

St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 37 November 26th 2019

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Robert Frost, the great American poet, stated, "The brain is a wonderful organ; it starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office." It is easy to dismiss some undesired actions on poor foresight, however, there is much about brain research that is validating the assumption that we need to include repetition and explicit structure in learning programs, and to accept that people will need many pathways to the same destination.

Brain fitness is the idea that our brains are "plastic" and have the ability to change in response to new learning and stimuli. People who are autistic are assumed to have too much brain elasticity – too much is allowed to happen – modulate and suppress. There is research to suggest that through engagement in intensive, serious exercises, students who exhibit auditory learning difficulties resulting in reading difficulties, whilst initially having different brain scans compared to students who were competent readers, found that their brains were 'normalized' after the exercise.

Neuro-plasticity is a fascinating area of interest and research, especially in the area of brain function. Pasqualini's recent research on brain elasticity is remarkable: subjects were required to use a five finger movement exercise to rehearse some piano playing at a given rate over five days. The part of the brain that controlled that movement got larger over the five days. He then had a control group that were required to put the same time into only *thinking* about the movements without actually playing the piano. Remarkably, the same part of the brain also got larger over the same time period. This research highlights the exciting field of research that is currently being investigated with the brain. Pasqualini's research complements work by Nobel winning psychiatrist Eric Kandel who proved that thinking 'turns on' genes inside neurons that are inside brain cells, which create new pathways; in other words we can change our brain structure just by thinking.

As teachers, we are confronted in our planning and implementation of programs by the vast diversity of not only student abilities, but also by their brain physiology. To a casual observer, teachers may be seen to overlook some behaviours among some students in the class, to give more time to some students, to expect slightly different responses from a few students. Teachers have studied child psychology but would be the first to admit that their knowledge of your child is feeble when it compares to you, his or her parent.

However, teachers are more competent in deciding what is best for the individual student in the context of a large group of diverse learners – not an easy or fool-proof task and one, as the preceding paragraphs attest, that is being researched and investigated every day.

Regards, Rod Linhart

Principal

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 26th 9.00am Year 2 morning prayer assembly
 Wed 27th 9.30am Years 2 & 4 Parish Mass
 Hot Chip Lunch - Pre-Orders Only
 Thursday 28th **No Canteen today**
 Devonport Triathlon
 Friday 29th Public Holiday - Devonport Show

DECEMBER

Sunday 1st First week of Advent
 Monday 2nd 9.00am Year 4 morning prayer assembly
 6.00 School Board - Dinner
 Tuesday 3rd St Brendan-Shaw & Latrobe High Years 6-7 Orientation Day
 St Patrick's Orientation Day
 Friday 6th 10.30am Prep Nativity play for parents (school assembly hall) and morning tea.
 9.00am - 10.30am Inquiring Minds 'Pre-Kinder' taster session (St Patrick's Kindergarten classroom)
 Monday 9th 9.00am Prep Nativity play (school assembly hall)
 Wed 11th 6.00pm - 7.30pm School Community Shared Meal and Get-Together— school grounds (details TBC)

SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2019

Term 4: Monday 14th Oct - Wednesday 18th December.

SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2020

Term 1 Thursday 6th February - Thursday 9th April
 Easter break Friday 10th April-Tuesday 14th April
 Term 2 Mon 27th April - Friday 3rd July
 Term 3 Mon 20th July 2020 - Friday 25th September 2020
 Term 4 Mon 12th October 2020 - Thursday 17th Dec 2020

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

WEST Award

Congratulations to Melia Sesara (Year 2) who received a WEST certificate during Monday'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. Families are always most welcome to attend our weekly assemblies.

House Raffle Winners

Byrne House: Aiden Adkins

Dooley House: Kyle Jordan

Martyn House: Merinda Jones

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep: Aleks O'Toole for her positive and enthusiastic approach towards school.

Year 1: Cooper Cody for a terrific improvement with his writing.

Year 2: Jimmy Tueon for his mathematical proficiency; understanding, reasoning and fluency in problem solving.

Year 3: Oliver Gatehouse for displaying great reading and comprehension skills.

Year 4: Grace Matheson for making progress and demonstrating confidence during the school swimming program.

Year 5: Allie Hardimon for her patience and persistence when working in pairs on 'The Audition', a two-part drama scene.

Year 6: Basmala Ragheb & Arlo Valentine-Smith for their outstanding efforts in their short stories.

RE - Student books

To both inform families and to allow families to have productive conversations that have student outcomes as a focus, student Religion books will be sent home this week. Please review these books, have a conversation with your child or children, and ensure the books are returned to school the next day.

St Patrick's Orientation Day for 2020 Classes

Orientation Day for 2020 Classes will be held on Tuesday 3rd December. Students will start the day in their normal classes, go to assembly and then move to their 2020 classes for the remainder of the morning block until 11:00am. Students will be able to get a feel for their new room and their teacher/s for 2020.

PARENTS & FRIENDS

Canteen: Hot Chip Day - Wednesday 27th November - Orders were due back by Friday 22nd **(NO late orders have been accepted)** There will be **NO canteen this Thursday 28th November.**

Sunrise Bakery - Orders close on December 10th, delivery being December 17th. Copies of the order form have been sent home with students; if you have misplaced your form additional copies will be available at the school office.

Year 3 News (Ms Stuart)

In Year 3 we have been creating questions to gather data. Once our data was gathered we looked at different ways of representing it. We firstly used tally marks in a grid, we then drew our own bar graphs. Finally we used digital technologies to make bar and pie graphs. We then shared our graphs and discussed and interpreted the data they presented. Groups then discussed which form of data representation was their favourite, most effective and explained how they formed their opinion.



Kris Kindle

Classes will be involved in Kris Kindle (Christ Child) this year. The class teachers will ensure each child is secretly allocated a classmate for whom a small present will be purchased. The present will be presented to the classmate during a gift giving ceremony that will be conducted on Wednesday 18th December. Please restrict the gift to approximately \$10.00 and parents are requested to help ensure any gift is thoughtfully chosen. Gifts should be brought to school prior to Tuesday 16th December to help facilitate the joyous anticipation that characterises this special Christian season. Children are also invited to help ensure that their Kris Kindle recipient receives daily messages of encouragement. Such messages could be simple statements of affirmation or something that might brighten the person's day. Please discuss this with your child. Children not wishing to participate in this activity are requested to inform their class teacher no later than this Thursday 28th November.



NW Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to all our sports' stars who represented St Patrick's so well in last week's NW Catholic schools' Athletics carnival. There were many personal achievements, including Vinnie and Monty Manion's, and Tyla O'Toole's numerous blue ribbons in a number of events, and a very impressive performance by our Year 5 relay team who came first in a very competitive event. Thank you to all our athletes for the wonderful sportsmanship displayed - well done to Charlie Brazendale for stopping mid-race to assist a runner from another school who had fallen and to Kyle Jordan who, after completing one of his many races, ran back to encourage a team member in completing his race - and to Mrs Adams and Mrs Kingshott for their assistance with supervision on the day.



Junior Girls Basketball

Congratulations to our junior girls basketball team who played their best game to date in last week's roster game, only losing by 2 points! Well done girls and to Mrs Lamprey for their efforts and achievements.



Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Our mini-Vinnies group encourage families to please donate to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal by contributing non-perishable food, or gifts for girls or boys (not wrapped - our Mini-Vinnies group will wrap these gifts) by Friday 6th December please. These items can be left in the box that is located outside Mr Linhart's office. Thank you in advance for your generosity and compassion.



LIBRARY (Mrs Carter)

Issue 8 of Book Club is out now. It is our final Book Club for the year. Please have your orders in by Tuesday 26th November. If you would like to make your purchase a surprise remember to click the GIFT FUNCTION when ordering online or mark it clearly on your paper order so it can be correctly delivered. Thank you to all the families that have supported Book Club this year.

REMINDERS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Staff Professional Learning Day

Yesterday staff were provided with professional learning in the 'Seven Steps to writing' program, which will further enhance some significant professional learning (InitialLit; MiniLit; MacqLit) that we, as a school, have provided to staff in our endeavours to enhance our mastery of literacy learning.

Pre-Kinder: Friday 15th November, Friday 22nd November, Friday 6th December.

St Patrick's Catholic School, Latrobe, will be offering a Pre-Kinder program each Friday morning for three weeks for children who have been accepted into our 2020 Kindergarten class, or who are considering enrolment in 2020. Sessions will take place in the St Patrick's Catholic School Kindergarten classroom. This will mean the usual 'Inquiring

Minds' sessions that we offer on Fridays will not be offered for these three Pre-Kinder sessions (Friday 15th November, Friday 22nd November, Friday 6th December.) Parents will remain on site at school involved in information sessions that include: *The Early Years Learning Framework and Kindergarten Developmental Checklist; Assessment and reporting kindergarten; Play-based learning, speech pathology, a tour of the school including visits to classrooms and observation of lessons in early childhood classes (Prep to Year 2) and "Kinder 2020 – what should I expect?" presentation.* For further information please contact one of the school office staff, Mrs Stoessiger, Mrs Klug or Mr Linhart.

2020 Class Booklists

The 2020 class booklists have now been distributed to all families. Free delivery for books, cuts off on orders on or before the **8th December 2019**. After this date delivery is \$12.95. As in previous years, St Patrick's will be using the services of OfficeMax for booklist orders; this does not prevent families from purchasing any or all booklist items from other stationery outlets, however, it is **very important that families only purchase the specific writing books (ruled lines)** that the class teacher requests for 2020.

2020 Payment Arrangement Forms

All families will receive with today's newsletter the 2020 payment arrangement forms. It would be appreciated if these could be returned back to the school office prior to the 18th December.



Finish First for Back to School.

Order your child's Back to School supplies through OfficeMax and Winc for a chance to WIN back the cost of their requirements list!*

officemaxschools.com.au

*T&Cs apply. See website for details.

A photograph of a young girl with dark hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. She is smiling and raising her right hand, as if participating in a classroom activity. The background shows a classroom with colorful posters and a whiteboard.

The logos for OfficeMax and Winc. OfficeMax is in a blue circle, and Winc is in a red circle.