-Shirt.

Details regarding our planned Year 6 Graduation celebration on the evening of Wednesday 16th December were sent home on Monday. Please refer to the note for catering options from Brooke Peruzzo.

### Dates for your Calendar:

**Monday 14th December** - Year 5/6 Advent Liturgy. Year 6 Fun Day to the Pool

**Tuesday 15th December** - Year 6 Fun Day to the Movies

**Wednesday December 16th** - *End of Year Mass, Assembly and final assembly. Year 6 Graduation evening Celebration - Last Day for Students - School finishes at 3:30pm*

### Mathematics

This week we will be looking at different mathematical activities from Mathematical Mindsets, this involves visualising open-ended maths investigations to solve real world problems.

### 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 including procedural, biographical and persuasive.

### RE

As we enter into the Season of Advent the students will be looking at John the Baptist's relationship with Jesus. Each year level of the school will use art to tell the nativity story by creating window displays. The Year 5s will create a window of the Angels appearing to the Shepherds and the Year 6s will create a window of the Three Wise Kings. The senior students will narrate the nativity story using the windows to create an iMovie which will be shared to parents as part of St Patrick's 'COVID-safe' Christmas Concert.

## 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 RODAN & FIELD SKINCARE BY LAURA FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

# River Detectives Excursion December 7th 2020

On Monday Izzy, Evie, Archer, Eva, Mia, Henry and Hayley went down to the Ovens River for a one-off session with Kathie Le Busque, who is the River Detectives Coordinator for North East CMA. Kathie's session with us focused on new techniques on how to sample for macroinvertebrates, also teaching us more ways to help us how to identify the macroinvertebrates.

We found multiple exquisite macroinvertebrate species including glass shrimp, water striders, backswimmers, water boatman and mayfly nymphs. Macroinvertebrate sampling helps us understand if our waterway is healthy or not. We really enjoyed the experience and feel lucky to have had Kathie share her expertise with us.

by Hayley, Izzy and Evie



Christmas Masses and Reconciliation  
2020

Anointing Mass:

Thursday 17 December @ 2.00pm at Our Lady's Church

Christmas Reconciliation (2<sup>nd</sup> Rite)

Friday 18 December @ 5.00pm @ Our Lady's Church

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Moyhu: Christmas Vigil Mass (24/12) 5.00PM

St Patricks Church:

Christmas Eve (24/12) 7.00 PM

9.00 PM

Christmas Day (25/12) 10.30AM

Our Lady's Church:

Christmas Eve (24/12) 6.30 PM

Christmas Day (25/12) 9.00 AM

*No Mass on Boxing Day morning (26/12)*

Saturday 26/12 Our Lady's 5.00pm

St Patrick's 6.00pm

Sunday 27/12 St Patrick's 8.00am

Our Lady's 9.00am

Moyhu 10.30am

St Patrick's 10.30am

NEW YEARS DAY - Fri. 1 January 2021

St Patrick's 8.00am

Our Lady's 9.00am

St Patrick's 10.30am

*No Mass on Saturday morning (2/1/2021)*

W/END OF 2/3 JAN - RESUME NORMAL WEEKEND MASS TIMES