I have to say that I love the Pope. That probably won’t shock many people as I am, after all, a good little (?) Catholic Primary School Principal. But, I want to tell you why I love him. Love might seem a strong word but if God calls us to love each other then it’s entirely appropriate. I really like (love!) the way that he speaks his mind. He has made the role of Pope more concerned with service than of administrator. He models Jesus at every opportunity.

When questioned on what he thought of Donald Trump’s plan to deport eleven million Mexicans and ban Muslims from entering the United States, he simply acknowledged that he didn’t know that he had said it, but anyone who would say it cannot be called a Christian. “Trumpy” immediately jumped up and down and called the Pope a disgrace (what a joke) and bleated his “Christian” qualifications. Just to prove his Christianity he dragged out his old Bible.

Now as far as I’m concerned, someone who owns a Bible isn’t necessarily a Christian just as someone who has a copy of the Koran isn’t necessarily a Muslim. Terrorists and Donald Trump are proof enough of that.

In this time of Lent we should be trying to be more like Jesus by showing love and compassion to others. It’s not hard, a kind word or deed here and there goes a long way to spreading a message of love. I can only say…. “God help us all if Donald Trump becomes the next President of the USA”. More than that though, it will “smack” of a country who have turned away from Christian values and embraced a more self centred approach to the world……. “Jesus wept” (John 11:35)

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful night it was last Friday night. The Family Disco night was lots of fun. Thank you to the Parents & Friends who organised the event. The children had a ball. It was good to see a number of the teachers there who also commented that it was good to catch up with parents for a chat. It could be a “goer” for next year but I’ll leave that up to the P&F to decide.

THANK YOU PARTYLITE FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
2017 Enrolments – Names in now please

I imagine that we now have just about all the names of existing families with a child starting Prep in 2017 (next year). Now that I have this information, I can look at welcoming the new families for next year. If you have a child starting next year and you haven’t already informed the school, could you please contact Annette or Rosie in the Office or shoot them an email (abeitzel@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au, rpane@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au) as a matter of urgency.

School Board

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

School Fees

School Fee notices are being sent home this week. If payment presents a problem, then please do not hesitate to contact Terry (03 57 215795) to discuss the matter.

Easter Egg Raffle

Please keep those Easter Eggs and raffle books rolling in. If you wish to sell extra books, then they are available from the office. Thank you for you support.

School Closures

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.

Also, just to give families a heads up, on the 21st and 22nd April the school will be closed to allow all staff to be involved in a staff sabbatical lead by members of the Catholic Education Office and Fr Joe Taylor. We rarely close the school for two days in a row. However, we deem this opportunity important enough to do so.

Parents 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!

THANK YOU REES STOCKDALE & LEGGO FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
Good Friday Appeal

Tonight we are sending home an envelope from the “Good Friday Appeal”. The decision to support this worthy cause is up to individual families (although I know that most give on a number of fronts – service stations, traffic lights, fire trucks on Good Friday etc). If you are happy to make a donation just pop it in the envelope and return it to school. Otherwise, I’ll leave it up to the army of collectors to get to you (ha! ha!).

Immunisation Certificates

Just a reminder to our new Foundation (Prep) families, we need to sight and take a copy of your child’s immunisation certificate. This needs to be done in the next fortnight please if you have not already done so (and the vast majority have!).

School Board Vacancies

The School Board is beginning the process of filling vacancies made 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

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.

THANK YOU PICTURES OF YOU PHOTOGRAPHY FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
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.

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 simple send her an email (abeitzel@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au) and she’ll add you to her address list to email you a copy.

After School Care Email Addresses

We would like all families who utilise our After School Care Facility to send us their email address. This will enhance our communication between home and the service as well as providing greater fail safe procedures in the event of an emergency. It will also be more convenient to send accounts online.

Simply send Annette (abeitzel@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au) or Rosie (rpane@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au) a quick email and we can record your address for future use. Could this be done as soon as possible please?

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

CHILDREN’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 PITARI’S CAFE FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
2nd HAND UNIFORM

Are your kids growing up faster than ever? Outgrowing their school uniforms and getting too clever? NEVER!
Want to save money and help the environment too?
Well, it’s all too easy; here’s what you do!
Drop off your old uniforms to Annette at the office,
There will be a bag marked ‘uniform’ to please the bosses,
We’ll accept jumpers, bags, shorts and the like,
The type students are wearing 2016, not the old type,
Then there’ll be a 2nd hand uniform in the last week of term,
A gold coin donation is needed, just to confirm,
The money collected will go to the school,
So everyone benefits and that’s pretty cool!

Are you a bargain hunter? Do you love a challenge?
We are looking for volunteers to help purchase and wrap small, inexpensive gifts for our Mother’s Day stall. If you are interested in helping please contact Chelsey Turner on 0408 935 349.

ZOOPER DOOPERS FOR CARITAS

Each Friday, some Grade 5 students will be selling Zooper Doopers and Quelchs’ to raise money for Caritas. They will cost 50c each and will be sold from the Tuckshop window at lunchtime until Easter.

FUN RUN

Just a reminder that the Fun Run is on Sunday 28th February. Register via: www.wangarattamarathon.com.au or pick up an entry form from Annette.
Hoping to see as many St Pat’s families running as possible.

THANK YOU RINALDO’S CASA CUCINA 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.

Liz Vaughan has returned to us this year, having been seconded to Tallangatta as Acting Principal. This year, Liz’s role has changed a bit. She remains our Deputy Principal; however, her job description has altered.

During the morning sessions, Liz will be running our Reading Recovery program. This is a highly intensive program aimed at Year One students who have had difficulty grasping all of the reading concepts taught in Year prep (for whatever reason). As a follow up to this we also run a STAR program which, generally speaking, is a reading remediation program to continue to support students with difficulties in this area. Liz also oversees the application of this and other support programs.

During the afternoons, Liz will be working with a range of students providing support for students so that they can achieve to their fullest potential. This role is Pastoral Wellbeing and it not only embraces aspects of academic difficulty but also social/emotional and physical. She will be working closely with our newly appointed Speech Pathologist and with a range of professionals from various fields (paediatricians, psychologists, Occupational Therapists, counsellors, Physio therapists - to name a few). I am pleased to have her in these roles as they are clearly a passion of hers.

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. 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 this Friday 26th February 2016.

NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

FEAST ON OVENS LADIES LUNCHEON

We will be holding our annual Feast on Ovens Ladies Luncheon on Saturday 28th May from 12.00pm, featuring James Annett live entertainment, and a 2 course meal catered by Rinaldo’s drinks provided. Tickets will be limited to 130. More details later!

THANK YOU SELWOOD ACKERLY ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
# DATES TO REMEMBER

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<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
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<td>February</td>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>5.00pm School Board Meeting</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>Rest Day for Foundation (Preps)</td>
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<td>9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY (Staff First Aid Course)</td>
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<td>14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Foundation (Preps) Full Day</td>
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<td>16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>9.00am School Vision Review (Parents)</td>
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<td>16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>7.00pm School Vision Review (Parents)</td>
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<td>24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Easter Egg Raffle Draw</td>
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<td>24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Term One Ends</td>
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<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>9.00am Start of Term 2</td>
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<td>28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>12.00pm Feast on Ovens Ladies Luncheon</td>
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**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. The first Direct Debit will be next Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

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 SHANLEY SIGNS FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
PAT ON THE BACK

Foundation
Miss Gaston
A big pat on the back to LENNY SIMS for being a wonderful classroom helper and assisting his friends and classmates when they are in need.

Foundation
Mrs Rizzo
A big pat on the back to CHARLOTTE MULLAVEY for always doing her best in class and being such a good listener. Well done Charli! Keep it up!!

Year 1
Ms Collins
Congratulations to SOPHIA DAVIDSON for always displaying wonderful listening skills and for being a kind and caring member of class. Well done Sophia!

Year 1
Mrs Bray
A big pat on the back to GEORGINA BLAKE for the wonderful way she takes on challenges. Keep it up Superstar!

Year 2
Mrs Cornish
Congratulations to KATIE CLIFFORD for working hard to improve her communication skills. What a responsible big Year 2! Very proud!

Year 2
Ms Rinaldi
A big pat on the back to MATILDA O’BRIEN for showing initiative in the classroom. What a wonderful quality!

Year 3
Mrs Lyons/Patterson
A big pat on the back to TAHLLIA POOL for the way she always includes others in her working groups.

Year 3
Miss Smith
Congratulations to BRIHANNA MCKENZIE for her kind and considerate nature in and outside the classroom. Brihanna enjoys seeing people happy, which makes her an asset to the class.

Year 4
Mrs Kittelty
Congratulations to JESSICA MCKINNES for using her initiative when solving problems and always looking out for her peers in and out of the classroom. You’re a great friend to many Jess!

Year 4
Mrs Shaw
Congratulations to WILL PHILLIPS for his excellent spelling efforts this week. Will is working very hard with his spelling strategies and producing great results. Fantastic work Will!

Year 5
Mrs Nicoll/Mr Lynch
Congratulations to MATTHEW PRESTIANI for demonstrating initiative and putting his ideas into action by organising a weekly stall to raise money for Project Compassion this Lent.

Year 5
Mrs O’Connor
Congratulations to GRETA DWYER for her excellent listening at the North Melbourne Football Club Clinic which resulted in her winning a football. Great work Greta!

Year 6
Mr Levesque
Congratulations to JESSIE TANCONTIAN for displaying great leadership skills by contributing to class discussions and asking questions.

Year 6
Mrs Rickard
Congratulations to PHOEBE BROMLEY for contributing some wonderful ideas during the Bluearth session. Your enthusiasm to participate and be an active member of Year 6 is outstanding!
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM

FOUNDATION – Karen & Michelle

It was great to see so many of our Foundation families at the disco last Friday night. There was lots of dancing (by the young ones), laughs and coffee (served by Mr Corrigan). The smoke machine was a big attraction.

Upcoming dates:
- Wednesday 9th March Pupil Free day
- Monday 14th March Labour Day Holiday

Religion – This week in our unit “I am Special, So Are You” the children continue to discuss the uniqueness of each one of us. As a follow up to the children’s “personality bags”, we will also talk about and list our similarities and differences, e.g. I like playing Lego and so does....

Inquiry - We continue our unit “How cool is school?” by discussing the importance of rules in the classroom and out in the playground and how they help us to learn and keep us safe. We are learning and practicing the school’s approach to solving problems with “Stop (name), I don’t like it when you... (state what it is you don’t like)” through role-play situations, circle time and stories. You will notice an outline of this approach near the prep notice board.

Literacy - This week the letter foci are ‘Tt’ and ‘Ee’ and the difference between the letter name and sound. The children are enjoying listening to and reading our class big books “Go Away Floppy” and “Reds and Blues”. We are encouraging the children to use the pictures, known words and letters to assist with their reading. We are also looking at what is a letter, a word, and a sentence. Don’t forget, there are some great handy hints in the read-it log books! Please continue practicing the golden words with your child at home.

Mathematics - This week we are developing the children’s knowledge of number and recognising numbers automatically (subitising) using small collections of objects such as dots and counters on plates, dice and ten frames. We are also matching these quantities to their numbers. The children are also enjoying card and dice games that reinforce these concepts such as, “Beat That” and “Same, Same”.

Have a great week!!

YEAR ONE/TWO – Gen, Karen, Janina & Leah

Welcome to week 5! Thank you to those families who supported the recent St Pat’s disco. A great night was had by all. A huge thanks, also, for the generous donations our students are contributing to the Caritas boxes during Lent. They have been very interested in the ways we can show love and care to others, in particular those less fortunate.

Please remind your children to develop positive reading routines at home and to bring green reader bags to school each day. These are good routines to develop early on in the year in order to form good reading habits.

As part of our spelling program, the students have been focusing on blends in spelling. The Year One students are focusing on the ‘g’ sound at the beginning, middle and end of words while the Year Twos are

THANK YOU SPORTSMAN WAREHOUSE WANGARATTA FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
focusing on ‘th’ as an end sound in words. Ask your children to think of words that contain these blends, or use them to play eye spy on the way to school.

In our Inquiry unit, the students continue to enjoy learning about each other and our new classrooms. They are following rules and routines beautifully and are enjoying hearing stories about related topics.

Upcoming Dates:
Wednesday 9th March – Pupil Free Day
Monday 14th March – Labour Day Holiday

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

RE -

Year 3/4 students have commenced the unit on Lent - Preparing for Easter. During this unit students will be learning about the Church’s liturgical year and will be exploring ways in which the community prepares for Easter through prayer, penance and good works. Students will be encouraged through the events of Holy Week to remember and celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and come to recognise Easter as the most important event in the Church year. We ask that each family contribute to our Easter raffle by donating an egg please - all money raised goes to Caritas

INQUIRY - ‘Playing by the Rules’

Students have been busy designing games to play with their peers with the focus being particularly on developing clear rules to follow. Once these games have been developed, students will then teach these games to our junior school students.

We have also been discussing a range of ‘old fashioned games’ that our parents and grandparents used to play when they were young, such as hopscotch, marbles, elastics etc. Students have shown great interest in wanting to know more about these games and are busy preparing questions to ask ‘the older community’ about games they used to play when they were young.

LITERACY-

Students have been enjoying the writing process of narratives. We began the planning stage of writing by using a graphic organiser which was a great visual for our students to see how a narrative is made up. We then moved onto the drafting stage where students have been working really hard at writing a sizzling start and creating an exciting story for their audience. This week's focus has been on editing our writing by re-reading to add deeper meaning and fluency. Next week, we will begin some explicit lessons on using dialogue within our writing and using quotation mark correctly.

Students appear to be in a great reading routine, this week we have been looking at questioning as a reading strategy. Students have been practicing this skill by asking questions before, during and after reading as well as identifying the difference between a thick and a thin question. We have also been comparing the features of narratives, persuasive and informative text types, looking for similarities and differences in the language and features.

MATHS –

Year 3 students are still focusing on Algebra and number. We have been looking at 10 more, ten less, 100 more, 100 less. We have also been looking at counting patterns

Year 4 students have been investigating number sequences involving multiples of 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 with the focus being on recognising that number sequences can be extended. Students have been determining numbers patterns and sequences.

THANK YOU STEERS CLOTHING & UNIFORM SHOP FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
YEAR FIVE/SIX – Nara, Andrea, Helen & James

Maths - The Year 5 and 6 students have continued to develop their understanding of place value by focusing on decimals this week. They have been reading, writing and ordering decimal fractions by looking at the whole number followed by the tenths, hundredths and thousandths.

Literacy - In reading the students have been looking at making text to self connections by reflecting and relating examples in a text to events in their everyday lives to deepen their understanding and comprehension skills. In writing they are working on the organisation and structure of their text, using clauses and understanding how nouns and adjectives can be expanded to provide a fuller description of the person, place, thing or idea in their writing.

Homework - This week the children need to read each night for at least 15 minutes, complete an activity related to their spelling and complete some maths problems. The children are encouraged to talk to their teachers if they have a problem with their homework. We don’t want the homework to be stressful.

Religion - We continue to prepare for Easter as we work on our Lenten unit. In the Gospels we are looking at how Jesus reflected on his life experiences and grew to understand his mission. We can learn from Jesus' life experiences through reflection and prayer.

North Melbourne Clinic - The North Melbourne players visited each of the schools today as it was too hot to go to the Norm Minns oval. The children asked the players a variety of great questions. The players signed kangaroo items that the children had and left a copy of their signatures to share with everyone.

Assembly - This Friday the Year 6 students are running the assembly. They will be presented with their leadership badges and share a slideshow of their prep buddies.

Parenting Education & Support
Every Tuesday At Gateway Health
45-47 Mackay Street Wangaratta
Would you like some parenting information and support?

We all find parenting challenging at times – we may struggle with:

- Toddler tantrums and behaviour
- Adolescent changes
- Helping children after separation
- Wondering how to help children with their emotions
- Putting routines in place in your home
- Blended & step families
- Dealing with sibling rivalry
- Bedtime struggles

We can meet with you one on one to discuss these and other parenting issues.

For more information or to make an appointment
Phone Laraine: 0457563304

THANK YOU SHANE’S COUNTRY PUB TOURS FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL