November 17—Term 4 Week 7

St Patrick’s Allora School Newsletter
Celebrating 100 years of Education in 2016

“Never see a need without doing something about it.” - Mary MacKillop

Mission—We are an inclusive community committed to high levels of learning for all.

Dear Parents,

Word attack strategies— In last week’s newsletter the importance of continuing reading with your child throughout the upcoming holiday break was highlighted.

Often, during the reading process, our children encounter new words that are outside their experience. Discovering new words and discussing with you their meanings is a great opportunity to build your child’s vocabulary.

In ‘attacking’ these words with our children, it is important that they develop a number of strategies instead of defaulting to the ‘sound it out’ strategy for all words. Unfortunately this strategy only works for a small portion of the thousands of words encountered by our new or inexperienced readers.

The strategies indicated (pictured right) here can be used in a variety of word attack situations. These strategies, once learnt, become imbedded in the automatic practice of good readers. For more information speak to our teachers and/or go to http://www.literacysolutions.com.au/resources/ (or follow the QR code to the left).

Swimming and Positive Support - Swimming lessons got underway today at our local pool. These lessons, as mentioned in the note that went home on Tuesday, draw on content from the 'The Royal Life Saving, Swim and Survive Program'. The program includes a life-skills swim safety component as well as a water familiarity and stroke development/correction component. Lesson are being led by myself, our specialist PE teacher and other teachers.

Nomination forms for our swimming carnival next Friday will go home early next week. It is important that as a community we acknowledge the purpose of these carnivals. Our sporting carnivals are for the enjoyment of the students, their families and the celebration of achievement no matter how small. For many of our students, competing in an event and completing a length (or width) of the pool is a great achievement.

Encouragement of our children must adopt the same ‘growth mindset’ that we promote in all areas of their learning. In our excitement as parents, we sometimes forget that our ‘encouragement’ is not being received by our children in the way that we think. We can avoid inadvertently having a negative effect on our children during what should be a wonderful day of healthy competition. (Continued page 2)

God Bless

Tyronne Maher
Principal

Thank you to all of our parents who were able to join us for our special Remembrance Day prayer service held last Friday. Thank you to our students and Miss Preston for their efforts.

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Important for this Week

Term 4 School Fees
Thank you to the families who have promptly paid their accounts.

We are busy finalising the 2016 school financials.

All accounts are due and can be made by Bank Direct Credit or cash and cheques at the school office.

St Patrick’s School – A Nut Aware School. We are aware that a child and/or children have a severe anaphylactic reaction to peanuts. Parents are requested to be diligent with items packed in lunch boxes.

When solving tricky words while you are reading, use a variety of word solving strategies.

- Read in phrases - Read groups of words together.
- Stretch it out/ sound it out/ segment and blend — divide the word in to parts, sound them out and then put them together (blend)
- Think of a word that looks like that — think of a word you now that looks like the one you’re trying to solve
- Look for the parts of the word I know
- Search through the word and look for detail — what do you see at the start, middle and end.
- Make your reading sound like talking — don’t sound like a robot.
- Get your mouth around the start — as you read the sentence, say the start of the word and keep reading and then come back to the word.
- Think about the meanings of words or the parts of words — think about prefixes and suffixes, word roots (Greek/Latin)

Swimming and Positive Support (continued from page 1) - "For a positive, fun and nurturing experience of sport, parents must remain positive, regardless of the result, and stay realistic in their shared expectations to avoid putting pressure on the child."

www.active .com suggests that focusing on the process (growth mindset) rather than the result (fixed mindset) avoids our child labeling themselves failures when they don’t reach our expectations.

In calming our children’s nerves we might say; “You’re a great swimmer, you’ll be fine”. This is interpreted by your child as; “If I don’t place or win, I’m not a good swimmer” (for example). Or as the parents we think that coaching mid way through an event is helpful. Cheering; “Run faster”; is an unrealistic expectation. Afterall, they’re in a race—they’re running as fast as they can.

"Parents’ and coaches’ overly high expectations can cause athletes to focus too much on the results. This often makes them feel frustrated, especially when they are not performing up to their (and your) standards. “ Children internalize a parents high expectations and then become worried about not being able to reach those expectations (Cohn and Cohn).

References and further reading;

School News

P&F Disco and Gathering – All families are invited to share in some St Patrick’s hospitality this afternoon from 5pm. A disco will be put on for the students starting at 5pm in the Multi-purpose shed and a barbecue will be provided for those attending. For a gold coin, students can dress up and be part of a competition running for the best dressed celebrity or superhero. The disco and barbecue aims to wrap up by approximately 7pm. Proceeds from the competition will go towards the purchasing of the farewell gift which will be presented to the school community from the departing Year 6 students.

Yesterday, during our staff meeting, teachers began the task of prioritizing the Australian Mathematics curriculum. This process, once complete, will focus teaching and learning on the most important elements of its content for our students.

References and further reading;

Happy Birthday this week to:
Jenna Mutch

Readers Cup
This year the interschool readers cup competition was held using video conferencing equipment. This enabled students from three schools to communicate with each other, without the need to travel. Sacred Heart, Toowoomba; St Patrick’s, Allora and St Anthony’s, Toowoomba were the competing schools.
Thank you to the parents and friends who came to watch and be part of this experience. Congratulations to all teams! You were BRILLIANT!

Results were:
Grade P-1
St Anthony’s 1st
St Patrick’s 2nd
Sacred Heart 3rd

Grade 2-4
St Anthony’s 1st
Sacred Heart 2nd
St Patrick’s 3rd

Grade 5-6
St Anthony’s 1st
Sacred Heart 2nd
St Patrick’s 3rd

Thank you to all involved. Jan and Julie-Anne from the library.

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Parish News

LITURGY TIMES
1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH – MASS 9AM
2ND, 3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH – MASS 6pm
4TH, 5TH SUNDAY OF MONTH – LITURGY OF THE WORD – 9 AM

Next Meeting - Wednesday 8th February 2016 from 7pm in the Library.

Proposed School Uniform Changes (School Board)
Information and a response form have gone home to families attached to this newsletter. Below are photos of the display in the multi-purpose room at the school.

BOOKMARK THIS!!
Thank you to the group of mothers and grandmothers who assisted with the book covering yesterday. Great inroads were made into the books requiring covering.

There are still more to do and if you would like to do some covering at home please see Julie-Anne in the library on either a Monday or Tuesday.
What’s Happening at St Patrick’s Allora?

The Allora Creekside Carols
The St Patrick’s School students are once again invited to join a host of other local talent on stage this year.

Allora Creekside Carols Saturday 5th December 2016 Starting at 6pm
Mrs Trefford has already started rehearsals with the students and we encourage all students and families to attend this community Christmas evening!

For more information regarding this event contact Greta Barton 0418 26 5223

DATE CLAIMERS - 2016
Nov 17 – 24 Swimming Lessons
Nov 17 St Patrick’s Disco—5pm
Nov 21 Yr6 - Assumption College Transition day
Nov 22 Blue Care Choir Performance Yrs 3-6 at 10am
Nov 23 Ecumenical Christmas Service—St David’s Church
Nov 25 St Patrick’s Swimming Carnival
Nov 28 Yr6 - Allora State School Transition day
Nov 29 9.30am End of Year Mass Followed by morning tea 6pm Graduation
Dec 2 10.30 am to 12 noon. Whole School Christmas Liturgy, parents are welcome to take students home at the conclusion.

End of Term 4

Term Dates for 2017
Term 1
Mon 23 Jan to Fri 31 March
Term 2
Tue 18 April to Fri 23 June
Term 3
Mon 10 July to Fri 15 Sept
Term 4
Tue 3 Oct to Fri 1 Dec

Public Holidays for 2017 (School Closed)
Australia Day Thurs 26 January
Allora Show Day Friday 10 February
ANZAC Day Tues 25 April
Labour Day Mon 1st May

What’s Happening at St Patrick’s Allora?

Horse Riding Camps for ages 6 years - teens, all riding abilities are welcome.

7 DAY RIDING CAMPS
Fun horse riding camps every school holidays. Includes arena lessons, learning how to keep and care for a horse/pony, trail rides twice a day, gymkhana and night activities.

UPCOMING CAMPS
3 - 10 December 2016 | 10 - 17 December 2016
17 - 24 December (4 Day Camp) | 31 Dec - 7 Jan
7 - 14 January 2017 | 14 - 21 January 2017

Come Horse Riding

Five things you need to know about the NDIS in Queensland

1. Who?
The Commonwealth and Queensland governments now operate the NDIS with the National Disability Insurance Agency.

2. When?
The NDIS is a long-term policy and will be progressively rolled out over a six-year period from 2016-2021. Parents will receive the NDIS at different times depending on where they live.

3. Where?

4. How?
The National Disability Insurance Agency is working closely with relevant Commonwealth and Queensland government agencies to ensure parents are informed.

5. What can I do to prepare?
If you are unsure about whether you are eligible for the NDIS, then you should visit the NDIS website and complete a self-assessment to check if you qualify. If you think you qualify, you will be contacted by the NDIS with details of next steps.

Contact Us 07 5486 6166 Visit: www.bialpark.com.au

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Website: http://www.allora.catholic.edu.au

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Website: http://www.allora.catholic.edu.au
Re: Swimming lessons

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As mentioned in the newsletter in recent weeks, swimming lessons will commence this Thursday the 17th of November. Please find on the reverse side of this letter a copy of the timetable for weeks 7 and 8. The focus of these lessons, whilst drawing on a recognised swim safety programme, will differ from group to group based on ability. Skill development will range from water awareness and foundational skills in swimming (e.g. breathing, kicking, floating etc.) to stroke correction and more advanced water safety activities for more capable swimmers. These lessons form an important part of the HPE curriculum and are therefore compulsory.

Thank you to the many parents who have already offered their assistance. At this stage, teaching staff, including Mr Spranklin and myself, will be able to cover lessons for the middle to upper lessons (Dalrymple and Glengallan) and help offered from the lower school (Talgai and Cunningham) has already been arranged.

While it is appreciated that some parents would like to come and watch their children swim during swimming lessons, it is my experience that children often grow more in confidence without the watching on of a parent (or carer). In fact a parent watching on can sometimes (inadvertently) distract a child from the learning experience. This is particularly the case for those of our younger students that have an aversion to swimming. I see the swimming carnival as an opportunity for parents and carers to witness and cheer on the great achievements of their children and the skills they have gained. I know that in true St Patrick’s form, we’ll have many members of our community.

The cost for the entire program (covering pool hire, teaching staff and entry) will be $5 for each student and $2 each for season pass holders at the Allora Swimming Pool (envelope attached). Please ensure that students have suitable swimming togs (one piece for girls), a towel, goggles, a sun safe swim shirt and a cap for those with long hair. Students will be getting changed at the pool so please ensure that all items are labelled carefully. Students will be supervised at all times.

If there are any queries or concerns regarding these very important lessons, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Principal

Tyronne Maher
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