This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing for Christmas. I’m already seeing advertisements for Christmas (I don’t mind the Myer one actually).

Advent is about preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus NOT remembering to buy presents and turkeys and decorations and Christmas parties. Then again, who doesn’t like a good Christmas party?

At school, we’ll be focussing on the birth of Jesus and I would hope that those conversations could be had at home as well. Don’t get me wrong, I’m a huge Santa fan and the act of giving and expressing love for others is central to Christmas. When you think about it, Santa has links to the Christian story far beyond the commercial representations of him these days. Santa is based on Saint Nicholas, a Bishop from the 4th Century, who gave to the poor and showed Christlike compassion for all. He was a wonderful role model and a person who showed us the joy of giving and loving in the model of Jesus Christ.

So, I don’t have a problem with the commercial side of Christmas, I just happen to think that the celebration of the birth of Jesus is a far, far more important focus especially when you reflect on the impact His life has made to so many millions of people over the last two thousand years.

I hope and pray that our students can keep focus on the true meaning of Christmas and that we, as a school community, always make Jesus our priority.

Dear Parents,

This week, as part of Advent, we have begun our week with a prayer focus in our school hall. As many would know, we usually sing the National Anthem around our flagpole, raising the Australian and Aboriginal flags for the week. Beginning this week, we will be in the school hall. We will still sing the National Anthem and this will be followed by a short prayer and the lighting of the Advent wreath to count down to Christmas and celebrate Jesus’ birth. Everyone is most welcome to join us. We’d love to see you there.

THANK YOU CHRISMONT WINES FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
**Christmas Performance – 10th December**

On the 10th December at 9.00am, the whole school will be involved in a Christmas Performance. We would love parents and friends of St Patrick’s Parish and School community to join us on the day. It should run for about one hour. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Report Writing Day**

St Patrick’s will be closed this Friday 27th November, to allow teachers to write reports.

**White Ribbon Day**

Today is White Ribbon Day, a day when we stand up and are counted as people who abhor family violence. It would seem that family violence is on the rise and we need to do all we can to prevent such disgraceful acts of cowardice and violence. Men who commit these crimes are not men at all; they are weak and insignificant creatures. This behaviour should not be tolerated by our society.

Today, we were invited to take part in a walk from Apex Park to the shopping centre and back as a way of showing support. Unfortunately, logistically, we were unable to do that this year for a number of reasons.

As a school community, we stand with those who are trying to eradicate violence against women and children in family situations. It’s never right to harm or injure others. This is especially true for women and children who suffer enormously in domestic violence situations.

**Trivia Night**

Another fantastic night last Saturday! Special thanks to Ange Reynolds, Marg Anderson and Sandra Duffy for their organisation as well as the happy band of helpers that turned up at 10.30am Saturday morning to set up the hall. Lots of fun was had by all. I was intrigued by the number of musically talented parents we had during the music trivia section (and just the odd extrovert!).

Special thanks to Bec Dalton from “Complete Garden” for donating a Table and Chair set (1st prize) for our raffle, Stacey Clayton from Koolaman for donating Earrings (2nd and 3rd prizes), Sandra Duffy for the bottle of Moet and chocolates (2nd Prize) and Ange Reynolds for donating chocolates (2nd & 3rd prizes). There are some fantastic looking Christmas presents to be “had” at Bec’s shop. I had a look through at last week’s Complete Garden Fundraiser. Nyree Bennett won 1st Prize in the raffle.

**Prep Transition**

The next Prep Transition day will be held tomorrow (Thursday), commencing at 9.30am.

**Emergency Management Plan**

Last night staff from St Pat’s and St Bernard’s met here at school to review our Emergency Management Plans. The two hour meeting was lead by Jake Dava from Dynamiq to ensure our procedures are compliant.

Today we held an emergency drill to make sure our evacuation plans were “up to scratch”. Staff and students acquitted themselves very well.

THANK YOU CAFÉ CUCCI FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
SCHOOL BOARD

The next meeting of the School Board is tomorrow (Thursday, 26\textsuperscript{th} November) commencing at 5.30pm in the Staffroom.

Term Four Ends

The last day for students this year is Thursday, 17\textsuperscript{th} December. On this day, school finishes at 3.30pm.

CLOSURE Days

Just some advanced notice on some closure days coming up during November/December.
Friday 27\textsuperscript{th} November - Report Writing Day
Friday 4\textsuperscript{th} December – School Closed (Planning Day)

Early to School

There are a number of students turning up to school at 8.10am. Whereas I am thrilled that they love getting to school, there are no staff members on duty until 8.30am. Can you please make sure your child/ren gets to school at 8.30am and after? Some parents who have to begin work earlier than this time are asked to contact me to make arrangements to ensure their child is covered.

Save the Date – End of Year Mass – Wednesday, 16\textsuperscript{th} December

Just to give our families plenty of notice, we will be holding our End of Year Mass on Wednesday, 16\textsuperscript{th} December commencing at 6.00pm in St Patrick’s Church. We would like to invite all members of the school community including extended families.

Graduation Dinner

Immediately following our End of Year Mass, the Year six students and their parents will adjourn to St Pat’s Parish hall for our Graduation Dinner.

CHAIRS for Sale

We still have some school chairs for sale. Earlier this year, the P&F replaced the seating in our Foundation to Year Three classes. Most are in good condition. Metal frames with cloth covering. They are available for $7.00 each or ten for fifty dollars. The sizes range from small to medium children’s chairs. Ideal for cubby houses, playrooms etc. Enquiries to the office.

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://www3.spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au/
http://stpatricksict.wikispaces.com/St+Patrick%27s+Mobile+App

THANK YOU BROWN BROS WINERY FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
**Mass Times**

* Saturday 6.00pm St Patrick's
* Sunday 8.00am St Patrick's
* Sunday 9.00am Our Lady's
* Sunday 10.30am St Patrick's
* Sunday 5.00pm Latin Mass at St Patrick's

**Terry**

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**CHATTER MATTERS**

See how many adjectives your child can think of about an object eg Cornflakes... (crunchy, delicious, sweet, small) A dog... (furry, timid, ferocious)

How many adverbs can they add to these sentence stems?
(Swiftly, slowly) ← The old man walked → (quietly, timidly, with an odd gait)
(Loudly, energetically) ← The children played → (boisterously, peacefully)

We were all speaking...

Get your child to find the adjective and adverbs in their stories and act them out to help them develop meaning.

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<td>26th</td>
<td>9.30am – 10.45am Foundation (Prep) Orientation</td>
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<td>27th</td>
<td>Report Writing Day – PUPIL FREE</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>6.00pm End of Year Mass</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>7.00pm Year 6 Graduation Dinner</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>3.30pm End of Term Four</td>
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THANK YOU CURTIS ADAMS CHEMMART PHARMACY FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
PAT ON THE BACK

Foundation
Mrs Bray
A big pat on the back to **HAMISH GASSER & MATTHEW GAY** for settling to work and for achieving their best.

Foundation
Mrs Rizzo
A big pat on the back to **LILY LYSTER** for the wonderful progress she has made in all areas of her learning and displaying great leadership skills in and out of the classroom. Way to go Lily!

Year 1
Ms Collins
Congratulations to **BRANDON CRISAFULLI-GRIFFITHS** for writing a great acrostic poem about a monster and for working hard to improve his handwriting. Well done Brandon!

Year 1
Miss Smith
A big pat on the back to **TRINITY CASTLE** for her wonderful manners and respect she displays on the mat. She always listens attentively during class discussions, thank you Trinity!

Year 2
Mrs Batey
Well done to **LILY ESSEX** for her consistent and diligent approach to her learning. Keep it up Lily!

Year 2
Ms Rinaldi
A big pat on the back to **LUCY O’CONNOR** for the way she applies herself to her learning and for consistently being on task when working. Well done Lucy!

Year 3
Ms Daglish
A big pat on the back to **AVA MCANINLY-BENNETT** for her continued efforts as a positive role model in the class. You are awesome!

Year 3
Mrs Vincent
Congratulations to **ASHER SIMMONDS** for the great way he is applying himself during Maths. You are doing some great thinking Asher. Well done!

Year 4
Miss Gaston
Congratulations to **SAMANTHA CROWHURST, TAHLI GIBSON & CHLOE SACCO** for continuously showing care and compassion towards other members of the class and school community.

Year 4
Mrs Shaw
Congratulations to **LUKE NIKLAS** for his enthusiasm and constructive thoughts during Inquiry, showing real leadership during the last unit. His contributions to learning about The Dreamtime were amazing. Great work Luke!

Year 5
Mrs Kittelty
Congratulations to **LIAM SIMONETTI** for taking on a leadership role within the classroom whilst helping out his peers in understanding how to add fractions. Well done Liam!

Year 5
Mr Levesque
Congratulations to **JAKE STEADMAN** for his great expression when retelling his story to describe Sid from Ice Age.

Year 6
Mrs Cornish
Well done to **ALEETA CARMODY** for breaking a new record in a class maths game “Around the World” by having such an efficient recall of her timetable facts. Congratulations!

Year 6
Mrs Rickard
Congratulations to **RAYMOND SAVERY** for his wonderful results in his recent maths tests. Keep the great work Ray!
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM

FOUNDATION – Karen & Karen

It is hard to believe there are only three weeks to go and 30 days to Christmas (who’s counting?). It was great to see some of our parents at the Trivia Night last Saturday night. There was lots of fun and laughs!

Some reminders:

- **Tomorrow**, Thursday 26th November Teddy Bears Picnic – children bring their teddy
- **Report writing day** (Pupil Free day) 27th November
- **Pupil Free Day** 4th December
- **Swimming Program** – 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th & 14th December

**Religion** – this week we are completing the unit “Called to live like Jesus” and commencing our last unit for the year, called “We Celebrate Christmas”. During this unit the children will explore and identify Advent as a time of waiting and preparing for special events in their lives and Christmas is celebration of the birth of Jesus. To celebrate Advent the children are assembling in the hall each Monday morning during December for a liturgy.

**Literacy** – the children are revising letters, sounds, High Frequency words and onset and rime families through a variety of games, activities, poems and stories. This week the children continue looking at the structure and layout of procedural text types. They will compose a shared procedural text with the teacher about how to make teddy bear faces. We will then follow through with making them in the coming week. Yum Yum! The children will also ‘have a go’ on a template at writing a procedural text about playing a game. Please keep home reading a part of your child’s daily routine at this busy time of the year, as term 4 can often be a time when the most progress is made!

**Mathematics** – This week the children continue revising concepts taught throughout the year using a range of practical strategies, such as visual displays, games and concrete materials to strengthen their skills and learning. We are also testing the children to assist with reports and revise areas that cater to the needs of the children.

**Inquiry** – This week prep children and parents participated in two ‘games’ afternoons where they brought along board games such as Snakes & Ladders, Scrabble, Mouse Trap, Monopoly plus many more to share with the class. It was so much fun! Tomorrow the children will enjoy a picnic with their teddy bear.

Please ensure your child has their name marked/stitched clearly on their hat.

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

Well done to our Year One children for the way they conducted themselves at Assembly last week. Thank you to the parents that came to support, we appreciate it. Just a friendly reminder that children need to be wearing their hats, as it is fourth term. Could you also ensure that their items are clearly labelled?

**Literacy**:

We are continuing on with the focus of Poetry in Literacy this week. Children will be read Poems from our big books, children will be asked to identify their favourite Poem from the story, and change it in their own way. Our spelling focus is ‘ng’ as in bang and clang.

THANK YOU **FORTY WINK’S WANGARATTA** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Numeracy:

This week in Numeracy we are looking at number patterns. Children will revise skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s. Using these skills of revision, children will then be asked to start at different starting points. Children will be using number charts to assist with these skills.

Religion:

This week is the start of Advent at St Patrick’s Primary School. We will be discussing the meaning of the four candles that are placed with the wreath. An activity that the children will be completing will be the retelling of the story of the Annunciation, predicting what Mary might have done after the angel visited her.

YEAR 2

With the end of the year fast approaching, we are working hard in Year 2 and looking forward to the exciting events that this time of year brings!

Religious Education

This week in Year 2 we have commenced our Advent unit in RE. We have looked at the symbols of Advent, including the colour purple, the Advent wreath and the Advent candles (the first of which we lit at last Monday’s Advent liturgy). We have celebrated the season of Advent by singing songs and reflecting on this time in the church as a time of preparation.

Numeracy

In numeracy this week, we have continued with the revision of concepts taught throughout the year to help strengthen skills and learning. This week we have focused on number concepts, such as writing numbers in different forms (standard, worded, expanded) and renaming numbers.

Literacy

This week our spelling focus is ‘ight’ as in ‘night’. We are also furthering our understanding of procedural texts by continuing to read, discuss and compose this text type. Students had the chance this week to create their own recipes!

Chewing Gum

We are concerned by the presence of chewing gum in the Year 2 area. Chewing gum is not allowed at our school and we kindly ask that children refrain from bringing it to school or sharing it with friends.

Assembly

We are currently preparing for our Year Two assembly, which due to the school closure day on Friday, will be held tomorrow morning. This will be the final assembly we present for the year and we look forward to seeing as many families and friends there as possible!

Library Books

A reminder that overdue library books need to be returned to school as soon as possible. Notices of overdue loans have been sent home and we kindly ask that these books be returned to the library.

THANK YOU GABBY – HANDMADE RESIN JEWELLERY FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Term 4 Dates:
Thursday November 26: Year 2 Assembly
Friday November 27: Pupil Free Day
Friday December 4: Pupil Free Day
December 7, 9, 10, 11 & 14: Swimming Program

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

Welcome to Week eight. The term is flying. Congratulations to Bella Pasquali and Felicity Lincoln who made it to State Levels for the Region relays. Both girls will compete in Melbourne on the 12th December. Also, a big congratulations to Jessica McInnes for becoming the Under 10’s Tennis Champion in the Junior Singles Tournament. We have some very talented sportspeople in our midst.

Literacy

In Literacy the Year 4’s are looking at writing procedures. We will be looking at the language used in writing procedures and the grammar that is used. Students can look at recipes or other things that use procedures at home to help them understand how a procedure is written. The Year 3’s are looking at letter writing. They are also using ‘Seven Steps of Writing’ to assist us with writing skills. Congratulations to all the Year 3 students who have presented their ‘Surprise Me’ homework so far. They have been fantastic and we are looking forward to hearing the rest.

Numeracy

This week Year 4’s will be finishing off Fractions and beginning to work with Decimals. Year 3’s will be beginning to look at Fractions.

Inquiry

Students continue to look at how the Aboriginal people tell stories through art and dance. Students will look at a variety of different Aboriginal stories and look at the symbols used to tell stories. If you are passing through, you must pop your head into 4Shaw to see the amazing setup of the room. Year 3D are going to create Aboriginal Huts as their assessment piece for this unit. The kids have been asked to gather leaves, tree bark, twigs, stones and anything they may need to complete this task. 4S are telling their Dreamtime story through painting. 3V are creating a Diorama about their Dreamtime story.

Please check your child’s hair regularly as at the moment we have a number of reported cases of head lice.

Reminders:

* Please continue to ensure your children are reading regularly and completing any given homework.
* Years 3 & 4 have reading diaries that are to be filled out please; this helps us to record children’s active home reading.
* Students are to revise their times tables each week for homework.
* Year 3 students have their ‘Surprise Me’ homework due this week ready for presenting to their class throughout this week and next week.

Term 4 Dates:

November 30th, December 1, 2, 3 & 4: Swimming Program

THANK YOU J & I CLEANING SERVICES FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
R.E: Students began their week with a whole school celebration of advent, as the school’s countdown to Christmas has officially begun! The senior area are continuing with our unit “The Birth Of Jesus, The Messiah.” Here we are focusing on different interpretations of the Christmas story within families and societies. Students are sharing the way their families celebrate Christmas with their class.

Literacy – All classrooms have taken on the role as Professional Publishers over the last week. Students are typing and designing narrative front covers about ‘Escaping’ for a class novel to share with everyone. Students are also eagerly working through their independent book report rubric about a novel or series that they have enjoyed over the year.

Maths - Students are completing their final week of fractions. Over this topic we have explored mixed and improper fractions, fractions in our everyday life, as well as adding, multiplying and subtracting fractions in sums.

Grade 5 Fire Carriers: On Monday, Uncle Wally Cooper and Lou Levy commissioned the Grade Five students to become FIRE Carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation in Education. Students have vowed to undertake a commitment to promote Reconciliation throughout the school community by organising activities to create awareness around significant dates of our shared history. As a FIRE carrier, students will work with their classroom teachers to incorporate Aboriginal Spirituality into our school’s Catholic Identity as well as nourish and educate the school community about the Aboriginal Story and build awareness of Aboriginal issues in the community we live in and respect the original custodians of the land. Students were presented with a FIRE Carrier badge, please encourage your child to wear this with pride.

**REMINDERS**

Grade Six Graduation Dinner: All notes need to be returned ASAP. We need to confirm numbers and dietary requirements. The dinner will be taking place on the 16th December after our end of year Mass.

Grade Six Final week: 2 notes were sent home last week to inform parents of the last week of school for Grade 6’s. These were for graduation bears and end of year fun day

Bluearth Leadership Day: Grade 6 students will be going to the Special School tomorrow to run Bluearth activities. We wish them all success for the day.

Magazines to Mrs Kittelty - Please send in any old magazines that you no longer need as we plan to convert them into Christmas Decorations. Thank you!

Pupil Free day - Students will not be required at school on the 27th of November, as this is a report writing day for teachers.

Swimming: We are still chasing some notes for our swimming program that starts next week. Could families please return these ASAP. Please note that the swimming times are as follows:
Grade 5’s: 12:40pm
Grade 6’s: 12:00pm

THANK YOU GOODYEAR AUTO CARE WANGARATTA FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
FOUNDATION (PREP) ORIENTATION

These are the dates for our Foundation, 2015 Orientation Program:

**Tuesday 17th November** 9:30am to 11:00am

**Thursday 26th November** - 9:30am to 10.45am

**Wednesday 2nd December** - 9:30am to 10.45am
(Bring a piece of fruit and drink)

**Tuesday 8th December** - 9:30am to 12:30pm
(Bring a piece of fruit, drink, hat and snack for playtime)

Children are encouraged to attend all sessions so that they are familiar with their school environment prior to the commencement of school.

There will be a **Foundation (Prep) Information Evening** for parents on Wednesday, 2nd December 2015 in the school hall commencing at 7.00pm. The aim of this meeting is to prepare your child for school life at St. Patrick’s. The duration of this meeting will be about one hour.

THANK YOU JUBILEE GOLF CLUB WANGARATTA FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Meeting opened 7:10pm

Present: Ange Reynolds (President), Kelly Smith (Treasurer), Cathy Nesbitt (Vice President), Terry Corrigan (Principal), Tennille Hall (Minutes Secretary), Annette Beitzel (Assistant Treasurer), Rebecca Dalton, Sandra Duffy, Margaret Tomkins, Mandy McClounan

Apologies: Anna Pasquali, Karen, Kristy Lloyd

Previous Minutes: No amendments
Motion: Annette Beitzel, Passed: Bec Dalton

Business arising from minutes:

Shed for Mayfair equipment - Ange and Paula to present shipping container research including quotes to School Board for approval at their November meeting.

Action: Terry to investigate/confirm to board the logistical ability of get shipping both in and out of the site.

Overview of Grandparents day and Twilight sports - Ange thanked P & F and wider school community for their assistance at both successful events. There was an excellent response from the Grandparents and we will definitely continue this catering next year. While the Twilight sports quantities of food and beverages need a slight tweak, it is a successful support for the event. We raised $549.60 as profit. However it will continue as a service rather than a fundraiser.

Action: Ange will note the quantity adjustments for next year.

Trivia Night - Sandra and Margaret have everything under control and organised. Ange happy to assist with set up on the night and will circulate an email to the P & F to seek further assistance for set up. There will be three prizes for the raffle, which will be drawn on the night. A maximum of 120 trivia tickets can be sold for the event.

1st Prize - 3 piece setting donated by Bec from Complete Garden.
2nd Prize - earrings, chocolates and sparkling wine donated by Stacey of Koolaman Designs and Sandra Duffy
3rd Prize - earrings and Chocolates donated by Stacey of Koolaman Designs and Ange Reynolds

Action: Annette will send out books of five tickets at $1.00 per ticket to the school families, to allow everyone the opportunity to win one of the great prizes.

Action: Terry and Ange to let the kids know at assembly that there are still tickets available

P & F financial planning working party - no further action has been taken on this. It was agreed to make a commitment to dedicating time to goal setting at the first two meetings next year.
Freezer in tuck shop - discussions held as to the need for the freezer in the tuck shop and whether to replace with a fridge. Potentially providing separate spaces for After School Care and school usage. Terry will consider further.
Action: Annette offered to unplug and clean out freezer in meantime.

Mayfair - the previous Mayfair coordinator Shannon is sadly leaving us next year. Tennille Hall will take on the position of coordinator for 2016.

2nd hand uniform - Leanne will sadly no longer be looking after the second hand uniforms which has left the position vacant.
Action: Annette to advertise the position in newsletter. Cathy Nesbitt will place a flyer in the prep readers.

Correspondence:
All correspondence received has been marketing/advertising material. No action required.

Treasurers Report - Cathy provided her last report as Treasurer and has now handed over all information to Kelly to assume the position next month. Signatory forms for the bank were completed during the meeting. Current balance $65,282.60. Twilight sports accounts yet to be paid.
Action: Terry to arrange invoice for readers at $500.00 per class for 14 classes.
Action: Kelly will take forms and copy of meeting minutes to bank.

Motion: Terry   Passed: Tennille

Principals report - Terry provided his October report. Overview; he thanked P & F for efforts at Twilight sports and Grandparent’s day. Upcoming Reconciliation for grade 3’s, staff changes for 2016 to go in newsletter this week, modified reports for some families will be introduced in 2016, transition class dates, the upcoming learning walk, upcoming swimming program, end of year mass, Helen Lyons taking long service leave in December, school finishing on 17th December, Teachers finishing on 18th, the new garden area quote of $8,000.00 has been accepted, Andrea has been successful in her grant application of $2,750.00 to commence an edible garden. Need to consider thin wire across front to prevent theft.

General Business:

Christmas meeting/P & F break up - Wednesday 9th December. Meeting commencing at 6pm and dinner from 7.00pm.
Action: Bec to book Gateway
Action: Angela to seek RSVP’s

The Complete Garden Fundraiser - Thursday 19th November from 5-8pm. 15% off statewide. 10% of all proceeds will come back to the school. Bec will provide nibbles and drinks. Annette and Karen will assist Bec on the evening and will also gather shopper’s details to go in the draw for the lucky door prizes.

Meeting close 8:20pm