



ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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"St Patrick's Primary School respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Dja Dja Wurrung people, who are represented by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, pays respect to the ongoing living cultures of first Peoples."

From the Principal.....

Well the year is well and truly underway now and all students have settled well into their new routines. We began our Lenten journey last week with Shrove Tuesday and our Ash Wednesday Mass. Thanks to the senior students for cooking our pancakes on Thursday for us. It was so pleasing to hear the positive feedback from Parishioners about how impressed they were with our students at Mass on Wednesday.

Swimming is going well and students are making wonderful progress in the pool. I must thank those staff members that have completed their swim instructor training recently. Remember that swimming is on Mondays and Tuesdays for the next 2 weeks.

A reminder to make sure you are wearing the correct uniform on the correct days. Monday, Tuesday & Friday - Navy shorts/pants, royal blue polo, white socks and black shoes. Wednesdays and Fridays - sports uniform.

If you need assistance with uniform, please contact myself or Maree and we can help you with this.

"We have much for which to be thankful"
St. Mary Mackillop.

"AS PARTNERS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND OPEN TO GOD'S PRESENCE, WE PURSUE THE FULLNESS OF LIFE FOR ALL. ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF ALL STUDENTS."



**Mass Time:
SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 25TH
8.30AM**



Important Dates

Monday Feb. 26th to Friday
March 1st
-Meals On Wheels

Monday March 11th
- Labour Day Public Holiday
NO SCHOOL

Wednesday March 13th to Friday
March 22nd
-NAPLAN

Friday March 15th
-St. Patrick's Day Mass

Tuesday March 19th
-School Photos

Friday March 22nd
-School Cross Country

Thursday March 28th
-Caritas Colour Run

Thursday March 28th
- LAST DAY OF TERM 1

Monday April 15th
-STUDENT FREE DAY
(Staff PD Day)

Tuesday April 16th
-FIRST DAY OF TERM 2

Camps, Sports & Excursion Forms

A reminder that if you hold a current valid Centrelink Card and haven't already done so, can you please complete and return the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund form sent home recently. If you require a replacement form, please contact Maree in the office.

Family Fee Assistance Application Forms

Also, if you hold a current, valid, Centrelink Card, can you please complete the Family Fee Assistance Form sent home recently and return to the office. If you require a replacement form, again, please contact Maree in the office.

Grade 6 Rugby Jumpers

If any Grade 6 student would like a 2024 Rugby Jumper, and you haven't already let the office know, can you please do so by Thursday, February 29. We have a sample and they look great. A wonderful memento of your last year at Primary school.

Caritas Project Compassion 2024

Last week students took home their Caritas Project Compassion donation boxes.

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's main annual fundraising campaign. It mobilises Australians to raise much-needed funds to help alleviate poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity in the most vulnerable and marginalised communities in the world.

Held during Lent, the six-week period before Easter, Catholic schools, Parishes, and the wider Australian public participate in fundraising activities and events to support Caritas Australia's programs. Boxes can be returned after the Easter school holidays.

SHROVE TUESDAY



OUR CLASSES

PREP/ONE

Prep/One have settled back into school life well in both Tillig classes.

The Prep students have been busy learning the letter sounds a, m, s, i and t and the numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The Grade 1 students have been learning about the /ae/ and /ee/ sounds and numerals from 0 to 100+. Both year levels have begun their Religion unit on 'Welcome', Health unit on 'Emotions and Social Interactions' and Humanities on 'Family, past and present'. Sport has been a combination of swimming, ball skills, game play and rules. In Art, we have been looking at colours and in science about 'our senses'.



SWIMMING

Two days each week, students and staff make their way to the St. Arnaud Pool where they participate in swimming lessons with our qualified swimming instructors.

Each day we can see the difference in student's abilities and confidence in the water. From learning to blow bubbles to putting your head under water for the first time all the way to learning the butterfly stroke, students have embraced the lessons and it is fantastic to see the progress.

For the last two weeks of swimming we will be back to Mondays & Tuesdays, so don't forget your gear on those days.

A big thank you to those staff that gained their swim teacher qualifications last year so that our students can enjoy and benefit from such a wonderful program.



STUDENT PROFILES

This year, in each newsletter, we will profile one of our 2024 Prep students along with one of our Grade 6 leaders. The Prep's will fill you in a little on their likes and dislikes and our seniors will answer the hard questions about what makes a good leader and where they see themselves after finishing school.

This week we interviewed.....



Lily

Lily is in Grade Prep and her favourite show is Frozen.

And not surprisingly her favourite colour is **PINK**.

Toast with Nutella on it is her go to for breakfast and if she could be any animal for a day she would love to be a bunny.

If Lily had to pick a favourite ice-cream it would be vanilla with strawberries on top.

And when it comes to what she would like to be when she grows up, well, Lily would like to be Elsa.



Tasha

Tasha is in Grade 6 this year and is excited to part of the St. Pat's Energy Breakthrough team again after such a successful 2023. She is also looking forward to playing sport at school this year. Her favourite subject is sport!

After school she enjoys playing netball and dancing. Tasha believes a good leader should be nice, caring and be someone that looks out for others. When she finishes school she would like to study to become a doctor.

If Tasha had one wish, it would be to make everyone happy and feeling OK.

NOTICE BOARD

What happens on a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating Day

School Preparations for the Bushfire Season

Each year, the Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the **Wimmera fire weather district**.



As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and have conducted other relevant preparedness actions, such as reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is listed on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

DOBCEL, in accordance with the department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#), requires our schools on the BARR list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

Our school will **close** on any day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in Wimmera fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day when possible. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by the Dojo App and/or SMS.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child/ren. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

In addition, families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

NOTICE BOARD

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, accessing the Dojo App, and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is learning from home due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

Thank you!

Last Tuesday saw St. Patrick's closed for the first time due to the Catastrophic fire danger rating for the Wimmera.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, families and staff for the way they responded, at short notice, to the closure.

Thank you!

CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS

What are the Child Safe Standards?

- The Child Safe Standards (the Standards) began in Victoria in January 2016.
- The Standards help keep children safe from abuse and harm.
- There are 11 Child Safe Standards.
- Organisations working with children¹ must **comply** with the Standards. **Comply** means that your organisation must have things in place to show that you² follow and meet each standard.

This document is a summary of the Child Safe Standards. It has words and pictures that are easy to understand to help explain the Standards. It does not include the full wording of the Standards or all the things that you must do to comply. You can read the full text of the Standards and more information about how to comply on our [website](#).



¹ “Children” means people under 18 years old.

² We also use the word “you” when we are talking about “your organisation”.


Victoria's Child Safe Standards

Plain language summary


1 Your organisation welcomes Aboriginal children. You support them to express their culture and to enjoy their rights. You don't allow racism.




2 Child safety is important to everyone at all levels in your organisation. You document how you find, avoid, and stop risks of child abuse or harm.




3 Your organisation supports children to know their rights to be safe from abuse, informed, and involved. You help them to talk openly and take part in decisions that affect them.




4 Your organisation tells families and the community about what you do, and how you keep children safe from harm and abuse. You help families to have a say and to take part in decisions that affect their child.




5 Your organisation understands that every child is different and has different needs. You make sure that they can get the information and help that they need.




6 Staff know what they must do to keep children safe from abuse and harm. They record, report, and share information about child safety when they should. Staff who work with children have had the background checks they need.




7 Children and their families know how to make a complaint and what happens when a complaint is made. Your staff know how to respond properly to complaints.




8 Your organisation trains and supports staff to keep children safe from abuse and harm. Your staff know the signs of child abuse and harm and what to do if there are issues of abuse and harm.




9 Your organisation makes sure children are safe when they use your services, settings, and activities. This includes when children are online.



10 Your organisation checks and improves the ways you keep children safe from abuse and harm.



11 Your organisation has written policies about how you keep children safe from abuse and harm. They are easy to understand, and all staff follow them.



For more information, contact the Commission for Children and Young People
www.ccp.vic.gov.au



COMMUNITY NOTICES



Health Promotion
EAST WIMMERA HEALTH SERVICE

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY

17th February 2024

THE POWER OF KINDNESS

Kindness is an incredible superpower every single person can tap into at anytime, anywhere.

Kindness doesn't have to be expensive, in fact some of the best acts of kindness are free!

I CHALLENGE YOU TO COMPLETE A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS TODAY!

"Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person's life" - Jackie Chan

BE KIND TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS



Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

What does the word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the student's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

What sort of help does the school give students?

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

How will the NCCD be different this year?

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet your child's needs.

What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

Where can I find out more?

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).