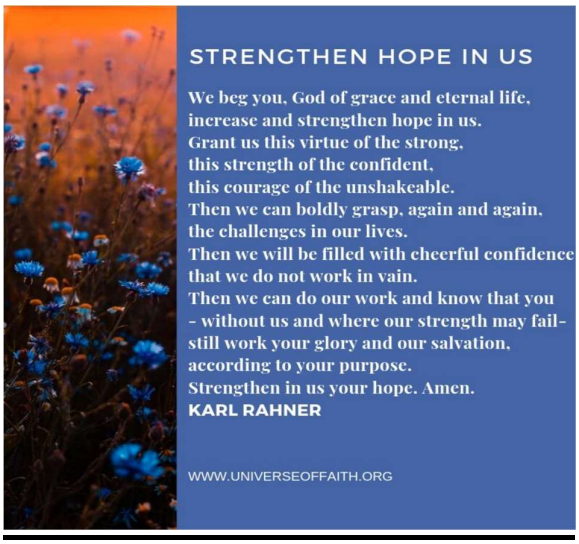
St Patrick's Primary School, Tongala

Phone: (03) 5859 0371
Fax: (03) 5859 0631
Email: **principal@sptongala.catholic.edu.au**
Strength & Kindliness

St. Patrick's will provide a child safe environment where all children have the right to be treated with respect and will be protected from harm.

Principal's Message



As I conclude isolation 3.0, I would like to thank Lee Pethybridge, the Senior Education Officer- Religious Education Team Leader from Catholic Education Sandhurst, for being onsite in my absence. Her presence has provided an unmeasurable amount of support for myself and the whole St Patrick's community. I have enjoyed touching base with Lee at the end of each day this week and hearing about our amazing community from her perspective. She has spoken very highly about our staff, the parents she has met and most significantly about the students. She commented on the kind, caring and friendly nature of your children, she said they were absolutely lovely.

Thank you to all of the families who have attended Learning Conversations and PSG Meetings this week. I know that the teachers had taken time to prepare for these meetings and they were really excited about meeting with you all. These meetings are a great opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and discuss how your child has settled into the new year. It is also a chance to work together to establish specific learning goals for your child. These learning goals and the strategies that will be used to achieve them are being recorded on SIMON. This in turn means that families will be able to access this information about their child using SIMON Everywhere. We will notify you when you are able to see your child's goals on the app.

Congratulations to our Grade 6 Leaders who received their leader t-shirts yesterday. A sense of pride was evident on their faces as they paraded their shirts to me via a Google Meet.

Call for nominees for our School Advisory Council…

Are you interested in taking a more active role in our school?
Are you keen to offer advice, support and engage in strategic planning with the Principal of our school?
Are you committed to ensuring that our school is a place that is open, inclusive and welcoming?
Are you able to help build community amongst our parents and the local Tongala community and advocate for our school?
Do you have some great ideas for school improvement, future planning and school review?
Do you have gifts, talents, passions or skills to share?
Are you willing to support the Principal in the operational leadership of our school?

The School Advisory Council operates as the main consultative and advisory body in the school.
We meet once a term and gather at a time of day that suits most members. We can be flexible. We share ideas, something to eat and drink as we work together to ensure that our school remains the amazing place that it is, now and into the future.

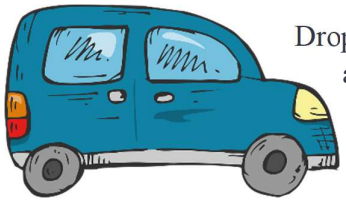
If you are interested, please contact Jackie or Kieran Brennan, the School Advisory Chair. We will be meeting for the first time this year in the coming weeks and we will notify our community of our 2022 Advisory Council Members in the next newsletter.

RAT TEST REMINDER

Rapid Antigen Testing is **voluntary** for all primary students; however, it is **recommended that students are tested twice weekly.**

Our third allocation of Rapid Antigen Tests arrived late last week for all school students. This is a friendly reminder to please stop in at the office and collect your RAT allocation.

DROP OFF & PICK-UP REMINDERS



Drop Off and Pick up times can be very busy times and it is important that they are managed safely. I ask all families to follow these safety measures:

-Students being dropped off in the morning by car only get out of the car when their car is stopped in the first car park

-We ask that parents not park in the front of school drop-off zone or the drive-through at the front of the church during 8:30-9am and 3-3:30pm

-You are welcome to park in the paddock opposite the school, where staff park, or parking in Cavill Street is also an option.

Project Compassion flips into St Patrick's Tongala on Tuesday 1st March

"Flipping pancakes on Shrove Tuesday to spread the word about Project Compassion is now a tradition in Bendigo," says Kerry Stone, Caritas Australia Coordinator in our Sandhurst Diocese. And although pancakes & poverty might seem an odd mix...

Project Compassion, Australia's largest fundraising event for aid & development, is held each year over the 6-week period, known to the Christian community as Lent. Pancakes remind us of our privilege and plenty as we recall the old Shrove Tuesday tradition of using up the flour, milk, eggs & sugar - the last hurrah - before 'going back to basics' in Lent - a time of reflection, fasting & alms-giving.

In challenging times, it is often our instinct to pull back and withdraw into ourselves. It can be especially hard to help others when we are struggling to satisfy our own needs, unsure what tomorrow might hold. The COVID-19 pandemic has stirred this feeling of unease in many of us but we are people of hope!

And the theme of PC22, FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS, reminds us that the good we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. It invites us to make the world a better place by working together now and finding long-term solutions to global issues.

During COVID-19, through extensive partnerships with local communities on the ground, Caritas has been responding to minimise the spread of the pandemic, adapting existing programs with new emergency training, medical and hygiene kits.

This year Caritas is showcasing five heroic individuals for whom your support is making a real difference. There's Anaterica, a 12-year-old girl in Mozambique, who was struggling to cope with the burden of adult responsibilities. Her father died and her mother has chronic health issues so Anatercia bore the brunt of household chores travelling for hours every day to collect water to help her grandparents. Water scarcity also meant harvests were poor and there was never enough to eat. A Caritas program has transformed life in the community. Now, Anatercia goes to school and hopes to become a nurse.

Read about Biru in India, facing poverty and discrimination due to disability who received entre-preneurship training and is now financially independent; Janice, a Wagilak woman in Australia, and part of the Caritas supported Djilpin Arts Community which generates income and keeps culture alive; Rosa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, once a child soldier, now a business owner and community leader; and Shaniella in the Solomon Islands overcoming the challenges of natural disasters and receiving vocational training to provide a brighter future at www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Last year, Project Compassion raised 10.7 million dollars with over half a million coming from our Sandhurst Diocese - the N/NE region of Victoria. Here's hoping for 2022! Our school will be holding fundraising events over the Lenten period.

Grade One

Twos Day

On the 22/2/22 we celebrated Twos Day. On this day we completed some different Twos activities. We wrote lists of things that we have 2 of. We solved a number puzzle which ended up looking like the number 2 once we had coloured it in and we had a go at skip counting by twos.

Maths

In Maths we have been learning all about numbers. We had been completing number investigations where we had to represent our number in many different ways. Some things that we used included number lines, counters, paddle pop sticks, writing it in word form and locating it on a hundreds chart which to name a few.

The Resilience Project

This week we completed our first Resilience Project lesson. We focused on what is Gratitude. We learnt that it is about reflecting and being thankful for what you've got. As a class we brainstormed some of the things that we can be grateful for which were: family, weather, friends, sport, pets, cuddles, farms, animals, Christmas, food and fresh water (just to name a few).

Religion

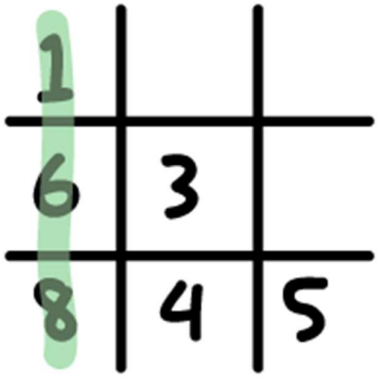
In our Religion lessons we have been learning about our prayer space and the different places where we can pray. We wondered about the different places people can pray and students came up with the following:

- Outside
- At Church
- On your bed
- Under a tree
- In the car when no one is talking
- In the forest

In the 5/6 class we have had a couple of busy weeks. We enjoyed our Open Waters Learning Experience and we have been preparing for our upcoming camp to Queenscliff.

In English, we have been focusing on narrative writing. We have been learning the importance of using adjectives in our writing as well as creating paragraphs to group the main events of the story. We have also started our reading groups and have begun to focus on different novels within our groups. We have also been enjoying the challenge of completing a daily Wordle as a class.

In maths we have learnt a new card game called "Mathematic-tac-toe". The game involves strategy, forward planning and addition skills. It would be a great one to play at home. Maybe a Grade 5/6 student could teach their family the game.



For our sport lesson this week, we joined with the Grade 3/4 class so we could enjoy a large game of "Capture the Flag". It is one of our favourite games and it is so much more fun when there's more people to join in. What made it even better was the beautiful grass we go to play it on! ☺

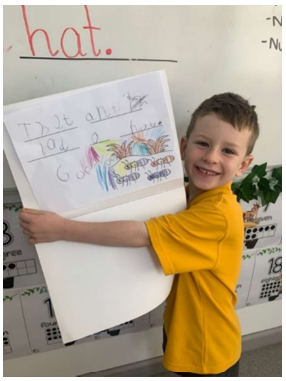
SCHOOL PHOTOS – THURSDAY 10TH MARCH

SCHOOL PHOTO ENVELOPES WERE SENT HOME WITH EACH STUDENT THIS WEEK.

EVERY STUDENT MUST RETURN THEIR ENVELOPE – EVEN IF NOT BUYING PHOTOS

FAMILY PHOTO ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE IF YOU REQUIRED

PLEASE RETURN PHOTO ENVELOPE BY TUESDAY 8TH MARCH



Foundation

So many amazing things have been happening in Foundation these last couple of weeks. Students have been doing an awesome job remembering routines and have continued to settle into school beautifully.

With lots of learning being completed, students have been determined to have a very big 'red hot go' and have done an excellent job displaying persistence and pride with completed work.

We have been working on our alphabet letters and sounds daily, practising writing our names, counting and writing to 10, daily prayer, learning about the human body, writing our sentence of the week (see George right), getting creative (See Henley and Marla's monsters right to match the story: "The Monster's Party.) and so much more!!

Some highlights have definitely been learning the number game, 'Kings and Queens', playing 'Sit down Sunday', taking Otis home on weekends, sport and Friday feeds.

Two's Day!

On Tuesday, Grade 2 celebrated Two's Day. As the date was the 2nd of February 2022 (22/2/2) students participated in a host of activities based on the number 2. Some of these activities included:

Completing an all about me activity- including questions like name two places you have been more than once, what are two nicknames i have and what year it was when I turned two?

Number two art work- turning a number two into a piece of art. We had some creative art pieces including a flamingo, a river and a person!

Maths games- we are experts at playing hot potato Buzz! counting by twos.

Maths Challenge Task- including activities like find two people taller than you, find an object longer than 22cm, create a number pattern counting by 2's and how many birthdays would you someone have with a two in it if they lived until 100?

And of course, it wouldn't have been Two's Day without our crowns! What a fun day we had!

Grade 3-4

How Do Our Bodies Change and Grow?

Lucas: In inquiry we have been learning about all the things that keep us healthy. To be healthy you need to have at least eight hours of sleep. To keep healthy you need to eat healthy and you also need to have heaps of exercise

Amelie- In Inquiry this term we have been learning about keeping healthy. Here are some examples of how we can keep healthy- eat healthy food, get lots of sleep, exercise and look after each other.

The Open Waters Learning Experience was LOTS of fun! The Grade 3-6 students were lucky enough to go to Maiden's Inn Caravan Park on the Murray River to participate in six different rotations that focused on water safety.

DRSABCD is an essential skill for everyone to learn because it may save someone's life, learning about DRSABCD was the first thing we did.

When we are around open water, it is important to wear a life jacket to keep you afloat if you fall into the water. We learnt how to put them on correctly and how they work.

There are lots of different floatation devices that we can use to save someone who is drowning, we learnt how to use them to help save people.

Boogey boarding was our favourite activity. In this activity we learnt how to use a boogey board properly and how we can use it to save someone.

We also learnt about the signs that we see at the beach, lakes and rivers and what we can do if we come across unexpected danger.

Our last activity was flag racing. We had to lie on our bellies with our ankles touching and our chin on our hands. When our instructor yelled "GO!" we had to race to a piece of hose. If we got a piece, we stayed in the race.

We are so grateful that we got to go on this wonderful excursion where we learnt some valuable, new skills.

New Free Program

We are super excited to launch Athletic Australia's Active Bands to our PE and active games program, and at zero cost to our school community! Active Bands has been created to get kids moving and increase physical literacy. Research continually shows active kids perform better in the classroom and maintain better health and wellbeing.

Combining a super cool wristband with an interactive app, Active Bands is a fun, FREE way for kids to keep active and be rewarded along the way. It can be hard to think of ideas to keep our kids active and having fun. Active Bands solves that problem by providing heaps of fun activities and challenges for kids to complete.

Best of all your child can use their Active Band at home and at school. We will be using Active Bands at school during selected physical activities, so let's capture all of their physical activity together!

Next week your child will bring home their new Weet-Bix Active Bands wristband. Please scan the QR code on the backing card, follow the easy prompts to download the app and register your child's wristband.
For more information go to weetbixactivebands.com.au

positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

Free to attend

2 Day Autism Workshop for Parents and Carers

Join other local families to learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the home-school partnership

Learn about:

- Autism: characteristics, impacts and strategies
- Understanding behaviour
- Sensory processing
- Working together with your school

Location:
Echuca Workers & Services Club
165-171 Annesley Street
Echuca VIC 3564

Morning tea and a light lunch are provided

Echuca, VIC
29th & 30th March, 2022
9.30am - 2.30pm

Interpreters available

To register, visit positivepartnerships.com.au **OR, contact Rachael Dillon** rdillon@positivepartnerships.com.au

For help, call: 1300 881 971

The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment through the Helping Children with Autism Package and is delivered by Autism Spectrum Australia. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

KY WEST HOTEL

CFA

Country Fire Authority

FUND RAISING

RAFFLE TICKETS

All proceeds go towards the Tongala, Girgarre & Kyabram CFA Fire Services

SATURDAY 26TH MARCH 2022

Live Music On the Day Solo Acts in beer garden 12pm- 6pm.
DANIEL BARRETT 3pm-6pm.
GONE ROGUE 9pm-12:30pm.

Ticket purchase includes
One Day entry to Venue

TICKET PRICE
$10.00 each

Prizes: Weekend away, Day Trip, Variety of Vouchers of all kinds and other various prizes.

Raffle Drawn (No matter what!) 11:00pm Ky West Hotel function room

UPDATES FOR INFORMATION ON EVENT, PRIZE AVAILABILITY & COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS
EVENT INQUIRIES Contact Lauren email: taylor.prandevents@gmail.com
KY WEST HOTEL GRAHAM ROAD TONGALA Ph.03 5859 0277

Sacramental Program 2022

Reconciliation, Confirmation &

First Eucharist

Information Evening

An information evening for **parents only** will be held to inform you of the Sacramental Program 2022 dates and process on:

Thursday, 10th March 2022 at 7.30 pm

in St Augustine's Church, Kyabram

This program is for Baptised children over the age of 7.

If your child is not baptised please contact Alma Limbrick as a separate program will take place.

Please contact Alma at the Parish Office Thursdays on 5852 1026 or on mobile 0417 184 527 if you have any queries.