

Concern

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17th May 2023

St Patrick's School Vision

To provide quality education for our students and the wider community

To provide a faith filled learning experience for our students

That all staff will have a shared belief and understanding regarding effective teaching and learning practices.



The Importance of Dads Reading With their Children



One of the most well-known facts in education is that, amongst the student body, there are a greater number of reluctant male readers than female readers. This, naturally, extends into adulthood, sometimes leading to the unfortunate situation where a boy may perceive reading as 'something girls do'.

The value of a dad reading to his children has been proven through research. Consider the following (from: <https://www.smh.com.au/opinion/story-time-with-dad--can-do-wonders-for-a-childs-development-20151001-gjyp6h.html>)

In our research, with 500 low-income fathers, we found that when fathers read frequently to their children at a young age, this had an impact on their language development one year later and their literacy development two years later. We were quite surprised by this finding.

What was even more striking, was that mothers' book reading did not have this significant impact on child development. So, what's so special about dads reading to their children?

When we looked more closely at what was happening during book reading interactions, we found that fathers used more abstract and complex language.

When sharing a book with their child, they would often link events in the book to a child's own experience. For example, when a ladder was discussed in the book, many fathers mentioned the last time they had used a ladder to climb up on the roof or use it for their work. Mothers did not do this. Mothers focused more on the details in the book and often asked children to label or count objects or identify colours.

It seems that fathers make different and unique contributions to children's development when reading to them. Fathers are often praised for engaging their children in rough and tumble play and this type of play is indeed beneficial to children.

However, with many children these days, in particular boys, struggling with reading, it is important to have more fathers reading to their children. Often parents do not realise how much children learn from their parents' behaviour.

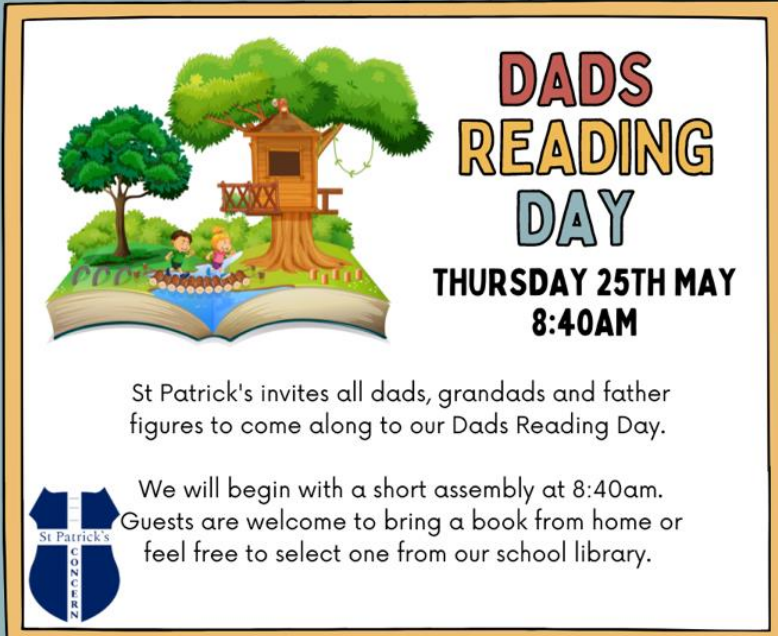
Watching a father read to his child sends a very strong message that he is interested in spending time with his child and engages his child in one of the most rewarding and beneficial activities for children's development.

Sharing a book not only promotes children's language, literacy and cognitive development, it also builds relationships. What better way to end the day with your dad reading a funny book about farting monsters before you go to bed!

We are so lucky at St. Patrick's that our students have such incredible parents who will do anything to help their children- so dads, grab a book and get reading today!

Dads Reading Day


On Thursday 25th of May, all dads/grandads/father figures are welcome to come to the school for our Dads Reading Day, commencing at 8.40am. Bring a book from home or borrow from our school library and enjoy some reading time with your child/ren. I know our dads are busy, so fear not- you will be on your way by about 9.00am to continue your day. Hope you can make it!



**DADS
READING
DAY**
**THURSDAY 25TH MAY
8:40AM**

St Patrick's invites all dads, grandads and father figures to come along to our Dads Reading Day.

We will begin with a short assembly at 8:40am. Guests are welcome to bring a book from home or feel free to select one from our school library.



Congratulations Rex!



Well done to Rex Hewson, our latest recipient of Patrick the Python for showing our MJR values! Rex has been showing great maturity, leadership and a willingness to go out of his way to help others. Brilliant effort, Rex!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

A huge congratulations to Meg Wilkie, Matthew James Hunt and Ceiana Obillo, who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We are very proud of them for the mature way they conducted themselves in their preparation and on the day.

Merit Assembly (Year 3/4 Performance)- Friday 19th May, 9.00am

Please join us at 9.00am on Friday 19th May for a thrilling Assembly performance from our Year 3/4 Class, as well as seeing merit awards presented to some hard workers. Hope to see you here!

Merit Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students will receive a merit award at this Friday's Assembly:

Year 1/2: Sarah Aung, Samuel McGill, Miles Wilkie

Year 3/4: Fergus Hewson, Maggie Bushell, Kardy-Haze Kaea and Nicolaas Stassen

Year 5/6: Julia Myopapa, Hser Eh Ku, Brayden Meharry

Whole School Family Mass- Sunday 21st May

We encourage all families (you don't need to be Catholic) to come along to our Whole School Family Mass this Sunday 21st May at 10.30am. The Mass will be followed by a free sausage sizzle lunch. I know that lots of families have many other weekend commitments, but our last Whole School Family Mass was quite successful and enjoyed by all who attended, so I hope you can make it. An information note has gone home regarding this event.

School Photo Day- Tuesday 23rd May

Get those shoes polished and the hair trimmed- it's almost school photos day again! Information has gone home regarding photos day, but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Helen or myself in the office. Please remember that students (Year 1-6) **must** be in winter uniform, with the jumper and the boys in pants please, as in the image below.



P&F Meeting- Wednesday 17th May

A reminder that all parents are welcome to attend our Parents and Friends Meetings- these are great opportunities to meet other parents and to find out more about the many ways our busy P&F contribute to our school. The meeting will be at 7.00pm tonight in the school library- it would be great to see some new faces, so please come along.

Art Exhibition- Save the Date (Friday 13th October) and Art Exhibition Sub-Committee

While it might still be a long way off, I encourage all parents to add to their calendars our Art Exhibition on Friday 13th October. The talented Miss Altus is very excited to have a chance to showcase a range of student artwork, while we also look forward to being able to auction some very special larger pieces of art, created collaboratively by each class. The Art Exhibition will be an evening event (only for adults, not children) and promises to be a lovely night out. More information will be forthcoming closer to the date.

Miss Altus and our P&F are looking to put together a sub-committee of helpers, who would be willing to assist staff in preparing and coordinating this event. If you are interested in being part of this sub-committee, please let us know in the office.

National Simultaneous Storytime- Wednesday 24th May, 11.20am



All are welcome to call in to our school library to join with literally millions of people around the nation, who will all read the exact same book at the exact same time. We look forward to hearing the acclaimed story 'The Speedy Sloth'. All are welcome- we will start reading at 11.20am.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brett Wilkie'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Brett Wilkie
Principal