

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL



Newsletter No. 2014/02
Thursday, 13 February 2014
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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Th 13 Welcome Evening 6:30pm
Su 23 School Mass 9am, morning tea
(please bring a plate to share)
Tu 25 PAC Meeting 7:30pm
Fr 28 EMA Parent Applications Due

MARCH

Mo 10 Labour Day Public Holiday

APRIL

Fr 4 Last Day Term 1
Mo 21 Easter Monday
Tu 22 First Day Term 2
Fr 25 ANZAC Day Public Holiday

2014 TERM DATES

Term 1 28 January to 4 April
Term 2 22 April to 27 June
Term 3 14 July to 19 September
Term 4 6 October to 19 December

CLASS TIMES

9am Class time
11am Recess
11:30am Class time
1:00pm Lunch
1:45pm Class time
3:15pm Dismissal

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HOURS

Monday Closed
Tuesday—Thursday 9am—3:30pm
Friday 10am—1pm

ATTACHED

- Australian Catholics Magazine
- iPad documentation (new students)

St. Patrick's Church
Sunday, 16 February —LLA at 10 am

See you at our
WELCOME EVENING
today at 6:30pm
BYO drinks, salad & sweet (meat provided)

This week's
GOTCHA!
winner is **Tasha Engelbrecht.**
Tasha was caught using our school rules by displaying responsibility.



Dear God
Are
happiness
and
happiness
mutually
exclusive?
Amen

Dear Parents and Members of St Pat's School Community,

This week has been very exciting as the students start settling into the routine for the year. Miss Witmitz has begun some initial testing of literacy skills in the Junior classroom and the Senior classroom has been seen undertaking some group work on numeracy. In both classrooms there is a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy and most mornings will see students involved in these activities.

Chinese lessons

This week the students in both classes experienced their first Chinese lessons with their teachers from China. Both classes were taught how to say 'Hello', 'Thank-you' and 'Goodbye'. The students were excited to receive these lessons via Skype and the interactive whiteboard. Each week our students will have a 30 minute lesson via Skype which will be followed up later in the week with another 30 minute lesson where they practise their pronunciation and complete some worksheets about Chinese culture and their written language. Try asking your child/ren how to say 'Hello' in Chinese tonight.

Welcome Function

Don't forget that our Welcome evening is tonight, starting at 6:30pm. It may be cool enough to enjoy our magnificent grounds and families are reminder to bring a sweet **and** a salad to share, as well as drinks for themselves. Cold meat will be supplied by the school.

Start of School Mass

A reminder that our Start of School Mass is set for 9.00 am on Sunday 23 February (not this coming Sunday but the one after). It would be great to see students and their families at this mass celebrating the start of the school year with school staff and the parishioners of St Patrick's Church Nhill.

EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance)

A reminder to any families who hold a current Health Care or Pension Card that you are entitled to claim EMA. The process involves completing a form which is available from the school office. Applications have to be made **before February 28** and no late applications will be accepted. Please complete this

Novel Idea Book Club

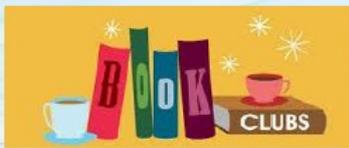
Would you like to connect with other readers in the Nhill community? Book clubs are a relaxing, fun thing to do for people who are open-minded and curious about what they read and who are interested in broadening their book knowledge while having fun, making friends and meeting like minded people in their community.

Contact the Nhill Neighbourhood House on 5391 2196 to register your interest in joining our Saturday morning book club.

Wimmera Regional Library membership preferred but not essential.

Date: First Saturday of the Month
Nhill Neighbourhood House 80 Macpherson St.
Time: 10am – 12pm
Cost: \$50 (10 sessions)

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!



Responsible Service of Alcohol

Nhill Neighbourhood House

Wednesday 20 February, 5:00 to 9:00pm

This course -

- incorporates the legalities and responsibilities of serving alcohol either in a bottle shop, behind a bar or at the table.
- aims to provide liquor service staff with the knowledge and awareness necessary to responsibly serve alcohol in licensed premises.

Cost: \$100.

Contact the Neighbourhood House on 53912196 for further details.

2014 Wimmera UnitingCare Bushfire Appeal

Your generosity can help support those who have lost homes, belongings and livelihoods in the recent fires across the Grampians, Wimmera and Mallee.

How to donate:

- Come into the Wimmera UnitingCare office in Baillie Street, Horsham
- Call us on 03 5362 4000 or visit the website www.wuc.org.au
- Make a donation at any branch of the Bendigo Bank



process as soon as possible if you intend applying for EMA.

Community Service—Meals on Wheels

Throughout the year students will be given the opportunity to participate in activities which involve service to the community. Students from the Senior classroom will be involved in delivering meals to elderly residents throughout the town during the final week of February and the first week of March. Past experience indicates that the people who receive the meals are very grateful for the delivery and they are especially excited to have them delivered by students. I am certain that our students will also gain a lot from participating in Meals on Wheels.

iPads for Prep Students / ICT Acceptable Use Policy

In line with our school policy that all students have access to their own iPad, purchases have been made for our new Prep students. A reminder to all parents that the 'ICT Acceptable Use Policy' is being sent home today for new students. It needs to be signed by both a parent and the student and then returned to school for safe keeping. This document outlines the acceptable use of iPads and computers at St Pat's and at home. We also request that parents be aware that students will only be allowed to take their iPads home if the appropriate fees have been paid.

Gotcha's

At St Patrick's we try to catch students doing the 'right thing'. This is in line with our mission of creating responsible citizens who care and nurture each other and their environment. Students and staff alike can nominate a student for doing something positive, from picking up rubbish without being asked, to helping a younger student with their work or sharing equipment during lunch and/or recess. The names are put into our GOTCHA box and each week one name is drawn out and a certificate is awarded to that student. Obviously the more times your name is in the box the greater your chance of winning.

Kathryn Bendall

Final Call

If anyone is interested in purchasing a CD of 2013 photos (from the slideshow shown at the end of year), please let office staff know as soon as possible. Cost is \$10 per CD.

Public Transport Victoria Student Concession Cards 2014

For information and application forms please visit ptv.vic.gov.au.