Dear Parents and Families,

**Beginning of the Year Mass** Thanks to all who attended our beginning of the School Year St. Patrick’s School Mass, with celebrent Fr. Gary Jones. The children sang beautifully and our thanks is extended to Miss Driscoll for her organization and preparation of the children in their various roles. A special thanks to Fr. Gary and Sr. Kathleen for their support on the day.
It was wonderful to have so many parents, families and friends join us back at school for a morning tea to co-celebrate our commencement of the new school year and celebrate Sr. Kathleen’s Golden Jubilee.
It is our intention to celebrate each new term with a Mass at St. Patrick’s Church. These will be advertised in both the School Newsletter and the Parish Bulletin.
We look forward to your continued support throughout the year.

**Bulldogs Read Literacy Program 2017** As mentioned in our last newsletter, this year we are very excited to announce our School’s involvement in the Bulldogs Read Literacy Pilot Program.
The program, aimed at giving middle primary students an opportunity to participate in reading and writing workshops, activities and events in conjunction with the Western Bulldogs Football Club, and primary schools in the Ballarat region, will commence this Wednesday 15th February with a Family evening hosted by the Ballarat City Library.
Families of the lucky participants will meet at the Library on Wednesday 15th at 6:00pm – 7:00pm and enjoy learning more about what the program has on offer for our students this year.
The official start of the program will be on Monday 20th February at the Ballarat Library from 11:45am -1:45pm. We are looking forward to working in partnership with the Western Bulldogs players and the Ballarat City Library.

**2017 Parent Information Evening** On **Tuesday 21st February** St. Patrick’s School extends a warm invitation to attend an information evening to give parents and caregivers an insight into their children’s learning experiences in 2017.
This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from our staff about some new teaching and learning opportunities which will be offered at St. Patrick’s in 2017.
Parents and caregivers are invited to gather in our school hall at 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start, followed by time in individual classrooms. We aim to be finished at 7:00pm.
As educators, we know that children learn best when they are feel supported and valued by all. With this in mind, we aim to ensure that teachers and families work in partnership together to promote positive learning opportunities and ensure their children achieve success.
At St. Patrick’s school, we value these partnerships and aim to nurture and promote positive home / school relationships throughout your child’s learning journey with us.
We look forward to seeing you all there.

**Ballan Autumn Festival**
The Ballan Autumn Festival is an annual celebration of local culture, creativity and community. It’s one of the largest events in the Moorabool Shire; 2015 attendance was over 8,000 visitors. This year St. Patrick’s School is excited to be participating in this local event. This event will be held on **19 March 2017**, in the main street of Ballan. The festival will have a full entertainment line-up, and the highlight of the festival is the grand parade and float competition: celebrating local community groups, schools and organisations that make up our local community. This year’s theme is ‘Our Pioneering Days’.
Please save the date for this fabulous event and look out for more information over the coming weeks about our involvement at a school level.

Please read the newsletter thoroughly as you will continue to see exciting events happening over the coming weeks! Have a great week!

Kind regards, **Bambi Afford**
News from the Rooms

Year F/1/2 We are all settling well into the school year and are starting to develop routines. All the children are looking after our new foundation children, and are being great leaders. Children all took home readers last night. Please note reader bags will need to come to school on Mondays only, to be changed for the following week. We have looked at our classroom norms and we are beginning to look at what makes us good learners.

Spelling for grade 1/2 children will begin in week 5. We celebrated Sienna's birthday today, we hope you had a nice day. I hope you all have a great week.

Student of the week: Kurt Newman for being an outstanding role model to other children in the class.

Year 3/4 Grade 3/4 have all settled well into the new school year and are enjoying being in our very big classroom. We have 14 students in our class, 9 lovely boys and 5 beautiful girls.

Our class norms for the year have been established and we are working hard to stay on track.

As part of our learning this term we are looking at having a growth mindset. Some of our sayings are, ‘I can do it’, ‘I’ll try my best’, ‘Oops, I made a mistake but I’ll try again,’ ‘My brain is smart and it wants to learn’ and ‘I won’t give up.’

Year 5/6 “In class we have been doing a personal profile where we have been drawing ourselves and then looking in the newspaper for words that describe us and adding them to our project. Our profiles will be displayed in the classroom.” Emily Murphy

“Sport is really enjoyable and we are preparing for both our twilight sports and Bacchus Marsh sports day. Mrs Afford is a great sports teacher”. Amy Conroy

“We are really enjoying having Mrs Zelencich teaching in our classroom this week. She is a great teacher and we are making her feel very welcome”. Mia Fitchie

LIBRARY TIMES FOR STUDENTS

Library will be held weekly for all students.

The Year 3/4 Class will attend library every Monday and the F/1/2 and 5/6 classes will attend library on a Tuesday.

Please make sure children bring their books on library bags on the appropriate days.
We wish Sienna Muir and Cheryl Sadler many happy returns as they celebrate their birthday today and we wish Anna Stott a happy birthday for last weekend.

We welcome back our dynamic P and F Committee - Leisa Conroy, Jamie Turner and Sarah Sawicki. Your support and ideas are always welcome. Please feel free to contact girls directly or via the school office.

Our 2017 School Advisory Council Members are Kellee Frazer, Emma Busuttil, Narelle Conroy, Jamie Lamb and Bambi Afford. We thank them for the wonderful contribution they make at St Patrick’s Primary school.

Weekend Mass Times

DUNNSTOWN, SATURDAY 6.30 P.M., GORDON, SUNDAY 8.45 A.M., BALLAN, SUNDAY 10.30 A.M.

Sr Kathleen is celebrating her Golden Jubilee for her Profession in February. To acknowledge this wonderful achievement, a morning tea will be held after 10:30 am Mass at Ballan on Sunday, 19th February. All welcome. Please bring a plate to share.
Upcoming Events: St Patrick’s Gordon

- SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ORDERS DUE BACK TO SCHOOL OR TO BE ORDERED ONLINE BY 16TH FEBRUARY.
- Tuesday 21st February - Parent information evening - at 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start, followed by time in individual classrooms. We aim to be finished at 7:00pm.
- 22nd February - Story Time for pre schoolers at St. Patrick’s School Library from 9am—10 am. This will be held every 2nd Wednesday.
- Tuesday 28th February - Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day
- Wednesday 1st March - Ash Wednesday Mass at St Patrick’s Church. Time to be confirmed.
- Friday 3rd March - Twilight Sports 4:30 pm - 8 pm at St Patrick’s School. A lovely social evening for all families and children.
- Friday 10th March - District School Sports at Mason’s Reserve, Bacchus Marsh.
- Friday 17th March - St. Patrick’s Day Mass and combined schools celebrations at St. Patrick’s in Gordon. Mass 10:00am followed by Fun Day at School.
- Sunday 19th March - BALLAN AUTUMN FESTIVAL - (SAVE THE DATE) Theme - “Our pioneering days”. Inglis Street, Ballan.
- Friday 31st March - School Photos for all children and staff.
- The Foundation Students will have all Wednesday’s at home in Term 1.
- TERM 1 DATES - Thursday 2nd February to Friday 31st March. School Holidays 3rd April - 17th April. School resumes on Tuesday 18th April.
- PUBLIC HOLIDAY - Tuesday 25th April
- ICY POLES AVAILABLE IN TERM 1 ON A FRIDAY FOR 50 cents
- Scholastic Book Fair will be held at St Patrick’s School on 24th and the 26th April.
- ZUMBA Classes have resumed every Monday of school term in St Patrick’s School Hall - 9:30—10:15am.

St Patrick’s College - Scholarships for Years 7, 10 & 11. Applications close 19th February. Tours: Friday mornings.

Contact Caitlin Bennett 5331 1688 or cben-nett@stpats.vic.edu.au to book.
**Working with Children Check**

We ask that all volunteers within St Patrick’s Primary school have a current Working with children Check and supply a copy of the check to the school for our records. The Act defines children as anyone under the age of 18.

Child-related work involves contact with a child that is unsupervised, direct and a part of the person’s duties. Child-related work is an activity undertaken in any of the services, bodies or places referred to in the Act as ‘occupational categories’.

You do need a Check if you meet ALL 6 criteria listed below.

1. You are an adult working with under 18 year olds.
2. You are working as one of the following:
   - an employee
   - a self-employed person or an independent contractor
   - a volunteer
   - a supervisor of child employees (where the child is under 15 years of age) pursuant to the Child Employment Act 2003
   - a participant in practical training through an educational or vocational course
   - a participant in unpaid community work under a court order
   - an officer of a body corporate
   - a member of a committee of management of an unincorporated body
   - a member of a partnership
3. Your work involves direct contact with children, which means you are able to talk face-to-face or have physical contact with children.
4. Your contact with children is part of your duties i.e. not incidental to your work.
5. Your contact with children is not directly supervised by another person.

Direct supervision means immediate and personal supervision. It is possible for the person supervising the contact with children to leave the room briefly for example to take a phone call.

The online application is available at the following website.

http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

---

**FORMS**

Can all permission forms please be returned at your earliest convenience to the school office.

If you think you may be eligible for either Conveyance or have a current EMA card, please contact Julie at the school office.
As school starts parents are always eager to know how their child is settling in and often need reassurance from teachers and information about the details of the school day. The parenting article gives parents 15 question starters to help have meaningful conversations with their children and give a multi-faceted window their child's school life.

Moving beyond asking, “What did you do at school?”

It helps to take conversations and your questions in different directions to get a multi-faceted window into your child’s school life but also an indication of your child’s interests, social skills and welfare. Here are some examples of question starters that may prompt different responses from kids about their time at school.

1. Tell me what made you laugh today?
2. Who did you play with at recess?
3. Did you do anything that was brave?
4. If I spoke to your teacher, what would she tell me about you?
5. What did your teacher talk about today?
6. Is there anyone in your class who needs to be in time out?
7. Where’s the best place to play at school?
8. Tell me one good thing that happened to you today?
9. Who were you nice/kind/friendly to today?
10. Did anyone push your buttons today?
11. What did you do that you were proud of/happy with today?
12. What’s something you learned with a friend today?
13. What’s your teacher’s most important rule?
14. If today was a musical instrument what would it be? Why?
15. If you were a teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

It is not only amidst our joys and hopes, but also in our grief and anguish, Lord that you are with us. Sustain us today in your love.
PRESCHOOL STORY TIME
St. Patrick’s School Library Gordon

Come and share the wonder of books with us. Preschool Story Time is 45 mins of fun stories and songs with a free fruit snack provided.

Every 2nd Wednesday from 9.00am to 9.45am
Commencing February 22nd 2017

This is a free fortnightly event & no booking is required

Contact the school on 6388 9495 for further information
www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Find us on Facebook at St. Patrick’s Primary School Gordon

ST. PATRICK’S SCHOOL GORDON
LIVE, LOVE, LEARN

Mondays 9:30am-10:15am
(school terms only)

Hall @ St. Patrick’s Primary School, Gordon
$10 per person

*Everyone welcome – beginners to advanced
*Children welcome but at own responsibility, a play area will be available
*Call Emma on 0438 077 154 or Erin on 0419 524 188 for enquiries
HAVE YOUR SAY!
On a modern multi-function Scouts facility

Scouts Victoria and 1st Ballan Scout Group are excited to lead community consultation on a new Scout facility, in Ballan.

1st Ballan Scout Group is seeking community input as to how development may also service broader community needs in the region, in keeping with the values of the scouting movement.

- Primary needs
- Secondary needs
- Tertiary needs

1st Ballan Scout Group current and future needs
Youth in Ballan and surrounds
Community needs in Ballan and surrounds (for example, meeting rooms to service business, education, health, sports, social and cultural activities)

The results will inform an architectural brief for the form and function of the building.

You are invited to submit your views as to how this development may best fit your needs.

Submissions can be made in the following formats:

Online Survey - https://surveyhero.com/c/25f3d3c

Written submission on the flip side can be mailed to PO Box 39 Ballan

More detailed written submissions can be emailed to: john@fabreplus.com.au

Submissions close: 20th March 2017

Come to a public meeting
27th February 2017 at 7pm
Ballan Mechanics Hall