

St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 5 Tuesday 1st March 2021

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Xi Zhu, the Confucian scholar, stated that, *"You should examine yourself daily. If you find faults, you should correct them. When you find none, you should look harder"*. I doubt whether any of us would be in the rare position of not finding faults in our character, our actions and/or our responses in the course of a day. However, I don't believe Xi Zhu was inferring that the exercise of introspection is the encouragement of self-flagellation; rather the experience of planning for change can be liberating and very 'Lenten' in its intent.

During this time of Lent, we should be even more aware of the value of introspection. However, any and all introspection is empty and wasteful if it fails to lead to some positive action. We all know someone who never gives up. Tenacity, or the ability to keep trying, to be resilient and almost unrelenting in the face of hardships and challenges, is a quality that characterises many of the lives of people we look up to as role models, even as heroes. Louis Pasteur, the famous scientist, stated the maxim common to people of achievement when he said, *"Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal: my strength lies solely in my tenacity"*.

Herein lies the great revelation for us – what do the goals that we have set ourselves (and how we go about achieving these goals) reveal about our character? As with no other 'season', Lent compels us to reflect on our character, and often our character is tempered by the goals that drive us and how we seek to achieve these goals. In meeting with staff on a regular basis, I can attest that our staff set themselves goals that are aimed at enhancing learning outcomes for the students in their care. I believe they go about achieving these goals in a sensible and considered manner. There is the realisation, though, that these goals that are established by staff, are reliant on support from families and the cooperation of the children and contingent of school constructs.

The many variables that are subsumed in this process are not unique to education; if our home-school goals and strategies are not complementary, if we are not tenacious and consistent in setting realistic goals that are mutually inclusive, we should not be surprised at a

disappointing outcome. Lent 'permits' us to reflect on our character to allow growth through correction, which offers us much in regards to goal-setting. When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves. Thank you to all in our school community who, through appropriate introspection and thoughtful goal-setting contribute to the 'common good' of our mutual Lenten journey.

Regards,

Rod Linhart (Principal)

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021 (updated items in red, bold print)

Mon 1st

8.55am - 9.20am Whole-school assembly: certificates distributed
6.00pm School Board meeting

Tues 2nd

Sophie, School Counsellor, visiting
Anthea Denholm (Student Support Key Teacher) visiting.

Wed 3rd

Principals meeting (Hobart)

Thurs 4th

Principals meeting (Hobart)

Fri 5th

9.00-10.30am 'Inquiring Minds/Set-up For Success' birth to 4 program - St Pat's Kinder classroom (all welcome)
Principals meeting (Hobart)

Mon 8th

PUBLIC HOLIDAY - No school

Tues 9th

Speech Pathology visiting

Wed 10th

Speech Pathology visiting

Thurs 11th

School Swimming Carnival

Fri 12th

9.00-10.30am 'Inquiring Minds/Set-up For Success' birth to 4 program - St Pat's Kinder classroom (all welcome)

Mon 15th

8.55am - 9.20am Whole-school assembly: certificates distributed

Tues 16th

**Sophie, School Counsellor, visiting
3.30-6.00pm Staff Spirituality Session**

Wed 17th

St Patrick's Day activities at school

Thurs 18th

NW Cath. Schools Swimming Carnival

Term 1 Mon 1st Feb - Thursday 1st April 2021

Term 2 Mon 26th April - Thursday 1st July

Term 3 Mon 20th July - Friday 24th September

Term 4 Mon 11th October - Thursday 16th December
(One student free day - Friday 2nd July)

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2021 Fee Invoices and Billing

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE NEW FINANCE SYSTEM

From 1 March 2021 we are using a new finance system, *TechnologyOne*, that is used by all Catholic primary schools in Tasmania. Points to note include:

• ANNUAL & MONTHLY

Next week, or early the following week, you will receive your 2021 Fee Statement via email with your Annual School Fees & Levies charges for this year in addition to any balances owing or credit balances that have been brought over from our old finance system.

Statements will be emailed each month, to the email address registered for you in Compass. Please check we have recorded your charges, discounts and payments correctly to your account.

• POSSIBLE DEBTOR ACCOUNT NAME CHANGE

You may notice that your account name has changed. This may be due to legal requirements around who signed your child's enrolment form, and those people who have parental responsibilities, and if they have a parent profile in *Compass*.

If you have any questions or concerns around this, please get in touch and we will be happy to investigate and clarify the change.

• CONCESSION DISCOUNTS

If you are eligible for concessions and have had a Concession Discount confirmed for 2021, this discount has been processed already, and your credit balance will be brought over into the new system and show as a credit opening balance on your statement.

• INSTALMENTS

For anyone who has returned the payment arrangement form and opted for a payment arrangement, the system will set **10 x monthly instalments** with corresponding due dates for **this year's fees only**. These instalment amounts and due dates will be printed on the lower half of your statement, with the full annual charges and any opening balances showing at the top of your statement.

Please note, however, that you can continue to pay as per your current payment plan of fortnightly, weekly, monthly. As long as you pay a minimum of these instalments by these due dates your account will not fall into arrears.

If you wish to pay your fees in instalments across the year and have not already set up a payment arrangement, please contact Lennice Leonard, the School Finance Officer, immediately to complete the payment arrangement form and set an instalment plan.

• OUTSTANDING BALANCES

Any outstanding opening balances from last year, are not included in the instalment figures, however, are included in the statement opening balances and your account total. If you do not already have a payment plan in place, please contact Lennice Leonard, the School Finance Officer.

• FEE ASSISTANCE

A reminder that we have fee assistance and concession card discounts available to anyone in our school community who may need to make use of these. While it may be a difficult conversation, we are here to help. Forms are available on our website or contact Lennice Leonard, the School Finance Officer, for a confidential discussion with the principal.

• BPAY CUSTOMER REFERENCE NUMBERS (CRNs)

One point to note for anyone that pays via BPAY; you will notice your new statement will have a new BPAY Customer Reference Number (CRN). This number new number will be active from the 4th March. Until then, you should continue to use your old BPAY CRN number. After this date your old BPAY CRN will no longer be valid.

• EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT

Due to invoicing being a little later than usual this year with the cross over into the new system, **we have extended the early payment discount date to the 31st March.**

Please let us know if you have any concerns regarding your 2021 Statement or these new processes.

MANY THANKS TO TO THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE ALREADY RETURNED THEIR '2021 PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT FORM' - IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY RETURNED THIS FORM

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORMS BEFORE THIS FRIDAY 5TH MARCH.

(FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR VIA THE SCHOOL WEBSITE)

YOUR SUPPORT IS GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED.

**Learning Plan Teacher-Parent Meetings
(Mrs Marshall Student Support
Coordinator)**

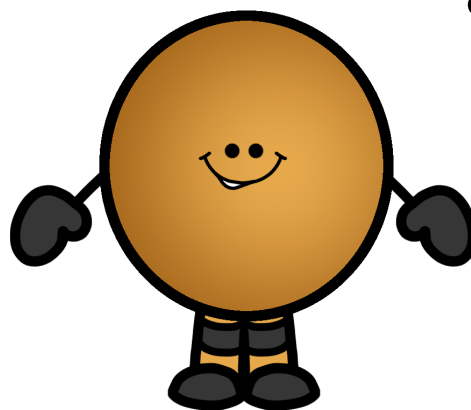
Teachers have been very busy formulating Learning Plans for students who meet the criteria. We thank the teachers for the hours of work that they have put into these, in addition to all their other duties. Thank you also to parents who have been able to share information regarding their child, to assist teachers with this process.

Yesterday, parents whose child has a learning plan would have received a link via text message to a questionnaire asking them to nominate whether they would like a parent meeting to review the Learning Plan, or to choose to have a copy of the Learning Plan sent home to sign and return.

If you would like to choose the former (arrange a meeting) you will be directed to Compass to make a booking. Learning Plan meetings are scheduled for Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th of March; the page to make an appointment will expire this Friday the 5th of March at 3 pm. If you are requesting a copy to be sent home, this will be done by the end of next week. Many

SHROVE TUESDAY

- Pancake Day



Together We Raised...
\$239

for CARITAS Australia

**Thank you to everybody that
supported this event!**

The Lemon Sherbet Lolly (by Coby Christie)

The teacher plopped it on my desk I looked at it for a bit it was like a solid gold nugget I picked it up and felt it it was as hard as a rock then I put it to my ear and all I could hear was crackling and pops then I unwrapped it and I took a sniff it smelled like lemon a really sweet lemon then I put it in my mouth was like a party on my tongue a whole new array of flavours I just kept sucking on it until I hit the sherbet. It was the same taste as the lemon but stronger. It was like dancing around a lemon tree and licking them and eating them but they still had lemony taste but they weren't sour. It was great.



WEST Award

Congratulations to Grace Freeman who received a WEST Award during today's morning assembly. We will continue to acknowledge those students who exhibit WEST (*Welcoming, Encouraging; Sorry; Thankful*) qualities and Mercy Values (Hospitality, Compassion, Mercy and Respect) by presenting awards at our Monday morning assemblies.

House Raffle Winners

Byrne House: Blair Smith

Dooley House: Josh Warren

Martyn House: Archer Parry

Recycling: Melia Sesara

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep: Eliza Radich for excellent attention to detail with all of your work. Your drawings are excellent, Eliza. Well done.

Year 1: Ridha Al-Roubaie you are consistently engaged and contribute well to class discussions. Thank you for your positive attitude in our class.

Year 2: Ellie Hayes for using thoughtful words to make her imaginative writing interesting for the reader.

Year 3: Violet Watkins for her application towards completing her tasks and her enthusiasm and positive attitude towards learning.

Year 4: Sebastian Gee for his consistent application to learning tasks, especially the learning of the countries of South America.

Year 5: Ruby Anthony for working with diligence in class and being a positive role model for her peers.

Year 6: Coby Christie for his application to writing a very well-structured poem that was most enjoyable to read.

Home Readers/Levelled Readers

Included in this week's newsletter is a handout that provides families with an overview of student reading levels. Parents should be aware of the following important points that relate to our whole-school approach to the use of home readers/levelled readers:

- All enquiries regarding a child's reading level and his or her engagement in home readers/levelled readers should be undertaken with your child's teacher/s.
- Teachers will endeavour to test each student for their reading level twice a term (this can take up to 40 minutes per child). The teacher will inform parents of any level change that may eventuate from these tests.
- Staff will endeavour to ensure children have a variety of books at their level to borrow, however, there may be times that a child may receive a book that they have already read - this is not a concern as children will benefit by reading the same levelled reader twice provided this doesn't occur too frequently.
- Home readers/Levelled readers are changed daily by staff - these books should be dropped in the respective class home reader basket.
- A child's level is indicative of fluency (accurate pronunciation, attention to punctuation), confidence with vocabulary and comprehension.
- There is an expectation that children borrow school library books please and that each library day, children will bring a library bag for borrowing.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

Our home-school communication at St Patrick's is conducted a number of ways - on a daily basis through our school diary protocols; through the distribution of student notebooks that contain not only student attempts at tasks but also summative assessment feedback to students in the form of grades and/or rubrics that reflect expected standards regularly throughout each term (an English book was sent home last week and a Mathematics book will be sent home next week.) Teachers plan to engage students in activities that allow students to submit or complete work that the teacher can then grade, provide feedback to the student and use the submission in a growing 'body of evidence' for the eventual 'grade of achievement' for each learner. Our mid-year reports are complemented with the opportunity for parents to meet with teachers to discuss the grades, and the student's application and attitude to tasks. Teachers or parents may request a meeting with parents prior to these mid-year reports and a mutually convenient time will always be organised.

School Swimming Carnival - Thursday 11th March

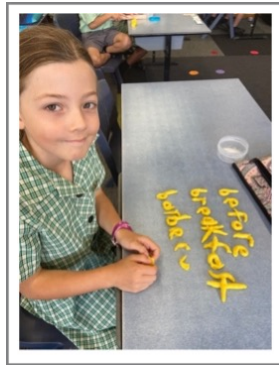
Permission for this event need to be completed via the **Compass app** by **no later than Tuesday 9th March please**. If you are unable to do this via the Compass, please advise via your child's diary or contact the school office for a paper copy.

We have been advised that the Latrobe Swim Centres COVID-19 Safety Plan does not permit parent spectators at this event - thank you for your understanding and support.




Year 3 (Mrs Meech)


We have had a great start to Year 3 with students beginning to settle into new routines. We are currently using the spelling program, "Soundwaves" for our weekly spelling and having been enjoying various activities to reinforce our weekly focus of phonemes and graphemes. We have also been making a big effort towards completing Home-reading and I have been pleased with many students taking up the challenge. In Maths we have been learning about representing, ordering and partitioning numbers. We also had the opportunity to work with Mitch on the Making Jesus Real Program (MJR) and we were able to discuss some of the key messages such as identifying the Gospel values, recognising the Spirit of Jesus in our daily lives and, "Oh yeah" moments.



World's Greatest Shave - Let's support Oliver in raising \$560 towards cancer research.

Oliver Gatehouse, Year 5, is responding to the Project Compassion theme of, 'Being More' by helping raise funds for much-needed research into the treatment and cure of cancer. Oliver will have his head shaved during our morning assembly on Friday 12th March. He welcomes any support that members of the St Patrick's School community can provide in helping him raise a modest \$560. To donate to Oliver's efforts please go to the 'World's Greatest Shave' website (<https://worldsgreatestshave.com/>) and follow the prompt using the 'Donate' button. Well done, Oliver





Oliver Gatehouse

is shaving on March 12 to help beat blood cancer.

Raised
\$226.63
Goal
\$560

PARENTS & FRIENDS (Tameika Anthony)

The next St Patrick's Catholic School Parents & Friends meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Friday 12th March in the kindergarten class - all are most welcome to attend this informal meeting. Amongst other items, we will be discussing a plan to start getting the Mother's day stall organised.

Soccer boot - Donation

Seven pairs of soccer boots in excellent condition have been donated by the Mulcahy family for use by families whose children are representing the school in the forthcoming Devonport Junior Soccer Saturday morning competition. Please notify the school (via school diary or call the school) if you are interested in your child trying a pair on. Many thanks to the Mulcahy family for this generosity.

St Patrick's Day Celebrations

Next week's Newsletter will provide more information regarding our school's celebration of St Patrick's Day (Wednesday 17th March), however, an overview of some proposed celebrations include attendance at Mass for some classes, an activity afternoon facilitated by student leaders, a *St Patrick's Day Dress Up Parade* during the morning Assembly, a green food fundraiser on the day and a BBQ lunch with Sausage and Icy-Pole. Thank you to Tameika Anthony (P & F President) for her coordination of some aspects of some food items and Mr Atkins for supporting the Student Representative Council involvement in the afternoon activity sessions. If you are available and interested in cooking sausages on the morning of Wednesday 17th March, please contact Mr Linhart or the school office staff.

COMMUNITY NEWS & REMINDERS

Care and Concern

Please feel welcome to be included in our Care and Concern Volunteer List - thank you to the many school community members who are already on this list and are assisting others: **Always please contact your child's teacher, the office staff or Mr Linhart if you feel we could offer support in any way to anyone in our school community in need.**

'Inquiring Minds' Birth to 4 program - a 'Set-Up for Success' Catholic Education Tasmania initiative.

Our 'Inquiring Minds' birth to 4 program operates **each Friday during school term time from 9.00am to 10.30am**. This program involves considerable focus on communicating to parents the learning intentions of important activities that are associated with early years learning. Mrs Klug will be working to engage parents in early years learning experiences that will ensure children who are enrolling in kindergarten, will be informed in regards to developing key social, emotional, physical and cognitive skills and understandings. Parents or an adult family member stays for the duration of these sessions; there is no obligation in regards to any cost. Please feel welcome to participate.



Inquiring Minds at St Patrick's

A play-based Birth - 5 program open to all families

Qualified early years educators plan developmentally appropriate experiences for you and your child to explore together.

Our educators work with families to support parental understanding of the development of early literacy, numeracy and communication skills.



WHERE:

St Patrick's Catholic Primary Kindergarten Room

WHEN:

Every Friday during school term

TIME:

9am - 10:30am

WHAT TO BRING:

A hat, water bottle, piece of fruit & gold coin donation

We look forward to welcoming your family to our Birth-5 Sessions

55 Bradshaw Street, Latrobe
Phone: 6426 1626

St Patrick's Catholic School COVID-19 School Safety Protocol

- Adults to please **hand sanitise** upon entering any school building: the school provides hand sanitiser at school venue entry points or adults may use their own (and be observed to use a sanitiser).
- Adults, where practicable, to **maintain 1.5m physical distancing**, observing seating arrangements as communicated by signage or instruction please: indoor event attendance limited to one person per 2 square metre per indoor space.
- Adults to **sign-in**, either at the school office or on a list provided at the entry of the school building. The school is obligated to record contact details of visitors to school events held in school venues, with this information stored securely for a period of 21 days.
- Appropriate COVID safe signage is communicated at school entry points. Key message to visitors - **if feeling unwell, it is important not to be in attendance**; the school will bar entry to people who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Although daily cleaning of frequently touched internal surfaces is undertaken, we ask adult visitors to avoid touching surfaces unnecessarily.

THANK YOU

PLEASE:

- **DO NOT ENTER IF YOU ARE FEELING UNWELL.**
- **SIGN-IN AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE/ASSEMBLY HALL** IF YOU ARE STAYING MORE THAN 10 MINUTES.
- **APPLY SANITISER** UPON ENTRY TO ANY BUILDING.
- **OBSERVE APPROPRIATE SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR SCHOOL COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN.