

St Patrick's Primary School News

Week 5 Term 1



Principal's News

Dear Parents,

This week I have spent 3 days in Bowral with the principals of the 56 diocesan schools, our new director Mr Ross Fox, as well as the leadership team from Catholic Education – Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn. During this time we have focused our thinking on the strategic plan for our archdiocese. We have also had the opportunity for prayer and reflection. It has been of great benefit to meet with the principals and system leaders with whom we share the journey of education in 2017.

Last week we hosted a visit of CE personnel, and this week we have had a two-day visit from **Katie Smith** who is working with us this year on our literacy plan. Katie met with our Early Learning Initiative leaders; Mary Kite and Margy Carracher and has had the opportunity to familiarize herself with St Patrick's staff and students. We look forward to Katie being a regular visitor this year.

Seniors Morning Tea. Today was the first of two opportunities for us to enjoy the company of some parishioners and grandparents and others who had a past connection with St Pat's at the 'My Story, Your Story' sharing time. We will host the same event next week. We were thrilled to share story time with members of the community. The children and our guests had the opportunity to read to one another and to talk about their stories. It was an opportunity to make connections between the 'seniors' in our community and the 'juniors' (all the kids) at our school. Our thanks to the BVSC for the funds to host the morning tea and gathering.



Christ With Us.
Jo

This Sunday is the first Sunday in Lent. During the week we marked the beginning of Lent when we received ashes on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a period of 40 days from Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday. During Lent we take the opportunity to reflect on our lives and the promises made at our baptism. During the reflection we sometimes use a 'give up' or 'take up' philosophy for our personal action. Generally, there are three aspects to our actions during Lent: almsgiving; fasting, and prayer.

Dates to Remember

5th March
Family Mass 5pm

7th-28th March
PE Swimming
Years 2-6

8th March
P & F meeting
6pm
All welcome

10th March
Seniors Morning
Tea 10-11am

13th March
School Photos

17th March
St Patrick's Day
Mass 9.30am
Disco 6pm

20th March
Parent Reading
Workshop

The School Week

School Canteen
Monday

Uniform Shop
Monday 2.45-
3.30

AP News

This week at the Board meeting, we discuss and made changes to the school homework policy. During this discussion we used current research that has looked at links between student improvement and homework. The research studies are all saying the same message, not only does homework make no difference to a child's achievement, some types of homework can have adverse affects. Things like turning children off learning, creating stress and anxiety in the home and wasting time on unnecessary tasks.

Alfie Kohn has written a book called "The Homework Myth" and here is an excerpt from this book <http://www.alfiekohn.org/article/rethinking-homework/>

The Board came up with some policy changes so that homework now includes:

- Family time is important
- Daily reading of the student's choice
- Student driven inquiry – based project work, where a student is inspired to continue learning and researching at home.

The draft of the new homework policy will be shared with teachers at next week's staff meeting. Last year we surveyed parents and had only a small response on homework. It was evident that parents were either happy with current homework or would prefer less or no homework. We will also ask our students for feedback on the new homework policy. If you have any feedback, please email me on Mary.Kite@cq.catholic.edu.au

Religious Education News

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2017

Parent information night:

Wednesday 24th May, 7:30pm St Patrick's School

Enrolment Mass

Sunday 4th June 9:30am St Patrick's Church

Family Masses

Sunday 11th, 18th & 25th of June, 5pm St Patrick's Church

Confirmation Mass

Sunday July 23rd, 9:30am St Patricks Church

RE in 3/4L

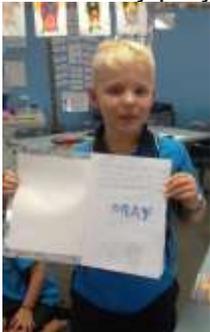
What have you been learning about in RE?

Jai – The Hail Mary and Our Father Hugo – Traditional prayers

Ava – We have been writing prayers Jay – Mass, Ash Wednesday and Lent

Isabella – Traditional prayer, making our own prayers and thinking about the difference between traditional and non-traditional prayers.

Brodie – My prayer was inspired by the class prayer.



What is prayer?

Isabella – It is a special way of talking to God but privately, giving your wishes to other people.

Gypsy – You can say a prayer to God whenever, wherever.

Prayer in 3/4L

Connor – We learn about traditional prayer and set up our prayer focus. We meditate every day.

Sport

Congratulations to Jontae Thompson & Brooke Smith who were chosen in the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocesan swimming team. This team will compete in Sydney at the MacKillop Trials.



School Office

School fees are due today if you are having difficulty making these payments or to avoid further correspondence please contact the office to discuss payment options.

School Photos will be held on Monday 13th March. Family/Sibling order forms are available from the school office.

P&F News

Ladies' Night Out

On Saturday night we held our first Ladies' Night Out for the year with great success! We had 20 ladies attend the evening with a lot of new faces including many kindly mums. Don't fret if you missed out this time as there will be another one next term so keep an eye out in the newsletter. See you at the next Ladies' Night Out!

Easter Raffle

It is that time of year again! In the next week you will receive raffle tickets to sell for St Patrick's Easter Raffle. Each family will receive one book of ten raffle tickets as well as the instructions regarding returning of tickets and money. In addition, we kindly ask for you to donate to the prizes. Traditionally we have gratefully collected Easter eggs and this year we would like to open the donations to other small items that would be suitable for winners that may not be able to choose a chocolate prize. For example, pencils, colouring books, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Kat Hergenhan on 0413 279 084.

Seniors Week Activity at St Pat's



With thanks to the Bega Valley Shire Council we have attained funding to host two 'Your Story / My Story' mornings during **Seniors Week**. We invite all senior citizens who have a past or present connection with St Patrick's Primary School and Parish to come along on **Friday 10th March** from 10-11am to enjoy reading and story sharing with the students. The sharing time will be followed by a muffin morning tea on each day. Please Come!!