

# St Patrick's Catholic School



School Newsletter Number 1 Thursday 7th February 2019

## PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Joy, love, happiness; fear, anxiety, apprehension - disparate feelings on the emotional spectrum that drive us, form our actions, subtly develop our character. When we emphasise or we are involved and engaged in a work or home situation, or when we are part of a broader social environment that is dominated by one of these emotional states, perspective is lost. We wear many hats simultaneously - parent; son or daughter; educator; student - and it is perfectly appropriate and healthy to have each end of the above emotional spectrum tempering our thoughts and actions.

In preparing for the 2019 school year - which began much earlier than the chronological 2019 year - significant feelings of joy, love and happiness certainly moderated my thoughts and actions, because working with students, families and staff of St Patrick's is so very often an experience that fills me with joy. Similarly, the same preparations were overlaid or mitigated by fears - the fear of not providing enough for so many needs and wants; the anxiety of trying to live up to a broad range of reasonable expectations; the apprehension that is associated with setting goals with the full realisation that there are so many variables that are outside our control that have the potential to compromise the best laid plans.

Depending on our state of health, we can be overwhelmed by either the joy, or the fear, that is part of being a parent, an educator. Without being complacent or defeatist, I take heart from Plato's quote, 'Courage is knowing what not to fear'. In order to make the very most of this school year, I pray that all in our school community are courageous in setting worthy, realistic goals, establishing the necessary support that may assist in the realisation of these worthy goals, and entering into the experience being fully prepared to celebrate the joy that comes from achievement, and similarly being aware that the fears that we may have associated with any learning engagement may need our individual and collective courage in challenging, in order to focus on what can be done to concentrate on the joys and to diminish the fears that previously may have hindered productive dialogue, actions and progress. I hope you

are as excited about the possibilities of the 2019 school year as I am!

Regards,

Rod Linhart (Principal)

## SCHOOL CALENDAR (Items in red are recently added.) FEBRUARY

Thursday 7th	All students commence term 1 2019
Monday 11th	1.00pm P & F meeting (Kinder classroom)
Wed 13th	Year 6 attend leadership day at Camp Clayton (MJR Day led by Marty Ogle) 5.30-7.00pm 'Meet the teachers' and Family Get-together BBQ
Thursday 14th	1.00-2.00pm Super football clinic at Latrobe Football Ground - details TBC
Friday 15th	Mitch visiting Years 3 and 4 to lead the 'Spirit of Jesus' program 1.00-2.00pm Super football clinic at Latrobe Football Ground - details TBC
Monday 18th	9.00am Year 2 lead morning prayer assembly 6.00pm School Board meeting
Wed 20th	9.30am Years 2 & 6 attend parish Mass
Monday 25th	9.00am Year 5 lead morning prayer assembly
Wed 20th	9.30am Years 5 & Prep attend parish Mass

## MARCH

Monday 4th	9.00am Year 4 lead morning prayer assembly Launch of Project Compassion
Wed 6th	Ash Wednesday - beginning of Lent 9.30am Years 4 & 1 attend parish Mass
Monday 11th	Public Holiday

## SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2019

Term 1:	Thursday 7th February - Friday 12th April
Term 2:	Monday 29th April - Friday 5th July
Term 3:	Monday 22nd July - Friday 27th September
Term 4:	Monday 14th Oct - Wednesday 18th December.

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## Staff News

We welcome Mr Atkins to St Patrick's in his role as the Deputy Principal, a position that is newly created for all Catholic schools in Tasmania by the Catholic Education Office. We also welcome Mrs Belinda Kelly who will teach Year 3 each Friday and Mrs Anita Tueon who will assist in Year 1 as Teacher Assistant. Staff attended a Spirituality Day on Tuesday conducted by Dr Drasko Dizdar on the Book of Luke.



## Important: Forms to return please

Please find included with this Newsletter three forms that we require returned as soon as possible please:

- 2019 Payment Arrangement Form.
- Medical Record that contains information that currently reflects details regarding health and medical, which are on our school database.
- Bus form.

Please **check these details and make any necessary updates** on the forms. **Please also sign the two consents located at the bottom of this page** (Consent for Medical Attention and Consent for Local excursion.) **Your prompt return of these forms is greatly appreciated.**

## Family Get-together - Wednesday 13th February

All families are invited to attend our Family Get-Together, which is timetabled for next Wednesday 13th February. We plan to begin the occasion at 5.30pm with an 'Open Classroom' opportunity - teachers will be in their respective classrooms and will welcome families who wish to have a chat or to review the classroom and appreciate the wonderful work staff have completed in ensuring their classrooms are stimulating and places that prompt and encourage positive habits of learning. Teachers will have information sheets available for families, which outline class routines, expectations and some important aspects of the curriculum coverage. At 6.00pm, the BBQ will be providing sausages and burgers, ice-cream, fruit salads and some desserts will be available for families. Some sporting equipment will be available for use and children are to remain under the supervision of families. We expect the evening to conclude at 7.00pm. This occasion is aimed to allow families the opportunity to both meet their children's teacher/s and hopefully meet families of children in their child's or children's class or classes in an informal, happy atmosphere.

## What to expect in Year 4. Mrs Meech & Mrs Wescombe.

A warm welcome to Grade 4 with Mrs Meech teaching on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays and Mrs Wescombe teaching on Thursday and Fridays. The class will be supported by teacher assistant, Mrs Hyland. Mr Linhart will also be teaching a unit on Health each Monday. We welcome new student, Abbie Venton to our class, as well as, some new class pets which are yet to be named. This year we look to cover the curriculum requirements of Year 4 with a focus on the colonisation of Australia in HASS and sustainability of the Earth in Geography and the local government in Civics and Citizenship. In Science we will be looking at Physics. We will be participating in the Year 4 Camp at Camp Clayton in May. In Religious Education we will be working on the units, "Jesus, God, Christian Life and Scripture." We would also like to invite any parents who would be interested in listening to students read from 8.30-8.50am each morning to please let us know. Helpers would need to complete the on-line, "Working with Vulnerable People Check" <https://www.cbos.tas.gov.au/topics/licensing-and-registration/registrations/work-with-vulnerable-people> and complete a short induction with Mr Linhart. If you have any enquiries regarding this process please do not hesitate to ask. We are looking forward to a happy and productive year together.



## **SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT, W.E.S.T. and MERCY VALUES**

### **WEST Award**

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. Families are always most welcome to attend our assemblies.

### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

We will continue the tradition of acknowledging students in all classes throughout the year, in regards to recognising attitudes that support our WEST, PBS and Mercy values.

### **Specialist classes: LOTE, PE, Music, Library**

Details regarding our specialist classes will be included in class information letters that teachers have produced for families for distribution during next Wednesday's family get-together from 5.30pm, however, the specialist timetable for classes are listed below - a reminder that we strongly encourage all students to borrow library books each week, however, each child needs to have a library bag (even a plastic shopping bag) to ensure library books are well-maintained:

- LOTE: Kinder to Year 2 during terms 1 and 2; Years 3 to 6 during terms 3 & 4. Mrs Wescombe will teach LOTE during terms 1 and during Miss Morice's leave.
- PE: Mrs Hayes will teach PE to all classes (Kinder will be involved in a gross motor skills program) every Thursday.
- Early Childhood Music with Mrs Watson-Peters each Tuesday, including junior choir: Years 2 and Prep during terms 1 and 2; Kinder and Year 1 during terms 3 & 4.
- Primary Music with Mrs Baker each Friday, including senior choir: Years 6 and 4 during terms 1 and 2; Years 5 and 3 during terms 3 & 4.
- Library with Mrs Carter: Mondays - Years 4, 5 and 1; Tuesdays - Years 3, 6 and Kinder; Wednesdays - Prep and Year 2.

Thank you in advance for assisting your child and school staff by ensuring your child is prepared for these specialist classes.

### **What to expect in Prep 2019** Mrs Ann Jak Prep Class Teacher

Welcome students, parents and families to our Prep family. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new student Seth Foster and his family. This year is going to be an educational, social and physical year of growth for your child. It will be very rewarding to participate in and to observe your child develop their reading, writing, spelling, mathematical and general knowledge skills. To get off to a good start, I strongly encourage each child to read in the classroom of a morning with an adult and for the students to complete a fine motor activity. This is a great routine to get into, to start the day in a focused way ready to learn. Reading is encouraged every night. Can you please read to your child and with your child? We will also focus on learning to read the Oxford Wordlist, which focuses on high frequency words. More information will be sent home about this later. Healthy lunches and water to drink are encouraged. A healthy lunch box full of fresh food gives your child the energy to concentrate, learn and play all day. Can you please pack a spare set of underwear in your child's school bag, sometimes accidents do happen! Please ensure ALL school clothing and shoes are labelled with your child's name. Our Teacher Assistant in Prep is Mrs D'Arne Adams. We look forward to meeting you and working with you to nurture and educate your child.

### **What to expect in Year 3 in 2019** Ms Jane Stuart and Mrs Belinda Kelly

Year 3 will be a fantastic year of growth and challenge for our children. It is the first year of being part of the primary years of schooling. With this comes greater expectations for organisation and independence. We will begin our year with a focus on how we can sharpen our thinking skills and develop strategies to solve social, academic and emotional challenges that we will face throughout the year. Another of our major foci for the year is to develop our cooperative group work skills and create a respectful learning environment. Preparation for NAPLAN testing will be embedded throughout first terms units of work. It is important to remember that this is not meant to be a stressful process. You will receive more information regarding NAPLAN closer to the time. We trust this will be an enjoyable and productive year. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year please do not hesitate to contact us and we can arrange a time to discuss your child's progress.



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Sacramental program: information will be available shortly for children and their families in Year 3 and above who wish to be part of our Parish Sacramental Preparation for 2019. If you know of any child/ren who are eligible to be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist please contact Mrs Marshall, Mr Linhart or the Parish Office 6424 2783

## ST PATRICK'S P & F

**Fair news:** the P & F are accepting all donations for the annual school fair to be held in March 2019: Laundry/Cleaning products; Non perishable food items; Lucky Jar items (individually wrapped lollies, rubbers, stickers, small toys etc.); Chocolate bars/blocks. Donations can be left at the office. Thank you in advance for all contributions towards making our fair a successful event.



**DATE CLAIMER - Fair Meeting:** Monday 11th February 1.00pm (all welcome; meet in the kinder classroom.)

## REMINDERS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### Back-to-School is not just for children

Back-to-School time is prime time for families to get to know the place and the people who will be interacting with their children for the new school year.

Here are some things to keep in mind when taking your children to school for the first year (or any year)

- Staff are always happy and keen to meet our parents.
- Let the teacher and school staff know about any special needs or issues.
- We do our best to keep you in touch and always post information on our website in case notices get lost. Please ensure you update us of any contact changes and health changes.
- Sign up to volunteer at school.
- Get to know your children's friends and their families at back-to-school events.
- Join your school's P & F; you will meet other parents and help create a better school.

### 'Set-Up'

From March 2019, our school Playgroup program will take on a new form - it will be aligned to a program supported by a Catholic Education Tasmania initiative called, 'Set-Up', which is a birth to 4 program (the same age group as Playgroup) that will involve considerable more focus on communicating to parents the learning intentions of important activities that are associated with early years learning. Mrs Stoessiger and Mrs Klug will be working together from March 2019 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.

### 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.**

### Traffic and Student Safety

The school urges all parents to support road safety by obeying signage displayed, and also asks you remind your child(ren) to be very aware of potential traffic related dangers around the school. Sometimes for example, motorists do not abide by road laws, and if students are crossing inappropriately (with or without you), or just not aware of their surrounds by always looking either way, we could have an accident. The education and care of our students is a partnership between the staff and parents and we all need to do our bit by acting appropriately and not showing a disregard for road laws, even if only to demonstrate your support to any children watching.