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Week 2 Term 1 Newsletter

New faces amongst the Staff

Mrs Val Sheahan

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fabulous week of connecting, reconnecting and of course learning this week. Our new students have quickly assimilated into the St Pat's way and are enjoying their new class and school community.

We have especially enjoyed welcoming our Kinder students in KF. They have been on many adventures around the school to get to know more about St Pat's and being St Pat's kids. Yesterday their adventure led them to my office, around the school office and also to the senior building. They were on a number hunt and they saw and recorded many numbers large and small!



Mrs Stephanie Noack



Mrs Renee Lightly



## Student Leaders 2021

Congratulations to our Year 6 student leaders 2021 who were inducted into their roles at Mass today.

### St Patrick's School Leaders 2021

School Captains - Maddison Woods & Lincoln Thompson

School Vice Captains – Alexia Spitzer & Dougie Tomlinson

#### Penola House

Captains – Ella Taylor & Oliver Malone

Vice Captains – Isobel Nicholson & Bailey Abraham

#### Tenison House

Captains – Kai Schrader & Ivy Smith

Vice Captains – Jack Taylor & Braydan Sharman

#### MacKillop House

Captains – Amelie Hergenhan & Levi O'Bryan

Vice Captains – Clay Hoyland & Cooper Lee

#### Junior School Peer Mediation Leaders

Caitlyn Healey & Tygerlily Chinnock





Catalyst Last week our teaching and support staff attended the Catalyst professional learning day. The staff from the other 55 schools in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn also attended this day that was managed via zoom and MSTeams.

Catalyst provides a professional learning program for all teachers. A program designed to transform lives through learning. The Catalyst program is informed by the *Science of Learning* and will help St Patrick's and all 56 system schools to realise the system bold goals:

1. Every student is a competent reader.
2. High Impact Teaching Practice is visible in every classroom.

During the day teachers heard presentations from internationally renowned speakers:

Ollive Lovell – Cognitive Load Theory in Action.

Toni Ann Vroom – The Writing Revolution

Tom Sherrington – Rosenshine's Principles for High Impact Teaching Practice

We are already on the way to some transformations, notably the implementation of the synthetic phonic program Initialit in Kinder to Year 2.



## Playground

Thank you to Mr Bateman for everything he does, and a special thanks for putting together the climbing frame igloo for the junior students. While the playground is unavailable we are looking at ways to engage the children in happy and fun play experiences. The igloo seems to be a hit!



Blessings

Jo

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

### LOVING LITERACY

**InitialLit K-2** Over the next 2 weeks Kinder to Year 2 students will begin the InitialLit program. InitialLit is an evidence based whole class literacy program which will provide children with the essential core knowledge and strong foundations to become successful readers and writers. All K-2 teachers received intensive professional learning over 2 days at the end of 2020 to learn how to implement the program successfully. Students will be grouped according to their current literacy skills to ensure the teaching of the components of phonics, vocabulary, oral language and listening comprehension is within their zone of learning.



**Soundwaves Years 3-6** To continue to build and strengthen the literacy skills of students in years 3-6, St Pat's will be incorporating the Soundwaves spelling program into the literacy block. Sound Waves is a whole school word study program to develop spelling and reading skills using the phonemic approach. The phonemic approach focuses on the sounds and aligns very well with our K-2 program. Recognised as one of the most effective ways to teach spelling and reading. Students in Year 3-6 have participated in PAT Spelling Assessment this week. The results allow teachers to allocate a Soundwaves book to the correct level for each student

Thankyou to the St Pat's community for your continued warmth and enthusiasm in welcoming me to your school community. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to get to know your students and am keen to work towards ensuring St Pat's continues to be a thriving learning community. Val

## REC NEWS

### Religious Education & Student Support

#### Upcoming events & dates

Staff Commissioning Mass Sunday 14th February 9:30am

2021

This year St Pat's will be focusing on Pope Francis' Laudato Si'.

*"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord".*  
In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs".

*With God all things are possible - Mark 19:26*

### Mini Vinnies

Mini Vinnies meetings will begin in Week 4. Mini Vinnies is a team of students who help facilitate events to support the community and St Vincent De Paul.

From the Vinnies Term 1 Newsletter:

### Vinnies Knock On Effect...

The Knock On Effect is a brand-new Vinnies initiative that will replace the Doorknock Appeal. The Knock On Effect will be run in a similar manner to the CEO Sleepout, where an individual/group/school can sign up, create an online profile and spend the **month of March** spreading awareness and engaging in fun activities to fundraise for and support Vinnies and the people and communities we assist.

### NCCD

Each week I will share information and/or tips from the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students With Disability.

### Managing emotions

#### Strong emotions

Prepare by writing and rehearsing

Some meetings can be emotionally challenging. When a person feels strongly about something, emotions can unexpectedly rise to the surface when they try to speak. This is normal.

Different things might trigger an emotional response. Talking about a particular issue may be upsetting or frustrating. Meeting in an unfamiliar place or meeting new people can also make people uncomfortable.

In a meeting, participants should respect that people have different ways of expressing themselves, and that emotional responses are normal. People feeling strong emotions should be respected and given time to express their view in a way that suits them.



#### Managing emotions: In practice

To make it easier to understand your own emotions and to communicate effectively, these strategies might be useful:

- > Practise what you intend to say with a trusted person before the meeting, so you know how it might feel to express yourself.
- > Write what you want to say and take it to the meeting so it can be read by someone else if you have difficulty expressing yourself.
- > Take an associate (a partner, friend, support person or advocate) to the meeting to support you in expressing your views.
- > Ask for a break if you need to, so that you can remain calm and communicate effectively.

## CANTEEN NEWS

If your child uses a Stickybeaks Lunch Bag, please update your child's current class on the bag.