



ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL
Date 5th November 2020 – Week 5

To the St Peter's community,

Good afternoon everyone,

I hope that you enjoyed the lovely weather we experienced in Melbourne on the weekend and spent some time outside. How quickly the days change with a drop in temperature and rain on Wednesday.

I know that most of the teaching staff began writing the Semester 2 reports. As we are all aware; teaching and learning has been a challenge for our community this year. Our teachers will do their best to report to you on each child's strengths and communicate the areas of focus next year.

Thank-you for your support with our new Kiss and Drop Expectations:

1. Children exit on the left side of the car only
1. Bags are in the cabin of the car - bags do not exit or enter the boot of the car
2. Cars drive to the end of the kiss and drop line before students exit or enter the vehicle
3. Families are asked to use the school crossing to teach our students safe road rules
4. PLEASE ENTER THE KISS AND DROP AREA AT A 5KM SPEED - SAFETY FIRST

Our zoom Prep information evening was held last week. Thanks to the families that participated on the night. We announced last Tuesday night that we will have three Prep classes in 2021. We will continue to have four classes in the junior school until 1pm each day. Our middle and senior school will have additional intervention support in 2021. We are working to build the teacher capacity to improve the growth of all of our students at St Peter's.

Our Visual Arts studio transformation is underway and hopefully it will be completed before the end of the year. Each lunch time our senior school teacher Maj, has created a **Drop in Room** for our middle and senior students looking for something different to do at lunch time. Our Japanese teacher has a **Japanese Club** every lunch time to engage our students in activities and games with a Japanese Language immersion focus. Next year we will work towards more social interaction groups at lunch time for our students.

This week the staff began reflecting on the Social and Emotional learning of our students. Collaboratively we began the conversation which will continue with our students over the coming weeks and set up the protocols and expectations for 2021. Next week our staff will continue discussion around our Child Safety Policy. I encourage all families to check our website to be familiar with the St Peter's Child Safety Policy.

Our students will be grouped next year in classes. They will have the same teacher for Literacy and Numeracy every day. During Inquiry Learning, Physical Education, Performing Arts, STEM and Visual Arts student groups may be mixed. When students receive their school reports on the 11th of December, they will also receive the name of the 2021 teacher.

When grouping students in 2021 the priority is to group students to maximise the learning environment for each child. There are multiple perspectives to take into account when organising groupings : gender balance, an even ability spread, additional needs of students and more. Students will be asked to write down a list of five students they would like to be grouped with in 2021. Each child will be with at least one perhaps two students from their list. Children will be given opportunities to socialise with friends before school, at recess, lunch and after school. The classroom is for learning. Thanks for your support in this process.

As the school Principal I will accept letters from parents outlining social, emotional and academic needs of their children in regards to grouping.

atonkin@htelthamn.catholic.edu.au

Parents letters will be respected and read, however there is no guarantee that parent requests will determine class groupings.

Please refer to the Class grouping Policy that was presented and accepted at the last Advisory Council Meeting.

We have a number of new staff joining our St Peter's team next year. The new chapter looks very exciting.

Teachers will plan with their 2021 team in Week 9, Term 4 and teachers will be scheduled for student handover conversations to ensure the 2021 teachers understand the social / emotional and academic needs of the students in their class next year.

Have a terrific week ahead and in a world you could be anything



Kindest regards
Angela Tonkin
Principal

St Peter's Catholic Parish Primary School is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.



ADMINISTRATION
Notices:

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 9th November - Whole School Photos

Monday 9th November - Collection of 2021 Prep Orientation Packs

If your family, other than year 6, is not returning to St Peter's School in 2021 please email principal@stprepp.catholic.edu.au with your name, student/s names and school they will be attending in 2021.



St Peter's Primary School, Epping

Policy: Grouping of students in learning spaces

INTRODUCTION

In order to increase the potential to promote increased educational outcomes and more effective socialisation, students are grouped according to certain criteria at St Peter's, Epping.

Each student will have the same teacher for Literacy and Numeracy and up until 1pm every day.

After 1pm students may be grouped in different inquiry learning groups to maximise engagement and interest.

Individual placements can have significant effects on student achievement and must primarily be based on the school's professional judgements of the child's educational needs, circumstances and interests.

Pedagogical variations need to be made to meet the learning needs of the whole group e.g. curriculum compacting, fast-paced learning, lateral enrichment, accelerative enrichment, and social and emotional enrichment.

Decisions with regard to the formation of groups are made with a view to establishing balanced and equitable groups that will potentially work well together to provide the opportunity:

- For students to make new friends
- To work cooperatively with a number of different children and teachers
- Become accustomed to dealing with changes
- To expose children to many different values, talents, skills and ideas which occur in abundance in all groups of students
- To share many different values, talents, skills and ideas with others.

OBJECTIVES

The school will:

1. Form effective groups, creating positive social and educational environments for all students
2. Maximise the use of staff and their teaching skills in satisfying identified curriculum needs.

POLICY AIMS

St Peter's strives to form an equitable and considered approach to annual class formation. This policy aims to provide:

1. each child with the opportunity to be part of a group of children that will allow them the best opportunity to learn
2. well balanced groups of children that take into account the social, emotional, academic and physical characteristics/abilities of each child
3. the framework where optimum use is made of the prior knowledge of teachers and school staff of each child prior to group placement

VALUES

Responsibility, Equity, Opportunity, Support, Growth.

RATIONALE

Individual group placements can have significant effects on a student's attainments and must be based on professional judgements about the student's educational needs, circumstances and interests.

General

1. The principal, in consultation with staff and after considering student numbers, will determine the number of classes for the following year, class sizes and the year levels of each group in accordance with:
 - a. Creating balanced groups across the school
 - b. Whole of school organisation and flexibility
 - c. Specialist teachers' considerations
2. While the allocation of children to various group, group structures and group compositions are all ultimately responsibilities of the Principal, a collaborative process with all staff will be employed to ensure that all groups are made up of students of mixed learning abilities
3. The process of forming groups will commence in October of the previous year
4. Staff members will be required to work collaboratively and enter student information into a digital grouping package called ***Class Solver***. Each child will be asked to write down 5 students they believe that would work well with the following year. This information will be added to the program to ensure student voice and ensure a friend will be in the same class the following year.
5. The group placement of each student is the ultimate responsibility of the principal in consultation with staff. The principal is unlikely to change a group structure as a result of a parent request.

November 2020.

Gospel Reflection



Last Monday 2nd November the Church celebrated the feast of All Souls. This day of commemoration began in the Middle Ages with annual prayers for the dead in monastic communities. Fixed on this day, it spread more widely after the 10th century and now ranks with the principal feast days in the liturgical calendar. Commonly known as All Souls, it expresses Christian faith in the communion of saints and our need to pray for one another in the Church.

We have Christ's promise of the reality of the resurrection through His own death and resurrection. Because He lives, we too shall live. Beginning with All Saints Day (Sunday 1st November) and All Souls Feast Day, November is the month when we especially pray for our loved ones who have died; our prayers help them to find their way to the arms of God.

We pray:

Merciful Father, hear our prayers and strengthen our hope that all our departed brothers and sisters will share in Your Son Jesus' resurrection.

God of the living, all that lives testifies to your presence with us. Keep our eyes awake to the people and world around us. Help us see the good we can do for one another and to be witness to Your mercy. Amen.

Coming Up at St Peter's School



Remembrance Day- Wednesday 11th November

St Peter's students will commemorate Remembrance Day on Wednesday 11th November with prayer liturgies and observance of the one minute silence at 11am.



The Week in Review

Junior News

The Juniors have been working with money in our Numeracy sessions over the last few weeks. We have been looking at the features of Australian coins and notes and learning to order them from the smallest value to the largest value. The Juniors have enjoyed adding coins and notes together and using our knowledge of money to add items together from a shopping catalogue. At home you can ask us to identify different coins and notes, as well as help you add your money together when shopping. As a challenge, you can even ask us to work out how much change you need.

STEAM News

Prep

During the last few weeks the Preps have engaged in a sustainability focus, Journey under the Sea. They have applied their understanding about the sea in real world situations, using their senses to observe the world around them, follow instructions and use materials to design and create 3D sea creatures including puppets. Each week the Preps add their sea creations to an under the sea mural.

