

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

17th March 2020

When "I" is replaced with "We," even "Illness" becomes "Wellness."

- Malcolm X

Attentiveness
Hospitality
and
Compassion



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From the Principal

As people who are compassionate we will strive to develop a school culture where staff, students and parents reach out to others in our College community, wider community and the world. - Star of the Sea Catholic College Vision and Mission statement

We seem to be getting bombarded with messages about Coronavirus. I feel I need to check the news every hour or so just in case I miss the latest directive from the Federal Government. I don't want to turn up somewhere one day only to find no one else is there because they all read the email that I didn't!

One of the things that the Coronavirus pandemic is forcing us to do is think about others and not just ourselves. We might think that we are fit and healthy so if we get the coronavirus, who cares? We'll get over it and life goes on. And while that may be true, if we think this way then we are thinking about ourselves and not about those in our community who may not get over it as quickly due to pre-existing

conditions, or may not get over it at all.

We might think to ourselves that it is unfair that we are not able to fly over and watch Carlton once again lose the opening match of the season. But if we think this way we are thinking of ourselves and not of the Australian health system that would struggle to cope should too many people fall ill with the virus in a short space of time.

We might think to ourselves, "Crikey! I'd better stock up on toilet paper and baked beans in case I have to go into self-isolation. I'll buy more than I need. Others can sort themselves out." But if we think this way we are thinking of ourselves, and not of the elderly and marginalised who may not be able to join the rush of shoppers to purchase these items, or may not even have the money to buy 2 weeks worth of groceries.

If we are going to be a community that reaches out to others, then we need to realise that our actions affect others.

Coronavirus has reminded us just how interconnected the world has become. A virus from China has led to Tasmanians wondering if buying their football membership was worth it. Cancelling major events has led to cancellation of hotel bookings which lead to hospitality operators wondering if they can stay afloat. Should schools or childcare centres have to shut down then some parents may need to stay home from work which will in turn mean that some businesses need to shut down for a short time, or reduce hours. And on and on it goes.

The coronavirus may be very inconvenient to us, but it isn't about us as individuals. It's about us as a community. And the only way communities can operate effectively is when we continually put the needs of others in front of our own desires.

**Mr Richard Chapman
Principal**

CALENDAR

Wednesday 18th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No Setup until further noticeYMCA Sessions
Thursday 19th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No Primary Assembly until further notice
Friday 20th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Geoff Goodfellow visit

Star of the Sea Catholic College acknowledges the Leterremarener people as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school stands.

Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart

Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality



This year World Water Day is on the 22nd of March. It is about water and climate change and the inseparable link between the two. Here in Tasmania, we may be on water restrictions but if we use this precious resource wisely, there will be plenty for all of us. Some mainland towns and many places around the world are not as fortunate. So we all must play our role in adapting to the water effects of climate change.

World Water Day is an opportunity to learn more about issues related to water and to take action to use water more wisely.

Here are 5 easy ways to bring change:

1. Check out the World Water Day website
2. Watch a water documentary
3. Plant a tree
4. Take 5-minute showers
5. Turn off the tap

God of all,

Hear us as we pray
for water fresh and pure for all.
And guide us to use your water
wisely and well,
ensuring that all your creation
can share in your bounty.

Money Line is happening soon...

To support the wonderful work Caritas does for the most vulnerable people in Australia and in our world we will be hold our inter-house money line on **Tuesday 7th April**. So to make this a really successful day, it's time to begin hunting down and collecting all your loose change. Remember our change helps change lives.

Stars of the Week - 12th March 2020

Kinder	Alby Hawkins	For clever number work.
Prep	Temprance Mather	For always being helpful to others.
Grade 1	Declan Anlezark	For consistent effort with all classwork. Well done Declan.
Grade 2/3	Jai Jacobs	For his fantastic effort with creating his Word Search during Spelling Time.
Grade 4/5	Leo Linley	For his excellent effort in completing all work.
Grade 5/6	Erin Vanderzwan	For always helping others during learning activities and outside play.

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CNR. FRIEND & WILLIAM STREETS,
GEORGE TOWN 7253

RE: COVID-19 update

Dear Parents and Carers.

The purpose of this letter is to provide families with an update into Catholic Education Tasmania's response to the COVID-19 outbreak. We are trying our best to provide clear and regular information to parents when it comes to hand.

How will Star of the Sea make its decisions?

Any decision made by Star of the Sea regarding the COVID-19 outbreak will be made from advice from Catholic Education Tasmania, who in turn receive advice from the Department of Health. We do not employ any doctors or experts in pandemics at our school, so we will be advised by the Government departments.

What is happening at Star of the Sea?

Star of the Sea Catholic College is open as per normal. We will be conducting regular classes with regular class structures. Recess and lunch will be as per normal.

What has been cancelled?

Almost all activities outside of normal classes have been cancelled. This includes excursions, the Catholic Education Week Mass, Breakfast Club, interschool sports, Parents and Friends meetings and our SetUp early learning program. There are some individual events that we will make decisions on on a case-by-case basis.

What else are we doing?

We will continue to promote good hygiene with our students, including regular washing of hands (we have provided soap and our primary teachers are making an effort to remind students regularly) and we are cleaning all of our surfaces across the school more regularly. Like a lot of other places we are struggling to get hand sanitizer and have it on back-order.

Will schools shut down?

It is impossible for us to know whether schools will shut down in the near future. We will continue to teach as if they won't. The Director of Public Health has suggested schools should remain open as, at the moment, shutting them may cause more issues. If schools do shut down, Star of the Sea Catholic College is looking into ways that we can continue education for our students. Part of this is the roll out of our Compass Parent Portal sooner than our original plans. More information about this will be sent home tomorrow.

When should I keep my children home?

Your children should stay at home if:

- They are unwell
- They have been advised by a doctor to stay home
- They have been advised by the Department of Health to stay at home
- If they have a family member or close contact who has tested positive for COVID-19
- If they have been advised to undergo testing for COVID-19
- They have returned from overseas and are required to self-isolate for 14 days

Otherwise, children should attend school as per normal. If a student has a family member or close contact who has been asked to be tested for COVID-19 or has chosen to be tested, that student can still attend school until the results of the test are made known.

What if I suspect my child has COVID-19?

If you suspect that you or your child may have COVID-19 you can ring the Public Health Hotline on 1800 761 738 or you can ring your GP. Do not go into the doctor's surgery as most surgeries have certain times for testing.

Attached to today's newsletter is a letter from Dr Gerard Gaskin, the Executive Director of Catholic Education Tasmania to all families in Catholic Education.

If you are wondering how best to talk to your children about the COVID-19 outbreak, you are encouraged to watch the School TV Coronavirus special report. The link to this is:

https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus

Star of the Sea catholic College will continue to keep parents updated with any new information. Any further queries or concerns about the response to COVID-19 can be directed to myself through the College office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Richard Chapman

Principal

17th March 2020

SetUp for Success

SetUp, our Early Learning program is postponed until further notice.

Setup last week it was a beautiful sunny day for lots of fun in the sun. Inside we were developing our fine motor skills and learning about shapes and colours.

SETUP
for
SUCCESS



Parents and Friends - Cancelled until further notice

Last Tuesday saw our first Parents and Friends meeting. Matters discussed were:

- What Parents and Friends is all about
- Mother's Day Stall
- The possibility of a bigger event run by the P&F to bring our community together

We have two more meetings on Thursday 26th March at 3:00pm and Wednesday 8th April at 2:00pm. We are mixing up the times and days of our meetings as, although we have a good number of people who are happy to join the committee, not all of them can make it at the same time. We hope by the end of term to have been able to have an AGM where a Chair and Secretary of the group can be elected.

Progress Reports

Prep –10 Progress reports have been sent home with students today. Students who are not at school will have them posted home.

Fire Education Week

This week our Primary students will learn about the importance of knowing what to do in the event of a fire. The lessons will run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Information provided by the Fire Service is included overleaf.

Shout Out Week 6, 2020

Student's Name

Finley Upston
Lillian Mather
Darcie Power
Rilee Brown
Hunter Carnie
Malakai Hyland
Rilee Brown
Lindsie Barratt
Rilee Brown
Danica Sweet
Thomas Singline
Jessie Anelzark
Indiana Cartwright
Shekinah MacFarlane
Kirra-Lyla Harris
Henry Pride
Rilee Brown
Grace Mahnken
Isaac Leslie
Ruby Davidson
Dyson Bromley
Temprance Mather
Macklin Grimsey-Boersma
Arthur Millen
Macklin Grimsey-Boersma
Connor Judd
Danica Sweet

Reason

Being able to settle into class quickly.
Packing up sand pit toys.
Being such a happy class member.
Listening straight away.
Being such a happy class member.
Listening straight away to his teacher.
Being quickly ready to listen and learn.
Following all instructions all day.
Tidying up really well.
Learning to write her name.
Listening Straight away.
Packing up the sandpit.
Packing up the sandpit.
Attending to morning prayer duties respectfully.
Her great Drawing of others.
Listening straight away to his teacher.
Quick Listening.
Excellent Literacy work.
Good library thinking skills.
Working hard on her recount task.
His thoughtful prayers.
Listening straight away.
Good library thinking skills.
Listening straight away.
Reading his notes on the recorder.
Wonderful manners and having a go in music today.
Beautiful Dancing.

Shout Out Winners:

*Macklin Grimsey-Boersma -
\$2 Canteen Voucher

*Connor Judd - Outdoor
Game for the Class.

*Danica Sweet - Select a class
game

PBS Focus:

We are engaged when we play
by the rules.



Holy Communion

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

Children's Sacramental Program



Confirmation

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish is starting the Children's Sacramental Program for 2020 shortly.

If your child is in Year 3, or higher, and they wish to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation, please contact Mrs Nora Wood on 0402 113 546 to register your interest.

Prep have been super busy this term learning about letters & numbers and testing out our costumes'



Mother's Day Stall

Mother's Day is fast approaching and this year our Mother's Day stall will be held on Thursday May 7th.

The stall will provide an opportunity for our Kinder to Year 10 students to purchase gifts for their Mother's, Grandmother's and other important women in their lives. Items will range in price from 50c to \$5.

We would be grateful for any gifts you may be able to donate to the stall such as:

- Any suitable store bought items
- Handmade items
- Cellophane, gift bags, ribbon etc
- Cash which the Parents and Friends Group can use to purchase items for the stall
- Glass jars with or without lids

Items can be donated at the office any time between now and the end of term 1.

Thank you for your support.



Happy
Mother's
Day

Mother's Day

Vinnies Easter Raffle



This week, raffle ticket books will be sent home to each family

for our annual

Mini Vinnies Easter Raffle.

The tickets will be \$1 each

and all funds raised will go directly to

St Vincent de Paul.

Thank you in advance for your support



Tickets for

www.tfseducation.com.au

A firefighter from the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) is visiting our school this week to present a Home Fire Safety Program to our Prep to Grade 6 students.

Kindergarten students, whilst not receiving a structured lesson, can expect a visit from the firefighter who will leave some free fun activities for the students to complete.

The age appropriate program is designed to raise fire awareness in children and includes fun in class activities, videos, activity books, website www.tfseducation.com.au and giveaways.

Parents and other family members are also encouraged to participate by reading the information and assisting your child with the after school activities.

The TFS aims to deliver appropriate fire safety education to every primary school child in Tasmania and is part of the TFS's ongoing commitment to create a fire safe Tasmania.

Key Fire Safety Messages include,

1. Wake up - Install a smoke alarm in every bedroom
2. Plan and practice a home fire escape plan with the whole family
3. In a fire crawl low and go, go, go to the nearest exit
4. In an emergency call triple zero
5. Keep flammable material at least two metres from the heater
6. If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, rock and roll
7. Keep matches and lighters away from children
8. Cooking - Turn it off before you turn away
9. Cool a burn under cold water for at least 20 minutes
10. Most house fires can be avoided. Make your home fire safe

More information www.tfseducation.com.au



**Tasmania
Fire Service**

EARLY CHILDHOOD

TFS receives regular requests from preschools and child care centres asking for firefighters to visit and teach children about home fire safety.

TFS does not deliver structured fire safety programs to children below primary school age. This decision was made based on research carried out by the Mental Health Services of the Royal Children's Hospital and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in Melbourne. This research indicated that:

- Children under the age of five had low retention of the information they had learned; and
- In some children, the information had actually stimulated their curiosity about fire and they had begun to play with fire.

TFS believes that parents and caregivers are the best people to make sure that very young children are safe from fire. To help with this, TFS has a fire safety website for parents, carers, teachers and students

TFS has also developed resources for young children that introduce them to the friendly firefighter characters that they will meet when they receive the School Fire Education Program including a colouring book, a money box shaped like a fire truck, and stickers with home fire safety messages for the whole family.



16 March 2020

To: Families
Catholic Education Tasmania

Dear Families

We have prepared this non-exhaustive list to assist you in supporting your children with some social distancing practices and to assist you in some decision making around children who are ill.

We can't stress highly enough:

- You must keep your children at home if they are sick.
- If your child has a fever, sore throat, runny nose, dry cough., keep them home (but not with elderly relatives or friends).
- You will need a plan for who is going to look after the children if they become sick or if schools close. Elderly relatives are not suitable as the risk to them climbs especially over 60 years of age.
- Children are highly effective at transferring germs and can be contagious even when they appear well.
- The data we have to date says that children will be fine. There have been no reported deaths in under 10s as we have seen with some some infections e.g. chicken pox and Hepatitis A, these are much milder in most young children than in most adults and it appears to be true for Covid-19.
- Some children have been sick enough to require hospitalisation, however it is the elderly that are most at risk, especially those over 80 years of age.
- Treat minor cold and/or flu symptoms just as you usually would, however if there has been overseas travel in the past 14 days, contact with a known case or you have concerns about breathing, **STAY AT HOME** and **USE THE PHONE** i.e. call your GP, this way they can give you the most appropriate, current advice.
- Teach your children (and yourself) about keeping their hands below their shoulders, so they avoid touching their face, particularly their mouth, eyes and nose, as these are easy entry points for germs.
- Reconsider indoor gatherings for birthday parties or any gatherings at present, particularly large ones.
- Teach your children that, just for now, no shaking hands, hugs, kisses or high fives from friend.

- Be mindful of what you say and what children hear. Little ears pick up lots of conversations and little eyes should not see news reports.
- Our children know when we are stressed, so please remain calm and reasonable.
- If your children are old enough, talk to them about what is happening, but filter the news reports and be aware that there are different opinions and some seriously fake news out there.
- Anxiety is also highly contagious (the great toilet paper shortage!) so try and ensure your children don't catch this from you.
- Don't be scared. Be prepared.

At this time let us pray for each other and for those that are ill.

Yours in Christ



Gerard Gaskin
Executive Director
Catholic Education Tasmania