I put the heading in so that you'd think I’m a “classy, Shakespearian” kind of fellow. Did it work? I didn’t think so. Anyway, I really wanted to talk about giving.

I’ve never lived in poverty. A few years ago, I would possibly have cited my time at University as being poor. The reality is that I wasn’t really. I survived on $49.50 per week (remember it was the OLDEN days!). That paid for rent, food, smokes, the occasional (?) beer, electricity, petrol and whatever else I needed. If I got really “stuck”, I’d call mum and dad, they were always good for a “loan”. SO, nothing like poverty, although there were times when I had $5.00 left to last me a few days. POOR old me! NO, not really.

I really cannot empathise with true poverty because I’ve never known it. People with no money left to feed their family, sending children to bed fully clothed to keep warm as the blankets are thread bare or just insufficient. Children hungry! In some instances in my teaching career, I have known families who have had life a bit rough. Dishevelled, malnourished children - mind you, that is not a symptom of poverty - probably more about poor parenting skills. Electricity cut off, furniture barely holding together and up to their eyes in debt. Thank GOD for the Salvos, St Vincent De Paul, Brotherhood of St Lawrence, Anglicare and whoever else steps up to give people in need a quality of life.

It’s often so easy to assume the worst in people. I have heard and once thought myself, “These people can’t afford to pay their bills but they can still afford to smoke and drink”. Until we walk a mile in their shoes, we’ll never know what life presents them. Jesus never made judgements; he took people on face value and accepted them as they were and not as he thought they should be. He gave unconditionally just as he loved unconditionally.

That should be our model. If I give on the condition that I need proof of hardship as some form of justification for giving my money, food or materials, then I’ve missed the whole point of giving in the first place. Giving should be uplifting for the heart and soul. It should be a form of spiritual sustenance. It should be as much about you and how you see yourself as it is about the “givee”.

If you would prefer to give and then grizzle and groan, then, as far as I’m concerned, go for your life, as long as you give, because, in the end that’s the most important thing. However, it is far better to get some intrinsic value. In some way, I think to give without condition is closely linked to loving unconditionally which is something God does for us.
Dear Parents,

Some months ago, a group of P&F mothers threw out the idea of having a ladies luncheon at school and, hence, the “Feast On Ovens” was born. It came to fruition last Saturday and what a day it was (not that I was there because I’m not a lady!). I did pop in to make sure that they had everything that they needed (well I was a bit curious too). I was absolutely “blown away” by the fantastic spirit at work in the room. Perhaps I’m a bloke but I just saw a huge group of women having the best time. I must say that it “warmed my heart” because these were St Pat’s mums (and their friends). It spoke to me of inclusion and the foundations of a pretty strong community. I know that we will not always see eye to eye on all issues but on Saturday, it was a group of women just out to have a fun time and they did that in spades. I know that this is the start of something wonderful. Thank you to all who were involved especially the organisers of which there are too many to mention without inadvertently missing one out. Plans are already in the pipeline for the next “Feast on Ovens”.

**Eucharist and Confirmation**

Please keep our Year Four students in your thoughts and prayers. They have begun the journey to celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation/Eucharist. This will occur on the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd August.

**Feast of the Sacred Heart (12th June)**

Friday the 12th June is the “Feast of the Sacred Heart” where we remember the love Jesus has for mankind. To celebrate this important feast, we hold a “Mass for the Poor” where we collect blankets and non perishable food for the poor in our community.

Our Mass will take place on the **Friday, 12th June**, 12.05pm at St. Patrick’s Church (please note change of time from original notice last week) after which the food and blankets collected will be given to the St Vincent De Paul Society for distribution. Your support for this very worthy project is greatly appreciated.

**BIG OOPS - Footy Trip – Richmond v Dockers – SATURDAY 25TH JULY (Twilight Game)**

Last week I incorrectly listed the game we are attending as Richmond v Melbourne. This is incorrect. The actual game is **Richmond vs Fremantle**. My apologies for the confusion. This is a twilight game commencing at 4.35pm and possibly finishing around 7.15pm. The bus will depart from the school around 12.00 midday.

It should be a good family day. The cost is $25.00 per head for adults and $17.00 per head for students under 14 (price includes return bus to Melbourne and entry into the ground) which represents excellent value. That figure relies on getting a full booking.

A booking form will be sent home today so please check your child’s school bag. Please return the form with payment. Seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Maximum number of seats available is 50.

THANK YOU **SPORTSMANS WAREHOUSE WANGARATTA** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
CASUAL Clothes Day - 11th June

On Thursday, 11th June (tomorrow week) we are holding a Casual Clothes Day. The cost of coming out of uniform (yes…. there’s always a cost!) is for the families to send along a non perishable food item or a blanket. These will be given to the local branch of the St Vincent De Paul Society for distributing to needy families in our Wangaratta community.

Principal Appraisal

In the next month or so, I am required to undergo an “Appraisal process” as part of my contract at St Patrick’s. To this end parents will be invited to fill out a form on my performance. This will be sent out to parents for whom we have an email address. Hard copies are also available from the office. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions that you may have.

I am keen to have as many parents as possible to respond to the survey. Many thanks in anticipation.

REALITY CHECK (thought I’d run this again in case parents missed it last week)

I had heard the other day that a parent believed that all the Catholic school enrolments for next year were closed. That is not the case at all. Our Lady’s and St Bernard’s are still accepting enrolment applications.

In the case of St Patrick’s, we currently have more enrolments for preps next year than we have places available. This is due to our need to ensure that we manage our facilities well and not grow beyond our capacity. We do not close our books; however, some families are on a waiting list should circumstances change and a position become available.

That said we do have some spots available in a few classes throughout the school. I just wanted to clear up this fact as I would be disappointed if students missed out on a Catholic Education based on poor or misleading information especially when there are places available at Our Lady’s and St Bernard’s.

Mid Year Reports and Parent/Teacher interviews

Teachers are busily compiling the mid year reports at the moment (on top of all the other great work that they do). These reports will be sent home on Friday 19th June. The following week from the 23rd June to 25th June (the last week of term two), we will be holding Parent/Teacher interviews after school.

Bookings for interviews are now being taken. Please phone Annette or Rosie in the office to make a booking (57 215795).

Queen’s Birthday Holiday

St Patrick’s school will be closed next Monday 8th June for the Queen’s Birthday holiday.

Pie Drive

Pie drive forms are being sent home today. Please return by 10th June 2015.

THANK YOU SHANE’S COUNTRY PUB TOURS FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
The latest APP & St Patrick’s School (free App) Newsletter Online

St Patrick’s App is available for free to help keep you up to date with our activities and important dates and reminders.
Details can be found at:
http://stpatricksict.wikispaces.com/St+Patrick%27s+Mobile+App

Mass Times

* Saturday 6.00pm St Patrick’s
* Sunday 8.00am St Patrick’s
* Sunday 9.00am Our Lady’s
* Sunday 10.00am Moyhu
* Sunday 10.30am Whitfield (1st Sunday)
* Sunday 10.30am St Patrick’s
* Sunday 5.00pm Latin Mass at St Patrick’s

CHATTER MATTERS

Find compound words in your child’s book/reader and practice breaking the word into two separate parts. For example ‘bookshelf’ is made up of ‘book’ and ‘shelf’. Can you think of other compound words you could make? For example: bookend, bookmark, bookstore, bookcase… Here are some practice words: toothbrush, shoelace, bowtie, football.

As a harder task, remove one part of a compound word, and ask your child to say what part of the word is left. For example, “What’s left if I take away ‘rain’ from ‘rainbow’ (bow)?”

THANK YOU SHANLEY SIGNS FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE
4th - P & F Meeting
5th - District Cross Country
8th - QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
10th - Pie Forms Due
11th - Casual Clothes Day
12th - 12.05pm Mass “Feast of the Sacred” St. Patrick’s Church

AUGUST
3rd – 6th - BOOK FAIR
22nd - Eucharist/Confirmation
23rd - Eucharist/Confirmation

LEARNING WALK

Thank you to those parents and grandparents who came on the learning walk last week. It was so fulfilling to have parents ask questions about their children's education and see the children engaged in the daily classroom activities. I will be holding another learning walk in Term 3. Hope to see you on the walk.

Sundial Progress - Calling all Mosaic Masters

According to an African Proverb "It takes a village to raise a child". Apparently this applies to building sundials as well! A huge thankyou to Chris Dwyer for taking time to construct our sundial, we really appreciate your efforts. If you haven't seen it yet it is located underneath the flagpole and it looks amazing. The next challenge is to mosaic the face of the dial. Thankyou Dawn Lincoln for your offer to help supervise students in the gluing phase, if any other parents would like to assist with helping the students to see their artwork come to life let me know. We are also calling for any interested parents to assist with smashing tiles as this is a very time consuming job. If you are interested in helping create our masterpiece flick me an email on sackerly@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au or come see me at school.

Thankyou,
Sharyn Ackerly

THANK YOU STEER CLOTHING AND UNIFORM SHOP FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Welcome **KYLE HENNESSY** to St. Patrick’s School! We hope he has lots of fun.

A big pat on the back to **OLIVIA SMITH** for giving 110% in all areas of her learning and always contributing to class discussions. Fantastic Olivia!

Congratulations to **COOPER BOMAN** for the great progress in his reading and for working hard to improve his handwriting. Well done!

A big pat on the back to **KATIE CLIFFORD** for always using wonderful manners on the mat and using turn taking skills. Katie listens respectfully and waits her turn to speak by using her hand.

Well done to **TOBY ELLIS** for his outstanding participation and performance at last week’s Andrew Chinn concert. We loved the Toby and John move!

A big pat on the back to **LUCY O’CONNOR** for being encouraging of others and demonstrating wonderful leadership skills. Well done Lucy!

A big pat on the back to **SOFIA PIZZINI** for always settling down to her work quickly and quietly and for her great participation in class discussions. Well done!

A big pat on the back to **ZOÉANN MCKENZIE** for putting in great effort in Maths, follows instructions and works independently. Keep up the great work Zoe!

Congratulations to **SPENCER JONES** for his excellent work on composite shapes and comparing the area of different shapes. Great work Spencer!

A very big Congratulations to **DAN HUGHES** for his enthusiasm during writing time. His sizzling starts are ‘SIZZLING’. Great job Dan!

Congratulations to **ISABEL MCCORMACK** for taking pride in the presentation of her bookwork and sets a very high standard for the class. Well done Isabel!

Congratulations to **RHYS SEILER** for his persistence in developing his understanding of multiplication and division.

Congratulations to **LUKE SHEPHERD** for sharing insightful and worldly responses with the class during the reading sessions.

Congratulations to **TOM FOX** for the enthusiastic way he has approached all of his work this term. His manners are impeccable and I always look forward to a cheery “Good morning Mrs Rickard” from Tom every morning. Keep up the great work Tom!
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM

FOUNDATION – Karen & Karen

We hope all Prep families enjoyed their extended weekend! We welcome Lauren Peters from Charles Sturt University, who is on placement with Prep Rizzo for the next three weeks. Also, we give a very big welcome to Kyle Hennessy, who started in Prep Bray this week.

Some important reminders:
• Prep Assembly this Friday 5th June
• Monday 8th June is the Queen’s Birthday Holiday weekend.
• Friday 12th June is “Mass for the Poor” at St Patrick’s Church. Prior to this we would appreciate families donating non-perishable food and blankets to the office by 11th June.
• Reading with parents on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9:00am – 9:15am.
• Please ensure your child’s food containers/vests/jumpers/jackets are labelled.

This week in:
Religion – we have started our new unit titled “Our Church”. We are discussing, identifying and listing the types of groups we belong to within our community (e.g. family, school, sporting clubs) and the things we do with these groups. Following on from this we will also discuss how we feel as a part of these groups and the things we share and celebrate within them.

Literacy – We continue reading a variety of stories about our health and using colourful semantics such as ‘who’ (characters), ‘where’ (the setting), ‘what are they doing’ to deconstruct the story. Each day we revise the alphabet and known high frequency words through games (such as “Bingo” or “Oh no”), decoding tools such as words in words and word shapes, literacy groups and writing on our whiteboards. In writing, we are writing one or more good sentences using words around the room, the word wall and HF word cards. It’s great to see the children confident and ‘having a go’!

Mathematics – we continue to explore the concept of capacity through listening to the story of ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’. The children will use different size containers to compare, predict and measure how much each one holds and then use direct and indirect comparisons to decide which is heavier or holds more. Also, the children are being introduced to “subtraction”. They are exploring the concept using hands on activities and story telling such as “I had 5 biscuits and I ate 2 biscuits, I now have 3 biscuits”. Each week we continue to encourage the children to count and write numbers as far as they can from different starting points going forwards and backwards.

Inquiry – The children continue exploring about germs and personal hygiene through stories, rhymes/poems and experiments. They have learnt that when you sneeze/cough, it is more hygienic to do it towards the bend in your arm and not the hands! We are also discussing and learning about exercise and rest, creating posters and graphing activities children do in a week.

YEAR ONE/TWO – Gen, Sarah, Janina, Amanda & Nara

YEAR 1

What a wonderful day we had last Wednesday with a visit from Andrew Chinn. The children really enjoyed it and I hope they shared their day with you. Thank you to the parents and friends who were able to attend we appreciate it. We hope that you enjoyed your day off Monday and were able to have a relaxing day.

THANK YOU THE BEST CAR WASH FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Just a friendly reminder that next Monday the 8th of June is a public holiday, so there will be no school! Could you please ensure you are labelling your child/children’s clothing or items as we are still finding a number of things without names?

**Literacy:**
This week we are continuing on with our focus on procedural writing. We are reading about the steps to make a ‘sock puppet’. At the end of the week children will be required to write their own procedural writing with a topic of their choice. This week our spelling focus is ‘l’ as in ‘log’ and our blend is ‘gl’ as in ‘glow’ or ‘glue’.

**Numeracy:**
This week we are continuing our focus on patterns. Children will be asked to look around the room or outside and discuss where they see patterns and how do we know it is a pattern. We will finish this topic with number patterns, such as skip counting starting at different points.

**Inquiry:**
Last week we discussed the importance of washing our hands. The children were able to discuss the importance of washing hands before meals, or after touching animals so we don’t get sick. This week we will be looking at personal hygiene. This will include when we need to wash ourselves and when we need to put on clean clothes.

**National Reconciliation Week:**
We recently celebrated National Reconciliation week. Foundation/Prep, Year One and Year Two joined together to celebrate this Wednesday, by attending rotation groups involving Aboriginal Art, Aboriginal Games and Aboriginal Stories.

**YEAR 2**

Teachers had a really informative Professional Development day on Monday. We were fortunate to have Karen Starkiss come along and run a workshop focused on dyslexia. She provided us with valuable information and resources.

Mrs Nicoll will be teaching in the classroom this Thursday as Mrs Cassidy had to swap her days this week.

Today we participated in a number of activities as part of National Reconciliation Week. Students rotated around the Foundation to Year 2 classrooms, participating in activities including Indigenous games, reading Dreamtime stories and creating Aboriginal art works.

**Maths**
In Maths this week we are continuing to look at strategies to use when solving subtraction problems. This concept has been difficult for some. Following on from last week, we have been looking at counting back and counting on to find the difference between 2 numbers. We have also been thinking about which strategy is best to use e.g. 12-3 (it would be best to count back) whereas 17-13 (it would be best to count on). We have also been using our knowledge of addition to help us check our answers as well as our knowledge of ‘friends of ten’, doubles and near doubles.

**Literacy**
This week in spelling we are focusing on the ‘tr’ sound as in ‘trap’. We have been focusing on words that rhyme and have come up with our own definition. ‘Rhyming words are words that have the same ending sound. These end sounds may be spelt differently e.g. ‘saw and poor’.

THANK YOU THE COMPLETE GARDEN FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Religion
This week as part of our unit, ‘Sacraments and Special Celebrations’, we have been discussing signs of love: e.g. hugs, a loving home, actions, gifts. We have been role playing some of these loving actions in real life situations.

Please remember to check our notice board outside our classroom, our Year 2 blog and newsletter piece. We hope you all have a great long weekend.

YEAR THREE/FOUR – Trudi/Paul, Annee, Michelle & Trish

HOMEWORK: Well done to the students who continue to complete their homework to a high standard, which includes activities around their weekly spelling words and nightly reading. These students are demonstrating responsibility and extending their learning at home.

CROSS COUNTRY: Best of luck to Darcy Wilson, Ned Turner, Spencer Jones, Lauren McInnes and Eva Kelly who are participating in the District Cross Country on Friday 5th June.

NO SCHOOL MONDAY: A reminder that this weekend is a long weekend therefore; there is no school on Monday 8th June!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Students are currently learning about the Sacraments of Initiation - Confirmation and Eucharist. Students are making connections between all the Sacraments and how they support their faith journey.

YEAR 4 MASS: This Thursday 4th June, Year 4 invite family and friends to join them at Mass in the St Patrick’s School hall at 9.00am.

YEAR FIVE/SIX – James, Catherine, Helen & Leah

Religion: We are continuing our work for the unit Pentecost - Celebrating the spirit.

Literacy: During reading, the students have been looking at how we determine where important information is in a text. In writing, we have been exploring how to write procedures that we read and use everyday, like recipes and experiments.

Maths: This week students have begun an introduction to fractions.

A3 Visit: Yesterday we had the girls from A3 in the school for the students to continue their rehearsal for the Festival of the Sacred performance. The students have responded with great enthusiasm and we look forward to seeing it all coming together!

Reconciliation Week: To celebrate this occasion, teachers are running rotation activities that help children recognise the way in which Indigenous Australians live with certain cultures and traditions. Activities have included dot painting, traditional games, symbols and Dreamtime stories.

Reconciliation Mass: Last Wednesday students from 5/S and Fire Carrier representatives from Grade 6 attended the Reconciliation Mass held at Our Lady’s. It was a beautiful service and we were really proud of Anna and Aryan who read beautifully. The children then attended an Aboriginal tradition dance workshop that was instructed by Uncle Wally. It was a great way for the students to see how we celebrate these days within our community.

THANK YOU TURNER’S FISHING SUPPLIES FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
**Reminders**

**Zone Cross Country:** This Friday students who have been selected to go further will be leaving from school at 9:45am. They will return to school at 1.00pm to be ready for interschool sports. We wish them all the best!

**Interschool Sports:** This week in Interschool Sports:
St Pat’s Yellow: playing Our Lady’s @ Our Lady’s
St Pat’s Green: playing Chisholm Street - Netball will be played at Barr Reserve and the Football will be at Wareena Park.

THANK YOU RINALDOS CASA CUCINA FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL