



St Patrick's School

Ovens St, Wangaratta, Vic 3677 Phone: (03) 5721 5795 Fax: (03) 5721 9604
Email: 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

27th October, 2021

“Let the good times roll”

As the world begins to open up, I am very excited for the many stranded “Aussies” overseas who will finally be able to return. To reconnect with family and loved ones. To be safe.

I can now see the “light at the end of the tunnel” and that we are getting through these troubled times. A new beginning is in sight.

At the risk of sounding like a hypocrite, I probably didn't always feel this way. When the pandemic began to take hold, I would often think that these stranded people had their chance to return so why should they jeopardise the safety of others here in Australia, especially my friends and family. Not very Christian of me, I know. I didn't spare a thought for what they are going through, nor the circumstances that got them there. I was quick to judge and for that I'm sorry.

Throughout this pandemic, societies both here and overseas have been fragmented by our isolation from others which has probably fed our own fears and beliefs.

For me at least, it's time I rediscovered my sense of others and I made sure that I was inclusive of others despite our differences. I believe that doing that is life giving. When I give into negativity, the world around me becomes negative, it closes in around me. When I choose to interact with others in a positive way then it's as if there is a light turned on inside me. It feels good. I think that it also makes God a little more present in the world. No, I'm not God but I do believe that he is present in all of us.

So, here's to the good times ahead and being able to enjoy the company of others!

Dear Parents,

It has been so nice to welcome all of the students back to school this week. When everyone is at school, the place buzzes.

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

Clearly most of you are aware of the current COVID situation in Wangaratta. It's even more striking in Albury who currently have 200 cases on their books. I don't mention this to alarm people. I mention it because, if you look at the data, there are very few getting seriously ill due to the high vaccination rates. That should provide a sense of comfort.

We have been locked down for so long that I think it's helpful to take a more positive approach than to over react each time we hear of an instance of the virus. For me at least, the road ahead is a positive one, as we begin to reclaim a sense of normality again. I can only hope that, with the opening up of our communities, we can let go of some of the things that have been dividing us. Wangaratta is such a beautiful place to live and we all deserve a fair go at happiness.

Please make sure that you contact me, Helen Lyons or your child's teacher should you have any questions or queries.

School Closure – First Aid – 1st November – NEXT MONDAY



St Patrick's will be closed on Monday, 1st November to allow staff to undergo **Level Two First Aid training**. I realise that, coming back from a lockdown, that it is not the ideal situation. However, it is a requirement that all schools retain First Aid training of staff and we have been trying to do this since the beginning of the year when it fell due. Apologies again for the inconvenience.

Melbourne Cup Holiday – Tuesday

St Patrick's will be closed next Tuesday, 2nd November, for the Melbourne Cup Holiday.

Advisory Council Meeting – This Thursday

The St Patrick's Advisory Council will meet tomorrow evening (6.00pm via Zoom). Links have been sent to council members and guest speakers. I am hopeful of having a face-to-face before the end of the year. I miss that!

School Hats

During term four school hats are required to be worn outside as part of the school's SunSmart Policy. Students who do not have a hat will be restricted to play under the pavilion at school to protect them from the sun. It is not a punishment, it is to keep them safe from the sun. Hats need to be sun safe (baseball style caps are not permitted).

Reconciliation Program

Thank you to all involved in last week's meeting. At this stage the preparation phase will be conducted at the schools to help comply with the current COVID safe settings. The celebration of the Sacraments will take place at school next month.

School Photos – NEW DATE – 12th November

School photos will take place on Friday, 12th November. Fingers crossed that it will happen on that date. At the rate we are going, the Foundations students will be in Year 12 before we get the job done! (LOL)



THANK YOU FRANKLY ECO SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

Book Parade – 19th November

As I mentioned last week, I am determined to have a Book Week Parade once we get clear of all of the lockdowns and restrictions. The date has been set for **Friday, 19th November**.

At this stage I am unsure as to whether we can allow parents to join us at school for the parade. More on that later, once we have some clarity from the government.

I think that it will be a fun thing to do when we are all together again and it will be one of my last little indulgences as principal.

New Face Mask Regulations

We have received new directives from the Victorian Chief Health Officer regarding the wearing of face masks at school for Primary aged students (Years 3 to 6). I have included the relevant directives from the current government guidelines (below).

1. *Please see [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) for the latest face mask requirements. For all school settings, the Victorian Chief Health Officer Directs:*

- *students in Year 3 to Year 6 to wear face masks when indoors on school premises, unless an exception applies*

- *Recommends that all other children wear face masks when at school, attending an OSHC program, or when travelling to and from school on public transport, taxis or ride share vehicles. There are a number of lawful reasons for not wearing a face mask, including for staff and students who are unable to wear a face mask due to the nature of their disability, medical or a mental health condition.*

A face mask must cover the nose and mouth. Face shields, scarves or bandanas do not meet these requirements.

We ask that parents send their child to school with a face mask if they are in Years 3 to 6. Please make sure that they are appropriately marked as they are only required to be worn indoors and the students are not required to wear them during recess/lunch times whilst outdoors (unless they choose to do so).

Current COVID Restrictions for Schools

Just a reminder to parents that you can only come onto the school site for essential reasons. If you are dropping your child off it is preferable that you do this at one of the school gates - Ovens St and Ryley St.

If you do need to come into any of the school buildings, **you must enter through the front office and check in, regardless of the time spent in the building.**

YOU MUST WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES.

PLEASE do not enter any of the classrooms through the school grounds.

Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) Parents may enter the school via the Ovens St Gate to collect their child/ren from child care. They are only permitted to the front entrance of the hall to sign their child out. A mask must be worn at all times please.

THANK YOU **GLOW DAY SPA** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

School Operations Guide

The latest school Operations guidelines require that:

- Hand hygiene and cleaning regimes are in place
- Visitors are restricted to staff and health and wellbeing support with record keeping
- No assemblies or liturgies
- Libraries can be open
- Shared drink taps open
- Sports programs are permitted with conditions

Website

Please have a look at our new and updated website. Here you will find our policies as well as the newsletter.

<https://spwangeratta.catholic.edu.au>

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



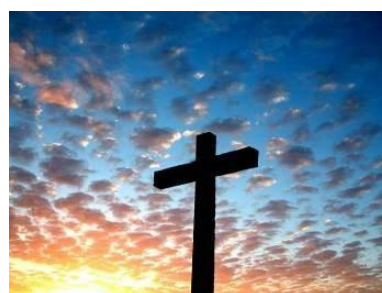
Newsletter

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@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.

Mass Times

- * Saturday 4.00pm Our Lady's
- * 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://catholicwangeratta.wixsite.com/wangeratta>

Terry

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER	29 th	-	Crazy Sock Day for Socktober
NOVEMBER	1 st	-	All Saints' Day – Mass 6.00pm St Pat's Church
	1 st	-	PUPIL FREE DAY – Staff First Aid
	2 nd	-	All Souls' Day – Mass 4.00pm & 6.00pm at Wangaratta Cemetery
	2 nd	-	PUPIL FREE - Melbourne Cup Day
	3 rd	-	Foundation Transition Day
	12 th	-	School Photos
	18 th	-	Foundation Transition Day
	18 th	-	7.00pm Foundation Info Night – Zoom/School
	19 th	-	Book Parade – Dress Up Day
29 th	-	PUPIL FREE DAY – Staff Planning	
DECEMBER	7 th	-	Statewide Transition Day F – 6
	15 th	-	End of Year Mass
	15 th	-	3.30pm Last Day of School
	15 th	-	Year 6 Graduation Dinner
	16 th	-	Planning Day

LIBRARY BOOKS

Dear Parents

Thank you to those children who have returned their overdue books.

There are still a lot of outstanding overdue books at home. Could you please check at home and make sure to return any books belonging to St Patrick's.

An email was sent out last week to those who have overdue books and I would appreciate it if you could attend to this as soon as possible.

Thanks
Rosie



PAT ON THE BACK

- Foundation** Mrs Patterson Congratulations to *SHANNA DAGOLI* for showing persistence and determination during writing time. Shanna is now showing great confidence when writing independently.
- Foundation** Mrs Shaw Congratulations to *ELI CASSIDY* for the excellent writing he is producing. He is really taking his time and the end results have been wonderful. Great work Eli, you are an amazing writer!
- Year 1/2** Mrs Bray A big pat on the back to *FLYNN CHANDLER & LOTTIE SCOTT* for the way they are settling into their learning and use their time wisely to show their understandings in their workbooks.
- Year 1/2** Mrs Levesque Congratulations to *ELSA WINTER* for being such a great leader. Elsa consistently has a positive mindset as she completes all tasks and she is always helping her peers and teachers and making sure the room is organised.
- Year 1/2** Mrs Newton A big pat on the back to *ZOE THOMPSON* for demonstrating a great understanding of fractions, wanting to continue expanding her knowledge and sharing her working out with her peers. Wonderful job Zoe!
- Year 3/4** Ms Rinaldi A big pat on the back to *HARPER MILLER* for having a wonderful work ethic! Harper gives her best effort in all that she does and approaches work tasks with positivity!
- Year 3/4** Mrs Nicoll Congratulations to *LOGAN BENTON* for the progress he is making in his reading and writing. Logan is demonstrating the ability to carefully read and interpret text and his written responses reflect the fact that he is thinking about what he is recording.
- Year 3/4** Ms Sirianni Congratulations to *SAXON LAWFORD* for the exceptional effort he has put into completing his work independently in the classroom. Awesome work, Saxon!
- Year 3/4** Mrs Rizzo A big pat on the back to *JOSEPH ROBERTSON* for his 'can do' attitude. I love that Joseph is always willing to give everything a go and takes on board ways to improve his work. Well done Joseph!
- Year 5/6** Ms Whitehead A big pat on the back to *GRACE FAHEY-PYLE* for the effort she has been putting in during maths lessons. Grace has been sharing her ideas with the class and taking risks with her learning. Keep it up Grace!
- Year 5/6** Mrs Cassidy Congratulations to *YEAR 5/6 CASSIDY* for the way in which they have settled back into the classroom after Remote Learning. I am so looking forward to the remainder of this term and celebrating our learning journey together.
- Year 5/6** Mrs Ackerly Congratulations to *BAILAN DALTON* for the enthusiastic way he approaches all learning tasks. Bailan's confidence in asking questions to clarify meaning has improved and he approaches all tasks with 110% effort. Keep it up!
- Year 5/6** Mrs Rickard A big pat on the back to *ABBY DENNEHY* for her creative fractured fairy tale she is writing based on the story Little Red Riding Hood. I can't wait to read your finished story Abby. Great work!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM

FOUNDATION – Trish & Grace

Here is week 4!

The weeks are absolutely flying by at a rapid rate!

REMINDERS

- **Absences** - Just a reminder to contact your child's teacher each day that your child is away from school.
- Thank you for ensuring your child is bringing their hat to school. It is compulsory to wear hats this term. Please ensure they are named, thank you.

SPORT DAYS - Back to regular timetable

SHAW - WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

PATTERSON - THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

Students are to wear their sport uniform on these days please. Runners are only to be worn on Sport Days.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The students have enjoyed making their own churches and learning all about the different objects in the church. They have learnt that people can belong to the Church and we can celebrate as Church in many places. We can celebrate in our classroom, school and parish.

We can feel special when we celebrate as a Church community. The students have embraced this unit beautifully.

LITERACY

We will continue investigating non-fiction books this term. The students will be looking at facts about different topics.

Patterson - Sea Creatures

Shaw - Insects

Thank you for continuing to read with your child every day and remember that **MONDAY** is the day for yellow reading diaries to be brought to school please. When reading, we have been concentrating on rereading for comprehension. It is important to ask questions about the text as you read in order to understand what you have read.

In the Foundation classrooms we have also been revising and practising good writing skills this week. The students have been investigating writing about facts through reading the Big Books. They have created wanted posters about different creatures and adding facts to their posters.

SHOW AND TELL

Week 4

Explain something from the environment that is heavy.

Week 5

An object with an interesting sound.

Week 6

Favourite Song

THANK YOU **LINDENWARRAH** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

MATHS

This week the students will be investigating money. The students will represent simple, everyday financial situations involving money using toy money to pay for goods in play situations. They will be recognising coins by looking at them and discussing the different faces and animals on each coin and note.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Friday 29th – Socktober - students may wear crazy socks, a gold coin donation to raise funds for Caritas**
- **Monday 1st November - PUPIL FREE DAY (Staff completing Level 2 First Aid/Anaphylaxis Training)**
- **Tuesday 2nd November - Melbourne Cup - PUPIL FREE DAY**
- **Wednesday 3rd November - 1st Transition Day for Kindergarten students (Foundation students for 2022)**
- **Friday 12th November - School Photos (note date change)**
- **Thursday 18th November - 2nd Transition Day for Kindergarten students (Foundation students for 2022)**
- **Friday 19th November - BOOK PARADE!!!!**
- **Monday 29th November - PUPIL FREE DAY - Planning Day for staff**

We thank you for your continued support throughout these current times and wish you all a happy week.

Grace and Trish

gpatterson@spwangeratta.catholic.edu.au

tshaw@spwangeratta.catholic.edu.au

YEAR ONE/TWO – Karen, Caz & Sarah

The weeks are flying by! To think next week is NOVEMBER!

We thank you again for your continuous support with home reading, organisation of correct uniform, healthy lunches and hats packed!

This term all the students need to wear a hat when outside for sport or recess/lunchtime.

We have had a lovely week once again and we are very grateful to be at school teaching your child/children.

Religion -

The students will continue the unit, 'Loving God and Others - Our Call to Mission'. This week the students will listen to stories with characters showing love to others. They will draw/write/discuss these actions and make connections to people who show love to others.

Literacy -

This week the students will create a spelling list with the long vowel sound, 'o' as in oat, oad, ode, oaf, ost etc.

The students will listen to Fairy Tales, discussing the morals and the colourful semantics of the story e.g. who, what, when, where, problem, resolution. During writing, the students will be inspired by Fairy Tales. They will create their own Fairy tale, change a Fairy Tale and write letters to the characters in the Fairy Tales etc.

THANK YOU ATL PRESSURE CLEANING SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

Mathematics -

The students will focus on the Location and Transformation, understanding flips, turns and slides of objects and shapes.

Inquiry -

'Robot Buddies' - This week, the students will explore how creativity can help us to problem solve, create and innovate. The students will work in small groups to create a solution for a problem presented to them.

4 R's -

'Positive Gender Relationships' - This week's goal is that the students will identify gender based behaviours they can practice in their classrooms and playground. E.g. Play a game called 'Leaders', making sure all students are leaders. Discuss what is a good leader? What would you do if someone said, 'Girls can't play this game?' etc.

Have a great rest of the week,

Karen, Sarah & Carolyn

YEAR THREE/FOUR – Karen, Nara, Ellie & Janina

Welcome to Week 4! It feels as if the term is passing us by very quickly already! The students have settled well into routine and have enjoyed the consistency of being onsite full time. The calendar for this term is filling very quickly - please make a note of the dates below for upcoming events.

Important Dates:

Friday 29th October	- Crazy Sock Day
Monday 1st November	- School Closure Day for Staff First Aid Training (Student free day)
Tuesday 2nd November	- Melbourne Cup Holiday
Friday 12th November	- School Photo Day
Tuesday 19th November	- Book Week Parade Day (Dress up day)

Literacy:

This week students have continued with the study of 'Script Writing' as part of their literacy activities, with a particular focus on the features of play scripts (**scene number and title, setting description, speaker's name, stage directions in brackets, speech**). In Reading, students are completing a range of activities which include exploring and responding to media texts through Kids News and learning about threatened species on Behind the News.

Spelling:

Our focus phoneme this week is the consonant sound that is produced by the following graphemes: 'b' and 'bb' as in **bird and rabbit** and 'd' and 'dd' as in **bird and ladder**. We are also focusing on differentiating between various homophones.

Mathematics:

This week in Mathematics the Year 3 and 4 students have been practicing skills when solving addition and subtraction problems. This also involves worded problems and the need to identify which operation is required to solve a problem.

THANK YOU **THE BAKER'S WIFE** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

Religious Education:

This week, we are continuing to explore the unit, 'Jesus Models Forgiveness'. Students are reflecting on the theme of 'forgiveness', and understanding that Jesus' mission was to teach healing, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Inquiry:

As a part of our new inquiry unit, 'Frame by Frame', we are exploring the evolution and history of film. Students are learning about how movies have their origins in oral storytelling. This week, they have been brainstorming story types, considering characters and also, planning the 'beginning, middle and end' events for their stories, which they will animate.

Uniform:

In Term 4 hats are compulsory for students to wear when outdoors at school. Please ensure your child has a **St Patrick's hat** with them in their bag, for school. Students are required to wear their full summer uniform. Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

iPads:

Please ensure that any outstanding devices (and chargers, if applicable) from the Remote Learning period are returned to school ASAP. Students are reminded of the importance of safely transporting devices between home and school.

YEAR FIVE/SIX – Helen, Sharyn, Jess & Amanda

Dates to remember:

- Friday 29th October - Crazy Sock Day
- Monday 1st November - Pupil Free Day (No School)
- Tuesday 2nd November - Melbourne Cup Day (No School)
- Friday 12th November - School Photos

****Important: We still have some winter school sports uniforms that have yet to be returned. Please do so ASAP.**

Literacy:

This week in Reading we have been using comprehension strategies to interpret and analyse information. In addition to this we have been reading complex texts and recalling information to enable us to maintain meaning. In Writing we have been working on planning, drafting and publishing informative and persuasive texts using appropriate text structures.

Over the coming weeks the Year 5's will start to look at the leadership roles they may like to participate in next year and will write their persuasive speech convincing the teachers of their ability to perform and undertake the role. School Captain roles will also be discussed for those interested students looking at this type of leadership.

Numeracy:

In maths this week we are continuing to focus on place value and making connections between equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages. This Friday we will again be participating in the International Fun Friday session run by the Maths Association of Victoria.

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

Inquiry:

This term, our topic is Bizarre, Bazaar. The students will learn about the ways products are designed, produced and advertised and they will apply their creative thinking skills to design and produce their own product to be sold to the school community at our Bizarre Bazaar market at the end of term. Over the coming weeks, students will begin their market research and start gathering materials to make their first prototype.

4Rs:

We will continue to work through our 4R's program this term with the focus being on Positive Coping.

RE:

This week we have begun our RE unit; 'Sacraments'. Students have been investigating each of the Sacraments and whilst discussing these ritual celebrations, have been reading a number of parables focusing on the language used and symbolic references and how they connect to the concept of Reconciliation.

Communication:

To contact your classroom teachers we encourage you to use the school emails or call the school directly (57215795).

sackerly@spwangeratta.catholic.edu.au
herrickard@spwangeratta.catholic.edu.au
jwhitehead@spwangeratta.catholic.edu.au
acassidy@spwangeratta.catholic.edu.au

Have a great week everyone!

MAYFAIR SHOWBAGS

WANTED PLEASE –

McDonald's Toys (in the wrappers),
Woolworth's Bricks
Key Rings, Lanyards
for Mayfair 2022 Showbags

Please deliver to the office, thank you.



THANK YOU **RUSTIC AMOUR** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

SAFE ON SOCIAL

Group Chats

Please, for just a moment, picture yourself in one of our school presentations to students. From Year 3 to Year 12, we ask the same questions around group chats.

They are:

- 1. Who uses group chats to communicate with their friends? – The majority of the room raises their hand.*
- 2. Who sleeps with their device in their room? – at least 80% of the room will raise their hand.*
- 3. Who has received messages in a group chat after 9pm? – almost the whole room raises their hand.*
- 4. Who has woken up to more than 200 messages in the group chat? – all of them raise their hands and talk about it amongst themselves, nodding in agreement. There is also the occasional "more like 1000" comment.*
- 5. Who has attempted to read all of the messages? – the resounding response is constantly "checking to see if I was mentioned."*
- 6. Who has seen bullying or any other kind of inappropriate behaviour in the group chats? – all of them raise their hands. Who reported it? 99% of the hands go down.*
- 7. Who has been re-added to a group chat after they have left? Most raise their hands and eye-roll and comment on how annoying it is.*
- 8. Who gets a little anxious if their friends don't respond to a message within a couple of minutes? – again, the majority raises their hands.*

So let's break these down into nice little bite-size pieces on what you should do.

Group chats can be an excellent way for many people to participate in an online conversation together. They can also be a place where drama, nasty behaviours, exclusion, and bullying can thrive. The most commonly used group chat apps are WhatsApp, Snap Chat, Instagram, Discord, Messenger, and Facebook Messenger. They can be both helpful and harmful. We recommend that children in Primary School only use Facebook Messenger for Kids, so parents have some control over what is going on in the group chat. You don't have as much power on the other apps.

We have real concerns about the number of young people (as young as eight in most cases) that sleep with devices in their room and under their pillow. They are responding to messages at 11.00pm, 12.00pm even 1.00am. From "friends" all over the world that they are connected to.

Please make sure you put a healthy boundary in place and keep phones and devices out of the bedroom from an early age. Remember, you are the parent, and you need to guide your children on how to be safe, and managing their mental health is a massive part of that. They need a break. They are connected 24/7, and some of those communications can get toxic in Group Chats. They need sleep. Good uninterrupted sleep. Rolling over in the middle of the night and checking messages is a significant health issue. You can read about that here: <https://growingupinaustralia.gov.au/research-findings/annual-statistical-reports-2018/are-children-and-adolescents-getting-enough-sleep>

There have also been many times when young people have engaged in nasty behaviour about another person in a group chat, then deliberately invited that person into the chat to see those comments. The deliberate nature of this abuse makes it cyberbullying. Re-adding someone once they have left a chat can also be bullying or harassment in some cases.

When they are tired, they are more emotional and less resilient. Things can and may be taken out of context. No one has the right to choose what other people find offensive. There have been countless times when this has resulted in schools being contacted because of the nasty, bullying or inappropriate things happening in the chat. If this is happening in the home after hours between students, please think about how, as a parent, you can do more to support the school by setting healthier boundaries for device use in your home.

Schools have a duty of care to minimise the risk of bullying and other dangers to a child, but it is challenging for them to police when the device is at home, under your roof, in your child's bedroom.

Help kids develop the skills to know how to leave a group chat that is not helpful or is harmful in any way, including the actual words they may use should they need to leave. With younger kids, teach them how to come up with statements that may help like "sorry guys, this is getting pretty nasty, I'm outta here" as a way to remove themselves, also point out to the other people in the chat that the behaviours may be getting out of hand. Being in charge of their online interactions and knowing how to leave a conversation that makes them uncomfortable online or off is a vital life skill.

Kids need to realise that they may be "guilty by association", even if they aren't saying the nasty stuff; they may be considered a bystander if they do not report it and speak up about what is happening in a group chat.

Please help them to develop the skills to put boundaries around their friendships. We don't have to be accessible all the time just because technology allows that. They need to know that they won't lose friends if they are not available in the group to chat for 30 minutes while they have dinner. Young people need to be in charge and confident in their relationships. They need to know that their friends will understand that their refusal to engage at every moment of the day and night has nothing to do with the state of their relationship, but rather the management of their time, their devices and their life priorities.

If your child is getting constantly re-added to a group chat that they have left, that can be considered harassment. If your child is re-adding people that have left the group chat remind them that they need consent. They need to ask the permission of the person first "do you want to be re-added to the group chat" for example.

Parenting in this space is very difficult at times, we totally understand that. But please set boundaries and rules. These are required from a very early age. The earlier the better. A school should not be blamed every time something happens online as it is often something that they can't 100% control if you have given your child a device and have different rules at home to what is at school. Schools educate students on Cyber Safety. Most schools offer parent education, in all aspects of online safety, and often only a few parents turn up to parent-focused talks. Please attend, I guarantee you will learn something new every time!

Things to remember:

Keep group chats positive, helpful and supportive. These are not the places we have a whinge about someone else, reveal our intimate secrets or create drama, gossip or spread rumours or share images of others without consent.

Make sure they know not to feel compelled to respond straight away or be a part of every single interaction in the group chat.

Remember, there are plenty of ways these chats can become very public if someone takes a screenshot, so they need to be kind, respectful, and responsible at all times.

Avoid using late at night and keep devices out of the bedroom.

Turn off notifications, so they are less anxious about response times.



St. Patrick's Primary School

FOUNDATION ORIENTATION

These are the dates for our Foundation 2022 Orientation Program. Due to COVID-19 requirements, children will visit in smaller groups. Accompanying this poster is the group and times your child will attend, and further information.

Session 1: Wednesday 3rd November 2021

GROUP 1: 9:15am to 10:15am

GROUP 2: 10:30am to 11:30am

Session 2: Thursday 18th November 2021

GROUP 1: 9:15am to 10:15am

GROUP 2: 10:30am to 11:30am

Session 3: STATE-WIDE TRANSITION DAY

Tuesday 7th December 2021

9:30am to 12:00pm

(Bring a piece of fruit, drink, hat and snack for recess).

Foundation Information Evening

There will be a **Foundation Information Evening** for parents on **Thursday, 18th November 2021 at 6.00pm.** The aim of this meeting is to prepare your child for school life at St. Patrick's. This will be conducted by Zoom. We will send out the link closer to the date.



CHEERS TO 39 YEARS!

YOU'RE INVITED!

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

Terry Corrigan's

RETIREMENT

FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2021
4.00PM - 7.00PM

FINGER FOOD PROVIDED, DRINKS AT BAR PRICES
RSVP 57215795 BY 12TH NOVEMBER 2021

Gateway Quality Hotel
Ryley St Wangaratta