As we begin the season of Lent, I always think about CARITAS and the work that they do. Why? Because for a very long time, we here at St Patrick’s have made Lent a time to focus on Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and how we can be the hands of God at work in our world by reaching out to others and making a difference for the better in our world.

Caritas Australia is the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development in Australia. The organisation is part of Caritas Internationalis, an International Confederation of 165 Catholic relief, development and social service organisations working to build a better world for the poorest of the poor in over 200 countries and territories (including parts of Australia).

It’s well and truly worth reading the CARITAS website as it really paints pictures as to what they are trying to achieve. Here is an excerpt from the website that strikes a chord with me:

“The dignity of every person, independent of ethnicity, creed, gender, sexuality, age or ability, is the foundation of CST. No human being should have their dignity or freedom compromised. Poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice make it impossible to live a life commensurate with this dignity. At Caritas Australia, all our programs are people-centred with empowerment at their heart. People are never treated as commodities nor as mere recipients of aid”.

As a school community we not only contribute to Caritas because it helps others, even though it’s a very good starting point. It’s also an opportunity to teach our students about social justice and how we have a responsibility to care for others and our world especially those less fortunate than ourselves. This is what Jesus showed us through His example.

As far as social justice is concerned, at the end of their schooling, I would hope that the students leaving Catholic Education have an enlightened view about how they can make a difference in the world by reaching out and helping others. If we succeed in doing this then we have extended the hand of God into the world whether those who do the acts of kindness and caring are aware of it or not.

So during Lent, we will continue to raise money for Caritas (see the Easter egg Raffle in this edition for example) and in doing so we are encouraging our students to be good global citizens. Thank you, in anticipation, for your support.

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the parents, students and families that came along to support our Pancake Day breakfast.

THANK YOU BLAKES TRANSPORT FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Everyone did an amazing job and we managed to raise $603.00 for Caritas. Caritas assist the poor and underprivileged around the world. So not only did we have a fun time, we also made a difference in our world. Thank you again for your support.

2017 Enrolments – Names in now please

I know that it’s “crazy” to talk about this so early in the year. However, we are already fielding strong enquiries for Prep (Foundation) enrolments for next year. I need to know the number of existing families who will have a child starting in Prep next year. Could you please contact Annette or Rosie in the Office (0357215795) or shoot them an email (abeitzel@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au, rpane@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au). I would appreciate it if this could be done as soon as possible so that we ensure we have a space for your child.

Meet & Greet

Our Meet and Greet session with Parents and students will occur next Monday (15th Feb) and Wednesday (17th Feb). The aim of these sessions is to allow your child’s teacher to get to know you a little better and to discuss ways that they can support your child’s learning.

Appointments are spaced in ten minute intervals. The first appointment begins at 3.50pm and the last at 6.00pm on both days. Please call the Office (0357215795) to make an appointment.

Ash Wednesday

Today is Ash Wednesday. This day marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent as we prepare for Easter. The Years Three to Six classes attended Mass at St Patrick’s Church. The Years Prep (Foundation) to Two students had a special prayer service in the school hall.

Easter Egg Raffle

Yes, it’s Easter Egg raffle time again this year. Traditionally, we ask each family to donate an Easter egg (or similar) to the school. These are bundled up into prizes (generally about 50 of them) and raffled off on the last day of term. The money raised goes to helping the poor and needy through the outstanding work of CARITAS. Could I ask that each family donate an egg to the school? Thank you for you support. Raffle books will go out next week (hopefully!).

Foundation (Preps) day off

Don’t forget that the prep students have Wednesday’s off until the long weekend in March to help them to acclimatise to school life.

School Closure

St Patrick’s will be closed on Wednesday, 9th March, to allow all staff to complete a review on their Level Two First Aid qualification. This will also include Asthma, Anaphylaxis and CPR to ensure the best care possible for our students.

After School Care

For those families that have a child booked into our “After School Care” program, it is important to inform the school office (57 21 5795) if your child is not attending on their designated days.

THANK YOU GABBY – HANDMADE RESIN JEWELLERY FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Parent Meetings – School Vision Statements

The time has come to review and renew the schools Vision Statements. The current ones were written about seven years ago through work carried out by the Parents and Staff at the school.

We need to redefine our vision as, in all things; time has a way of taking us away from where we want to be as a school into the future. With new directions set by the Pope, the increased emphasis on technology in schools and the changes to society over time, we need to write a vision that we want to see achieved by our children (students).

With the aid of Helen Ramsdale (Catholic Education Office, Wangaratta) we will be holding parent meetings to get as many views as possible as to where our community sees the school heading.

Parents can opt to attend a morning or an evening meeting to put forward their view and ideas. These meetings will be held at St Patrick’s School on Wednesday, 16th March. The first will be held at 9.00am. A further meeting will be held at 7.00pm on that same day to cater for parents who cannot make the first meeting. Staff will also be consulted and the findings presented to the school community in term two. More on that later!

School Board Vacancies

The School Board is beginning the process of filling vacancies made by members who have served their time on the Board. The following is a notice from Gabby Grant, our School Board Chair asking you to consider becoming part of this key group within the school.

Dear Parents

There are many ways to become involved in the school community. We think everyone has something to offer. So have you thought about becoming a member of the St Patrick’s School Board?

The St Patrick’s School Board is an advisory group made up of parents and teachers of the school. The role of the Board is to help St Pat’s achieve its vision for the future and to ensure it fulfills its educational system responsibilities. The Board looks to advise on matters on school policy and on larger matters affecting the school’s present life and it’s future. The Board meets once per month.

In 2016 we have a new Action Plan and we are looking for new members to help deliver our vision for the school. Parental engagement is important and we need new parents, new insights and new perspectives.

Contact Terry or myself (gegrant@netspace.net.au) if you have any questions about being on the Board.

Kind Regards

Gabby Grant

THANK YOU BROWN BROTHERS WINERY FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Lunch Orders

As reported at the end of last year, the 3rd Little Duck” school lunches will now only be available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Immunisation Certificates

Thank you to the Foundation (Prep) families who have already submitted their Immunisation Certificates to the office. We need to sight and take a copy of your child’s certificate and this needs to be done in the next fortnight please, if you have not already done so (and the vast majority have!).

Family Disco Night

On Friday 19th February, the P&F are running a Family Disco night under the pavilion. Bring along a picnic dinner and spread a rug out on our “luxurious” lawn or grab a pizza on the way, it’s up to you.

A DJ has been hired and the coffee machine will be here (I hope), although some grownups may prefer a more “adult” drink (wink! wink!). The night will run from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. There is no cost to families for this event.

The New Shed

Over the holidays, the Parents and Friends Association had a shipping container installed into the school. This is going to be used to store P&F equipment which will also free up storage space at the school. Thank you to Paula Henry for arranging for its installation. The next step is to set up some shelving.

PARENTS & FRIENDS meeting – TONIGHT - WEDNESDAY

The next meeting of the P&F will be tonight Wednesday 10th Feb commencing at 7.00pm in the staffroom. Parents, old and new, are most welcome to join us. If you’re curious, then come along and see what we do, I’ll guarantee that you won’t get “roped” into anything and you may meet some lovely new people and have a good time. Meetings run for no more than 90 minutes.

Hats

Just a reminder that this term, students need to wear hats whilst in the yard at recess and lunch times. Children without hats are restricted to play under the pavilion out of the sun. The school also supplies each classroom with sunscreen.

Contact Details

If your contact details have changed in the past twelve months (e.g. home address, phone numbers etc), then please ensure you have contacted the school and updated this information. In coming weeks we will send home details of our current records to ensure all is correct but, in the meantime, if you know things have changed, then let us know as soon as possible.

THANK YOU CHRISMONTE WINES FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

Asthma Plans
If your child suffers from asthma, could you please call into the office and collect a new “Asthma Plan” to be completed. This will ensure that, in the event of an asthma emergency, we are following the latest advice on how to best treat your child. Thank you for your help.

Email Addresses

The newsletter can be accessed through our App or on Facebook. However if you would like Annette to email you a copy, then simply send her an email (abeitzel@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au) and she’ll add you to her address list to email you a copy.

School Board

The next meeting of the School Board is Thursday, 25th February, commencing at 5.30pm in the staffroom.

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

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FAMILY FUN DISCO

Come along to the first St. Pat’s event for 2016, a family fun disco!

Don't miss this great event to welcome new families to the school and get existing students back into the swing after the break.
So get your grove on and come along. BYO everything, drinks, picnic rug, food, glow sticks and family (music supplied).

Where: St Patricks primary school
When: Friday 19th February
Time: 6.00pm – 9.00pm
Cost: Free

THANK YOU CURTIS ADAMS CHEMMART PHARMACY FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Each week for the next few weeks, I will include something about some of the programs that we run here at school as I’m sure not everyone knows all of the great work that is achieved here at St Pat’s.

SHARYN ACKERLY is one of our specialist teachers who runs our “Able, Gifted and Talented” program. This program is for students who demonstrate above average abilities in one or more fields of study. Her role is to extend these students in fun and interesting ways so that they are achieving their full potential, as well as supporting teachers to differentiate the curriculum to cater for these students in mainstream classes as well.

Students work in groups and individually, both within and outside the classroom, depending on the activity and the desired outcome being sought. She also sources reference materials and assessments from the various national universities to assist in providing a success measure for the students and to give the school opportunities to assess the student’s abilities alongside other similar students nationally. It’s a wonderful program that goes a long way to cater for the needs of these students.

Sharyn also is engaged in remediation programs, particularly, in the senior school. Her main area is mathematics although she also does some work in literacy.

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**CHILDREN’S CHATTER MATTERS**

Why is it important that children are given opportunities for a longer turn to talk and listen? Research suggests that the lengthy “chats” we have with or children are linked to school success. As children progress through the grades they must learn to use extended discourse in telling stories, giving explanations, reporting, expressing an opinion or writing an essay. Asking children “if, why and how” type questions allows them to deepen their thinking and prepare longer and more complex responses. It makes sense to build confidence with extended discourse gradually, beginning with simple oral tasks.

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**CSEF**

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian Primary or Secondary school must have a Health Care card or Pension Card valid on the first day of school (January 27th 2016).

The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef). A copy of your current Health Care Card is also needed upon application.

**Closing Date** - You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by the 24th February 2016.

**NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

THANK YOU **FORTY WINKS WANGARATTA** FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY
10th - 7.00pm P & F Meeting
17th - Rest Day for Foundation (Preps)
19th - 6.00pm – Family Fun Disco
24th - Rest Day for Foundation (Preps)
25th - 5.00pm School Board Meeting

MARCH
2nd - Rest Day for Foundation (Preps)
9th - PUPIL FREE DAY (Staff First Aid Course)
14th - Labour Day Holiday
16th - Foundation (Preps) Full Day
16th - 9.00am School Vision Review (Parents)
24th - Term One Ends
25th - Good Friday
27th - Easter Sunday

APRIL
11th - 9.00am Start of Term 2
21st - PUPIL FREE DAY (Staff Professional Development)
22nd - PUPIL FREE DAY (Staff Professional Development)

DIRECT DEBIT

One easy way to address the burden of school fees is to direct debit, which is a facility that the school offers. If you are interested in paying by direct debit, which will be taken out on the first Friday of each month starting in March, you simply need to call into the office and collect a direct debit form. If you did direct debit last year and would like to continue, please fill in the form below.

1 …………………………………………………………………………………. Phone No ……………………
would like to continue with Direct Debit in 2016.

☐ OPTION 1 Please divide my total fees by 10 months and direct debit that amount on the first Friday of each month from March until December.

☐ OPTION 2 Please direct debit $ ………… from my account on the first Friday of each month from March until December.

THANK YOU EDGE FM/3NE FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
# PAT ON THE BACK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Miss Gaston</td>
<td>A big pat on the back to <strong>Jack Hourigan</strong> for sharing his knowledge of numbers with the class. Great work Jack!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Mrs Rizzo</td>
<td>A big pat on the back to <strong>Grace Fahey-Pyle</strong> for the wonderful start she has made to her schooling and always doing her best in class. Keep it up Grace!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Ms Collins</td>
<td>Congratulations to <strong>Alyssa Forge</strong> for working hard to make her recount writing interesting for the reader and for learning more about full stops. Well done Alyssa!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Mrs Bray</td>
<td>A big pat on the back to <strong>Alexandra Nolan</strong> for the wonderful way she cares for others. Ally, you are a Super Star!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Mrs Cornish</td>
<td>Congratulations to <strong>Cooper Eykenboom</strong> for the way he is always willing to help out his peers and teachers. What a lovely quality to have!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Ms Rinaldi</td>
<td>A big pat on the back to <strong>Jacob Frigerio</strong> for contributing to class discussions and sharing his thoughts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Mrs Lyons/Patterson</td>
<td>A big pat on the back to <strong>Drew Winter</strong> for the way he gets his work done in an orderly way and listens to all instructions. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Miss Smith</td>
<td>Congratulations to <strong>Tom Paydon</strong> for the wonderful way he conducted himself as the MC at the Year Three Assembly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Mrs Kittelty</td>
<td>Congratulations to <strong>Joshua Styles</strong> for being such a hardworking, caring and trustworthy class member. Josh has many great qualities!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Mrs Shaw</td>
<td>Congratulations to <strong>Ben Hogan</strong> for the wonderful writing he completed about Shrove Tuesday. Well done Ben!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Mrs Nicoll/Mr Lynch</td>
<td>Congratulations to <strong>Kaelem McCurdy</strong> for demonstrating compassion towards his peers and teachers in the classroom this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Mrs O’Connor</td>
<td>Congratulations to <strong>DAN Hughes</strong> for his perseverance in Mathematics and English. Your attitude will be reflected in your learning. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Mr Levesque</td>
<td>Congratulations to <strong>Jake Steadman</strong> for his great effort to make responsible choices which is helping him to be a positive Year 6 Leader!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Mrs Rickard</td>
<td>Congratulations to <strong>Campbell McClounan</strong> for the mature approach he has taken to settling in Year 6. He has shown great qualities that will ensure his year is a successful one. Great work Campbell!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM

FOUNDATION – Karen & Michelle

It was wonderful to see so many of families supporting St. Pat’s Pancake Breakfast morning (Shrove Tuesday). It is for a worthy cause, Caritas, and a lovely way for the school community to get together.

Just a few reminders:

- **Wednesdays** are rest days until the long weekend in March.
- Meet and Greet – Monday 15th February & Wednesday 17th February from 3:50pm – 6:00pm. This is a brief informal meeting to find out more about your child. **Please make an appointment at the office.**

**Parents** – Please let the office and us know of any changes to your child’s after school care arrangements as this ensures the safety of your child.

**If your child travels on a bus, please make sure their bag has a laminated tag with their name, address, telephone number, the name of the bus and road route that they travel home on.**

We are asking parents to make sure your daughter’s hair is tied up if it is shoulder length or longer, as it is very hot and for health reasons.

Snacks -Water bottle, 2 x fresh fruit (10.00am and 2.00pm), recess snack (11.00am) and lunch (1.00pm).

In the early weeks, we start recess and lunch early to allow the children more time to eat. Eating times are supervised. It is common for the children to not always eat everything in their lunchboxes; however, we try to keep an eye on this. **Please keep in mind we have some children who are anaphylactic to nuts and egg.** We would appreciate your support with this.

Religion – This week we are discussing and listing the uniqueness of each other and what makes us special. The children will be bringing home a personality box/bag over the next few weeks. Just put about five things that are special to/describes your child such as a photo, special toy (just one), hobby…We would also like each child to bring in a small item e.g. shell, button, etc… for their class cross.

Literacy - We continue to introduce the children to all the letters of the alphabet and encourage the children to name the letter, identify the sound it makes and name things that begin with the letter/sound. This week’s letters are ‘i’ and ‘s’.

Thank you for your support with filling in the yellow Read-it Log. We are in the process of hearing the children read and assessing the appropriate reading level for your child. It is great to see the children using picture cues to predict what the story may be about and locating known letters of the alphabet and some golden words like ‘a’, ‘I’, ‘the’, ‘is’ and ‘it’ when reading their text. Also as part of your child’s reading development, it is important to discuss what the story might be about before and after reading it.

Mathematics -This week we are looking at counting and grouping collections by number names, numerals and quantities. We are encouraging the children to recite counting patterns 0-10 and beyond using 1-1 correspondence to count objects, sequencing numbers and predicting and discussing ways of finding out how many are in a group.

THANK YOU JOHN BATCHELOR CLEANING FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
YEAR ONE/TWO – Gen, Karen, Janina & Leah

Congratulations to our Year One and Two students today, for the way in which they participated in our Ash Wednesday liturgy so reverently. The students all received ashes on their foreheads today to symbolise the commencement of Lent. In our RE classes, we have discussed the period of Lent and the connection between Shrove Tuesday and Lent. This helped students to understand the significance of pancake making on Shrove Tuesday.

We have continued our Inquiry unit, ‘Learning to Learn,’ where we have discussed class routines and our responsibilities as learners. This has been an enjoyable unit so far, with lots of discussion around our learning for the school year ahead.

In Mathematics, a strong focus on ‘Place Value’ is implemented for much of the first term, as this is the basis for so much of our mathematical learning throughout the year. This has involved counting, skip counting, bundling and re-naming.

Reading routines have commenced and the students are aware of their role as part of nightly reading. Please ensure that you listen to your child read, either at night or in the morning and record this in the yellow book. Please note that students are required to have a green reader folder (supplied in Prep) to ensure the safe transportation of readers from home to school. These are available to purchase from the school if you are unable to find yours. As part of our spelling program, the students have been focusing on blends as initial, middle and end sounds. The Year One students are focusing on the ‘br’ blend, while the Year Twos are focusing on ‘sh’. Ask your children to think of words that contain these blends, or use them to play eye spy on the way to school. As part of our writing, we have focused on recount texts and placed an emphasis on handwriting and the formation of letters.

Have a great week!

Upcoming Dates:

Thursday 11th February – Year 2 Hockey Clinic (Year 2 students are permitted to wear runners on this day)

Wednesday 9th March – Pupil Free Day

Monday 14th March – Labour Day Holiday

YEAR THREE/FOUR – Sarah, Helen, Grace, Trish & Catherine

Well, we survived our first full week! Well done to the Year 3 students for presenting such a wonderful whole school assembly last Friday. It was lovely to see so many parents at our Pancake breakfast to start the season of Lent. All money raised will go to Caritas. This week the children attended Mass at St. Patrick’s as it is Ash Wednesday. As it is the beginning of Lent was have asked the children to think of things they can do instead of giving up something. For example walking the dog after school, setting the table for a meal, folding the washing.

NAME LABELS

Please ensure that all drink bottles, hats, clothing (especially jumpers) Tupperware containers etc are clearly labelled. Our lost property is already starting to fill.

THANK YOU GOODYEAR AUTOCARE WANGARATTA FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
HATS and SUNSCREEN

Please ensure that your child has a broad brimmed hat and encourage your child to apply sunscreen each morning. Sunscreen is provided in each classroom. Please inform your child’s classroom teacher if your child has any allergies to sunscreen.

YEAR 4 ASSEMBLY

Just a reminder that the Year 4 classes will be hosting this week’s assembly. Parents and friends are always welcome to attend.

INQUIRY - ‘Playing by the Rules’

Students have been busy creating a mind map of what makes the classroom a positive environment as well as discussing what cooperation looks like, sounds like and feels like. Students have been playing a range of team games that require cooperation in order to understand just how important this skill is in everyday life.

LITERACY

For the next coming weeks, Year 3 / 4 students will be learning about Narratives. A narrative is a fictional text that has been written to entertain the reader. A narrative includes characters, a problem and a resolution. Students have been completing activities to identify the many features of a narrative. Students are beginning to plan their own narrative using a narrative planner to assist in ensuring correct structure.

MATHS

Year 3 / 4 students have been investigating the place value of numbers and placing a range of numbers in order from smallest to largest as well as writing numbers in words and vice versa.

YEAR FIVE/SIX – Nara, Andrea, Helen & James

What a busy week we have on this week in the Year 5/6 area.

Maths - In Maths this week, the Year 6 students have been constructing, interpreting and comparing a range of data displays. The year 5’s have been constructing displays, including column graphs, dot plots and tables, appropriate for data type, with and without the use of digital technologies.

Literacy - Students have established their spelling program within classes and have also reviewed the homework expectations for Year 5 & 6. This term the focus for our Inquiry topic is the qualities of a good leader which the classes will develop over the coming weeks.

Camp - Year 5/6 students will be attending camp in Canberra this year in Term 3 on the 12th - 15th July. Information regarding the camp will be sent home in Term 2. Please put this date in your diary.

Religion - We have begun the season of Lent with Shrove Tuesday (pancake day) on Tuesday and Ash Wednesday Mass today. We will be looking at the great work Caritas Australia does during this time and how we can be better people.

The Year 6 Tshirts are ready to be ordered. Could we please have all order forms returned to Mr Levesque or Mrs Rickard by THIS FRIDAY please. We would love every student to have a new Year 6 T Shirt so please see Mr Corrigan if you need assistance with finance.

The Year 5/6 teachers are all really looking forward to another exciting year ahead!

THANK YOU KOOLAMAN DESIGN FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL