



**ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Thursday 25th November 2021, Week 8, Term 4**

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **School Vision**

St Peter's is a faith filled and inclusive community that embraces diversity. We aspire to engage and empower all to think critically and act justly, guided by our catholic values, on our journey as lifelong learners.

## **ADVENT**

The first week of Advent is Sunday 28th November

The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or church) calendar and begins a four week period **of preparation in anticipation of the nativity of Jesus at Christmas. ...**

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.



The first Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to centre our thoughts on **hope**.

It's a beautiful chance to remember the hope God offers to our world, and that He's given us through Jesus.

### **Prayer for the First Week of Advent: HOPE**

God of Hope, Thank you for your love that surrounds us. Strengthen us so that we may soften our hearts to you and each other. We pray for our sisters and brothers around the world who face hunger and hardships. Help us build a more just world where no one faces these burdens. Help us to be patient, and grow as people of hope and faith in action. Renew our hope daily. In your name we pray,

Amen.

## Principal News

Good afternoon St Peter's community,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the ability to catch up and spend time with loved ones given our restrictions have eased in Victoria. We are still ensuring that we keep our school COVID plan updated. We have invited the Victorian Health Department to visit our school on Friday to review our COVID processes and offer feedback into ways we can enhance practice.

As previously communicated we have purchased an additional 11 air purifiers to ensure all our learning spaces have adequate air circulation for our students and staff.

If students are unwell please keep them at home until they are well. If your child or members of the family present with COVID symptoms please get a COVID test before returning to school.

Thanks for your support in keeping our community safe.

### **Sacraments**

Over the last two weeks our students have celebrated the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. The sacraments were celebrated in our parish church. It was a reverent experience for our families that have waited so long for the experience. I was extremely proud of our candidates who presented for the sacraments.

Sara Brundell, our Education and Faith Leader worked in partnership with our Parish Priests, our parish schools and staff to ensure the logistics of the day ran smoothly. Thank you Sara for your dedication and time.

I am most grateful to our staff that supported our families over the two sacramental weekends - Sara, Grace, Jane, Emma, Christine, Sophie, Jemma and Melissa.

### **School Fees**

A gentle reminder that we have a number of families that have **outstanding school fees**.

School fees cover the costs of running our school and resources purchased to enhance the learning for our students. I ask that school fees are finalised as soon as possible. If your family is experiencing financial hardship please contact the school office and arrange a conversation to set up a payment plan. Thank you for your support.

### **Uniform**

I acknowledge that a number of our students have grown out of their uniforms during the COVID lockdown and no longer fit into their school uniforms. Students that are not wearing the correct school uniform require a note from their family to explain the reason. The Academy Uniform shop has re opened.

### **Social Media Accounts**

It has come to the attention of the school that there is a senior school SnapChat group. Unfortunately this group is posting hurtful comments about other students and using inappropriate language. I have asked the senior school students to withdraw themselves from the chat and the administrator to shut it down. Social media is a communication tool our students will use to communicate. As educators and family we need to ensure we teach our students to be responsible users of this tool. I encourage families to talk with their children and be active participants in their children's social media accounts.

### **Kiss and Drop**

The kiss and drop system works well for the dropoff and pick up of our students each day.

### **Please remember the following rules**

\*The driver does not exit the car. Staff are on duty to assist students with exiting and entry of the car

\*The driver needs to drive to the end of the kiss and drop line to ensure all entering cars do not hold up traffic

\*School bags are in the cabin of the car and not in the boot of the car. This ensures child safety is paramount.

\*Students exit and enter from the passenger side of the car

### **Learning Spaces for 2022**

Our teaching staff are currently working on student learning spaces for 2022. Our teachers and leaders take into consideration the academic, social and emotional needs of all our students. Family requests are taken into consideration however teacher judgement drives the allocation of learning spaces for 2022. On Monday an Operoo notification will inform the school community of teacher placements for 2022. Family request for 2022 placements has closed.

### **School Advisory Board**

Thank you to our 2021 Advisory Board for your contribution and community voice in our new chapter at St Peter's.

I am pleased to announce Joseph Registro and Shenelle Toshack will be our family representatives on our new one parish , 3 schools, Advisory Board.

2022 will see the beginning of our new Advisory Board which consists of St Peter's Parish and representatives of the three schools.

### **Dates to remember**

1st and 2nd December : students wear Christmas Carol clothes for the recording of our school Christmas Carols.

### **Families are asked to donate a gold coin for our St Vincent De Paul Annual Christmas Appeal**

3rd December: School closure day. 2022 Teacher Planning Day. No students

9th December: Students Christmas carols at school 11.30-1.30pm. Christmas carols recording made live at 6.30pm for families to view

10th December: Year 6 Big Day Out.

Year Prep - 5 2022 Orientation

1.30-3pm K - Boom Activity day

2021 Semester 2 reports go live. Please make sure the school has your current email account

13th December: 2.30-3.30pm End of Year Assembly.

Year 6 2022 captains announced. Students and staff attend only.

14th December: 7-8pm Year 6 2021 Graduation in the St Peter's Church

15th December: Students finish school at 1.30pm

Kindest regards,

Angela Tonkin  
Principal

# St Peter's Christmas Carols

## Thursday 9th December 2021



We will be delivering our Christmas Carols to our community via a link on Thursday 9th of December. All families will be able to watch the carols at home with all the family.

Here are some important things to remember to make this possible:

1. On Wednesday 1st December **AND** Thursday 2nd December, **ALL** students are invited to wear Christmas Carol themed clothes to school. Examples include Christmas costumes, Christmas clothing (tshirts, jumpers), Christmas accessories (headbands, hats) or Christmas coloured clothing (red and green) or Nativity characters such as Mary, Joseph, Wise Kings, or angels.  
**A Gold coin donation would be appreciated so that St. Peter's school can offer vouchers to St. Vincent de Paul society to give to those less fortunate than us.**  
<https://www.vinnies.org.au/shops/view/1661>
2. A recording schedule has been created for classes on both 1/12/21 and 2/12/21, so that each student can have the opportunity to be filmed while singing their Christmas Carols with their class.
3. On Thursday 9th December, students are invited again to wear their Christmas casual clothes as they will perform their carols at a school assembly. The recorded event will be uploaded via a youtube link that will be available on our school website page this evening, so that all St. Peter's families can enjoy the carols at home.
4. **In recognition of the season of giving, we invite families to offer a small educational stationery gift such as a ruler, coloured pencils/textas, erasers or sharpeners. These will be offered to Big Group Hug Foundation on behalf of our school community.** <https://biggroup Hug.org/>

The students have been very busy practising their Christmas Carols and are very excited to be able to share them with you via the video recording.



Thanks for your support.

Kind Regards

Melissa Gatt and Jenelle Campbell

Christmas Carols Team

## Sacraments - Eucharist & Confirmation

Over the past two weekends, students at St Peter's School have celebrated receiving the Sacraments of First Eucharist (Year 4 and 5) and Confirmation (Year 6).

We would like to thank the classroom teachers for their efforts in preparing the students to receive the Sacraments. We also extend our thanks to Bishop Terry Curtin and our Parish Priests Fr Anh and Fr Nathan for the beautiful celebrations.



For these students we pray:  
Loving God,  
Pour out your blessings on these children.  
May they continue to grow closer to you and come  
to know and appreciate your special love for them.  
Amen

## Prep News

Over the last few weeks, preps have been learning about different celebrations. We have begun sharing and explaining our own family celebrations with each other. Over the next few weeks the preps will make a special piece that represents a symbol from their own celebration. This week, students are busy planning their symbol and will begin making it using recycled materials. Some special celebrations in prep are Christmas, birthdays, Diwali, Rakhi, Baptism and Chinese New Year. Once the students have completed their symbol, they will be able to share their experience and symbol with their classmates.

In Maths, students are learning to represent numbers using bundles. We are practising making a collection of 10 icy pole sticks and bundling them together using rubber bands. We are learning to use bundling to count more efficiently.

All the preps are doing such a great job and we look forward to the remaining weeks of the term.



## Juniors News

Over the last couple of weeks the Juniors have been reading about lots of different fairy tales. We have learnt about the common features of fairy tales, including how they begin and end. Some fairy tales have magic, some have talking animals, and all of them can teach us a lesson.

We have started to create our own fairy tales. We have created our character descriptions using adjectives to describe the inside and outside features of each main character. We also planned the setting, the problem and the solution to our fairy tales. We have edited our own work, focusing on punctuation and correct spelling. We have now started to publish them using neat handwriting and creative, colourful illustrations. We are very proud of our hard work!



## Middles News

It has been a special time this year for the middles. They have continued their sacramental journey with their first Eucharist. They have also been learning about fractions and using concrete materials to make and compare them. They are also beginning to explore equivalent and improper fractions.



## Seniors News

This weekend our Grade 6 students celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a wonderful ceremony filled with family members to help celebrate the occasion. We would like to thank Bishop Terry, Father Anh and Father Nathan for making this ceremony so special. Also a big thank you to Mrs Sara Brundell for organising the celebrations and assisting the students to prepare for their Sacrament of Confirmation.

During Inquiry the students have been learning about the different people that have shaped Australia.

Last week we had a visitor! Guest speaker, Nonno Tom visited the senior space to tell them about his journey to Australia. At just 19 he came to Australia with his little brother (17) and little cousin (10). He spoke about the hardships of migrating from Italy to Australia and also the successes he has experienced since being in this wonderful country.



## Teaching & Learning

It has been so wonderful walking around the school seeing our students engaged in their term 4 learning. In particular, there has been a big buzz in our STEM sessions. Students have really enjoyed experimenting with digital technology.

The Junior students have been learning how to follow a sequence of steps (basic code) to solve simple problems and step-by-step procedures by programming simple devices. They have been applying their knowledge of direction (forwards, backwards, left and right) providing instructions to robotic devices to move in the direction they code it to. Here are some Junior students programming code into their Bee Bot robots.



The 3/4 students in our middle school have developed simple problems and solutions by following and inputting sequences of steps, using programs such as Hour of Code and Scratch Junior. Here are some middle students experimenting with code using the Scratch Junior platform.

The 5/6 students are advancing their digital technology skills and have been introduced to BITMAP coding and the Binary language of coding. The students' coding activities apply their knowledge of the numbers 0 to 1, creating their own bitmaps for their peers to solve and complete. Some students are also experimenting with entering their knowledge about Binary code into digital blogs on their own website template using the WIX platform. Here are some senior students working on binary code and on their website.



Thank you for your ongoing support as we work towards student engagement in partnership.

Melissa Gatt  
Teaching and Learning Leader

# Literacy

Teachers have been extremely dedicated in gathering data from assessments to gauge where students are at given the extended time in remote learning this year.



Our Literacy consultant, Jane Plunkett has collaborated with both myself and the teaching staff to co-construct a confidential student data wall (it is out of sight and in a locked room that only staff can access). Building a literacy data wall is a practical and powerful way to focus the teaching instruction as a teacher and on the growth and achievement of every student. We have assessed and gathered information on each student across the whole school that includes their reading level (ability to read words in context as well as comprehend) and oral language, as well as track any intervention, extension and/or special needs.

In the new chapter at St. Peter's, teachers

understand that tracking and analysing student data enables identifying gaps in learning, monitoring impact of teaching instruction over time, and to identify possible teaching professional learning needed to support sustained student growth.

The power of a student data wall comes from including every student in the school.

At a glance, teachers can see those students who need extra support, or who need extending.

This shifts the conversation from 'my students in my classroom' to 'our students in our school', and it shifts the motivation from 'improving my practice' to 'improving our practice'.



Here are some of our Junior teachers collaborating with Jane Plunkett and myself, celebrating the successes in our students' reading growth as well as making explicit learning goals for our students as we prepare for 2022.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work towards achieving learning success for all of our students.

Melissa Gatt  
Literacy Leader

# Congratulations!

Congratulations Melissa Gatt our Teaching and Learning Leader on your recognition as a leader in Science Technology Engineering and Maths. Melissa has been invited to be part of the educational panel and a guest speaker at the [The Age Schools Summit](#) (23<sup>rd</sup> March, Melbourne Convention Centre). This invitation is an acknowledgement and an indication of respect Melissa Gatt has in the educational platform of Stem Education Melbourne, Victoria.

Mary Oski - Director of Learning (MACS) and Shelly Waldron (STEM Education MACS and Monash University) put Melissa forward as a panel member to discuss STEM education.



Outstanding teachers at St Peter's Epping.

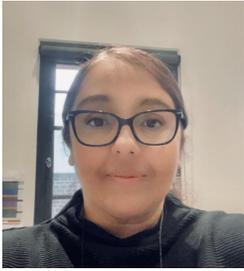
## Celebrating powerful and engaging teachers

- What are the biggest challenges in today's classrooms?
- Have we got the balance right between admin and teaching?
- Strategies for connecting and enriching the disengaged
- How can technology be used to enhance learning outcomes?

## STEM at St Peter's



## Introducing Sara Brundell



Hi St Peter's Community,

My name is Sara Brundell and I have had the privilege of being a part of the St Peter's school community since 2008. Throughout the many years that I have been working here I have had various teaching roles across the levels and multiple additional roles such as Level Leader, Middle School Literacy Leader and Assistant to Learning and Teaching. This year I have taken on a new role as Wellbeing and Education and Faith Leader.

I believe that relationships and community connections are the foundations for success. I enjoy working with the St Peter's School community in a variety of ways to support and develop successful learners. I believe that a true connection to others builds a basis for students to be successful contributors to their community both now and in the future.

At home I have two children, Nathan who has just completed Year 12 and Lachlan who is completing Year 9. Together, with my husband Michael, we enjoy ten pin bowling, going to watch Melbourne Storm play in the NRL and of course watching our favourite football/soccer team Melbourne City!

## What's On

### Important Dates to Remember

Keep up to date with what's happening at school with the community calendar on our website. Scroll down on our homepage to keep up to date with upcoming events at school. <https://www.stprepp.catholic.edu.au/>

#### Report a School Absence

If you know that your child is going to be away in advance please send an email to their class teacher or visit our school website and click the Quick Links tab to fill out the [Report an Absence form](#).

If it is an unexpected absence please ring the front office on 9401 1157 and let Claire or Deb know.



### Feedback

We are always looking for ways to improve our school community - please email our principal Mrs Angela Tonkin if you have suggestions or feedback you would like to share. Thank you

[atonkin@stprepp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:atonkin@stprepp.catholic.edu.au)

All emails will be acknowledged.



### *Have your contact details changed?*

Please don't forget to inform the school office if your personal contact details need updating, phone numbers, address, email etc. It is important we are able to contact either parent / guardian in the event of an emergency and will ensure communications are directed to the correct contact.

An email can be sent to [office@stprepp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@stprepp.catholic.edu.au)

## EXTEND OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE.



### BOOK 14 DAYS IN ADVANCE TO SAVE MONEY!

Did you know that if you book 14 days or more in advance, you can save money? With plenty of time still left this term, now is a great time for families to book early and secure the early bird rate.

### ENROLMENT IS EASY AND FREE

We understand plans can change right at the last minute and that's okay. Whether you book in advance or at the last minute, Extend is here to help! We recommend that all families enrol. Enrolling is free, easy and ensures we have the right information to safely care for your child and... did we mention it's free?

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