In the third week of Advent we light the third candle on our Advent Wreath. Unlike the other candles which are purple in colour, the third candle is rose coloured to symbolise joy.

There are lots of Christmas songs that express joy. Perhaps if you catch up with me a little closer to Christmas, I’ll “belt” out a few tunes for you, after a big helping of “egg nog” (wink! wink!).

The word “Joy” reminds me of a lecture that I had when I studied in Boston last year with Rev Michael Himes (apologies if that sounds like name dropping). He describes joys as a deep, abiding state not to be confused with happiness.

He says:

“What’s the Difference between Joy and Happiness? It’s not a matter of whether this makes you happy or not because happiness is affected by many external factors (sleep, illness, hunger, loneliness, etc.). Happiness changes from moment to moment, day to day. Joy, on the other hand, is much deeper and much more central, it comes from within, and it’s a genuine rightness of how one lives one’s life”.

Christmas should be a time of joy, of the rightness of how we live our lives. That immersion in family and celebrating the birth of Christ is central to that “rightness”. If I could, and at the risk of sounding like the good fairy of Joy, I’d spread this feeling wherever I go (can’t you just see me prancing around in a green tunic and red tights sprinkling “fairy dust” wherever I go! Apologies if I make you feel a little ill).

In reality though, it’s better to do something than nothing at all. So, if I can’t spread joy, then perhaps a little happiness would at least be something. Christmas can also be a stressful time for some, finding money they don’t have to buy presents they can’t afford. If we’re not in that position, then the least we should do is contribute to those who don’t have what we have. That’s where I love organisations such as St Vincent De Paul, Anglicare, The Salvation Army etc. They bring happiness to so many and, in a way, they tell others that we care, which might be something joyful and a way to show God to others.

Dear Parents,

The year is quickly drawing to a close yet there are so many things to get done. As I write this, spare a thought for poor “old” Mrs Lyons who is jetting off to America today. Helen is taking some long awaited and well deserved long service leave. She is taking the last two weeks of term off and she will be back with us in January, 2016.

THANK YOU PICTURES OF YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Helen has done an outstanding job as my Deputy Principal and as the Student/Staff Wellbeing person. Next year, Helen will be teaching a grade three class as Liz Vaughan will return to us from her secondment Principal position in Tallangatta. Helen will also be involved in Curriculum Co-ordination and learning and teaching mentoring, roles that she really excels in as well.

Christmas Performance – Tomorrow - 10th December

Tomorrow (Thursday) at 9.15am 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. It will take place in the school pavilion. I look forward to seeing you there.

CHRISTMAS Hampers for St Vincent De Paul

The classes have begun collecting food as there are some that already have a basket nearly full. Please remember to support this very worthy cause. The grades have been assigned the following foods:

- Biscuits and shortbread - Foundation
- Chips, Corn chips Pretzels etc - Year 1
- Lollies and chocolates - Year 2
- Bon Bons and decorations - Year 3
- Cans of fruit and vegetables - Year 4
- Soft drinks - Year 5
- Long Life Custard, gravies and sauces - Year 6

Whole School Transition

Yesterday, our Year Six students ventured off to their Secondary School for 2016. The rest of the school swapped around and “got the feel” for their classes for next year. I wandered around the grades and there seemed to be lots of happy smiling faces. I’d like to thank the teachers for their organisation of the morning which ran so smoothly. We also used the session to collect some base line data around writing so that we can leap into our program as quickly as possible next year.

Parents & Friends Dinner Tonight

The P&F are getting together at the Gateway to celebrate another successful year. Proceedings will begin at 6.00pm with a “shortish” meeting followed by Dinner at 7.00pm. If you would like to attend, then please let Ange Reynolds know by emailing: pabear@netspace.net.au

School Board

The next meeting of the School Board is tomorrow (Thursday, 10th December).

End of Year Mass – next Wednesday, 16th December

We will be holding our End of Year Mass next Wednesday, 16th December commencing at 6.00pm in St Patrick’s Church. We would like to invite all members of the school community including extended families to join us to celebrate the year.

Graduation Dinner

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

THANK YOU O & K COMPUTER SERVICE FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Reports

Reports are being sent home this Friday so keep an “eye out” in your child’s school bag.

Junior Swimming

This is taking place this week. The last session is on Monday 14th December.

Term Four Ends

The last day for students this year is Thursday, 17th December. On this day, school finishes at 3.30pm
Students return to school on Thursday 28th January at 9.00am

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

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

HELP PLEASE

We are looking for some help in making face washer size towels to be used in the classrooms. An overlooker would come in handy. The towels have been purchased, we are just waiting for some kind volunteers.

Are you needing a clean out? We are hoping to collect any unwanted Dr Seuss stories for a classroom library.

Please come and see Karen Bray

STEER CLOTHING

Orientation Week Sale – 20% off school wear
Monday 7th – Saturday 12th December

THANK YOU P & D OATS CARPET CLEANING FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

9th - 6.00pm P & F Dinner Meeting
10th - P/1/2 Swimming Program – Moore than Swimming
11th - P/1/2 Swimming Program – Moore than Swimming
11th - Reports Going Home
14th - P/1/2 Swimming Program – Moore than Swimming
16th - 6.00pm End of Year Mass
16th - 7.00pm Year 6 Graduation Dinner
17th - 3.30pm End of Term Four

LIBRARY NEWS

Just a reminder that there will be no more Library borrowing for this year and all Library books must be returned this week. If there are any readers that have been left at home, could you please return those as well?
Thanking you in anticipation. Rosie

AFTER SCHOOL CARE 2016

As we have increasing numbers wanting to use our After School Care program, we are requiring confirmation of numbers for next year to ensure that your child receives a place.

Could those who utilise the After School Care program, please fill out the form below to show what days your child will be attending next year. Your prompt response would be appreciated. Please return this form no later than Friday 11th December, 2015

☐ MONDAY ☐ TUESDAY ☐ WEDNESDAY
☐ THURSDAY ☐ FRIDAY

THANK YOU P ARK LANE NURSERY FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
A big pat on the back to **KYLE HENNESSY** for the wonderful way he cared for his teddy and his classmate’s teddies at the Teddy Bear Picnic.

A big pat on the back to **MATILDA SEILER & ISABEL MCLEN** for the wonderful progress they have made in all areas of their learning. You are definitely ready for Year 1 Matilda and Isabel!!

Congratulations to **ELLE GIBSON** for displaying such an enthusiastic approach to her learning and for being a kind and thoughtful class member. Great work Elle!

A big pat on the back to **ALASDAIR BRETT** for his wonderful recount writing that he did about his long weekend. Great job Alasdair!

Congratulations to **JAXON AUGER** for demonstrating a focused and enthusiastic approach to his work and for almost reaching 300 nights of reading – an awesome effort!

A big pat on the back to **LENNY CLAYTON** for the focus he has been demonstrating in class. Keep it up!

A big pat on the back to **JOSHUA STYLES** for making a real life Aboriginal Hut. Well done Josh!

Congratulations to **LUCY COLE, MAKAYLA NESBITT, KODIE DUNNACHIE, ROSE HENRY & EVA KELLY** for consistently working well in class.

Congratulations to **SIENNA SIMS & AMELIA DAVIDSON** for being encouraging and supportive of other class members.

Congratulations to **DARCY WILSON, LILY CASAGRANDA & COCO FAN** for using their initiative and helping others in the classroom. They just see what needs to be done and do it. Great Work!

Congratulations to **PHOEBE BROMLEY** for the informative presentation on her Passion Project about Boudica. Phoebe shared lots of interesting information with the class and spoke beautifully. Well done!

Congratulations to **JHETT JENKIN** for his great expression when reading in class.

Well done to **ALEETA CARMODY** for her amazing contributions to our classroom over the year. Aleeta always has worldly and insightful topics to discuss with us. We love it!

Congratulations to **BREANNA ARCURI** for the wonderful way she has approached her final term at St. Patrick’s. She always puts in 100% effort and is a great friend to everyone. Well done Breanna!
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM

FOUNDATION – Karen & Karen

Only one week to go, but who’s counting? Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents, grandparents and families for their wonderful support throughout the year, especially with our reading. The children have loved it and we have really appreciated your time and effort. After teaching our new Foundation children on Tuesday, it is amazing to see how far this year’s preppies have changed, grown, developed and blossomed. You should be very proud! We are!!

Some reminders:

• Swimming Program –10th, 11th & 14th December
• Tomorrow 10th December - whole school Christmas celebration at 9:00am under the shed
• Prep Assembly Friday 11th December
• Reports go home Friday 11th December
• School Mass Wednesday 16th December at 6.00pm. The Preps will be performing the “Blessing Song” with their Grade 6 buddy. We would love to see as many Preps there as possible. It is a St. Patrick’s tradition and very moving!!
• 17th December School finishes at 3:30pm

HELP!! We are seeking parents, grandparents and friends who would be able to overlock the edges of some cut up towels for next year’s Foundation, Year 1’s and Year 2’s. They will be used for cleaning the children’s mini whiteboards.

Ho! Ho! Ho! We are in Christmas mode!! Therefore all subject areas involve Christmas activities this week.

Religion – we are discussing and completing activities about the birth of Jesus in our unit, “We Celebrate Christmas”. Please keep bringing shortbread biscuits for the St. Vincent De Paul Christmas hampers.

Literacy – We will be collecting the children’s readers and reading bags this Friday. We will keep the children’s reading bags over the holidays and return them Term 1, Day1, 2016.

Mathematics –We are revising work learnt over the year in preparation for Year One.

Inquiry – Christmas!!

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

YEAR 1

Just a reminder, that we are swimming this week, except for Tuesday due to Transition day. We are swimming at different times of the day, and our times were stated with the permission form given to parents.

This Thursday the 10th December we will be holding a Christmas concert at school. The concert will start at 9:00am to 11:00am and will held under the shelter

THANK YOU PARTYLITE FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Literacy:

This week we will finish off our topic on Cinquain Poetry, with the children deciding on their own topic. Children will also be starting some Christmas creative stories and activities. For spelling we our revising the blend ending sound ‘ll’ as in bell and smell.

Numeracy:

This weekend in Numeracy we are focusing on subtraction. Children will be using two digit numbers to subtract from. Children need to be able to understand strategies to simplify their working out.

Religion

This week in Religion we are getting ready for our advent Liturgy, which is next Monday 14th December at 9:00am. We will be practicing the songs and readings. In our R.E time we will also prepare for the Christmas concert.

YEAR 2

What a busy week it has been already. On Monday we commenced our swimming program and the students have enjoyed their lessons immensely! The students also had their Transition Day yesterday, where they spent part of the day in their classroom for 2016. A great day was had by all.

Religious Education

Congratulations to all the Year Two students on their participation in the Advent Liturgy on Monday morning! Our students did a marvellous job of singing, acting and reading and made us extremely proud! Thank you to the parents and friends who supported the Year 2’s by coming along to watch.

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 addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, time and money.

Library Books

A reminder, that, overdue library books need to be returned to school as soon as possible. Notices of overdue loans will be sent home and we kindly ask that these overdue books be returned to the library. There will be no more borrowing for the remainder of the year.

Term 4 Dates:
Thursday December 10: Whole school Christmas concert in hall at 9.00am
December 10, 11 & 14: Swimming Program
December 16: End of year mass
December 17: Last day of school for students

THANK YOU PITARIS CAFE FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
YEAR THREE/FOUR – Trudi/Paul, Annee, Michelle &Trish

The year is slowly coming to an end. The next two weeks are filled with many things to do.

Numeracy

Over the next week or so both the Year 3&4’s will be revising a number of topics that we have looked at over this term.

Inquiry

Year 3D have created Aboriginal Huts as their assessment piece for this unit. 4S are telling their Dreamtime story through painting. 3V have created a Diorama about their Dreamtime story and they are on display outside their room. They are fantastic. 3D’s are ready and are on display outside the classroom.

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.

This year, as in previous years, each class is collecting food stuff for the St Vincent De Paul Society. Each grade is asked to collect a specific group of food so that St Vinnies can put together Christmas Hampers for the needy in our community. The Year 3’s have been asked to donate Bon Bons and decorations and the Year 4’s have been asked to donate cans of fruit and vegetables.

Term 4 Dates:

December 10: Christmas Concert starting at 9.00am
December 15: Year 3&4 end of year break-up. Students are going to the movies, followed by lunch at Apex Park. **There will be no charge for this break up.**
December 16: End of Year Mass
December 17: Student’s last day. Student’s finish at 3.30pm

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

RE - Year 5/6 students are continuing to celebrate Advent by participating in the weekly Liturgy as well as take part in a range of classroom activities. Students have enjoyed sharing the way their families celebrate Christmas as well as comparing the similarities and differences with their classroom peers. Students have been reading the Bible and researching the Birth of Jesus the Messiah and are preparing to write an article that explains the true meaning of Christmas.

Literacy - As we begin to wind down for the year, students have been given the opportunity to research a topic of choice and create a Passion Project. Students have taken on this opportunity to channel their learning into something that is of very high interest. Students need to follow a specific process by firstly
deciding on a topic that interests them yet is unfamiliar to them. Secondly, students need to devise a range of open-ended questions that they can further research. This task is very open ended however, students have been provided with an assessment rubric in which they need to ensure they follow. Please encourage your child to share their findings with you!

Students are continuing with their book activities by responding to the Gardner’s Multiple Intelligence grid - students read their books independently and complete activities based on their learning style. Classrooms are a mess but the students are having a blast!

**Maths** - Students have been playing numerous maths games focusing on a range of concepts such as place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students have also been completing set tasks on Study Ladder.

**Swimming** - Congratulations to the Year 5/6 students on the maturity and organisational skills they demonstrated whilst participating in the swimming program at the YMCA.

**NAPLAN results** - If you would like to view your child’s NAPLAN results you will need to contact either James or Catherine to collect them. Results can only be collected by parents and will not be sent home with your child.

**Year 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 which will commence at 6.00pm.

**Year Six Final Week** - Notes were sent home a few weeks ago to inform parents of the last week of school for the Year Sixes. These were for graduation bears and end of year fun day which will take place on Monday the 14th December.

**State Wide Transition Day** - Students were very eager to find out who their teachers and classmates were for next year. Well done to the Year Five students on stepping up for the day to be a Year Six! Students were also very thrilled to finally meet their buddies.

We heard that the Year Six students going to Galen next year also had a tremendous day!

**Reports** - Reports will be going home this Friday the 11th December

**Christmas Concert** - Just a reminder that tomorrow we will be hosting a Christmas Concert beginning at 9.00am in the school hall. We hope to see many parents and friends there to support our children.

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**FEE NOTICES**

Reminder fee notices are being sent home today. Please check your child’s bag.

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THANK YOU RINALDO’S CASA CUCINA FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL