

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

28th April 2020

From the Principal

Our Vision and Mission statement states, as one of our goals, that we will “work in partnership with parents in the education and socialisation of students.” As we journey into our *Learning at Home* program this goal has taken on a whole new meaning! When it was originally written there were no thoughts of a global pandemic. However now that there is perhaps our goal is more important than ever.

I don't think it is any surprise when I say that some students will thrive on learning at home, whilst others will hate it and long for the day they can re-enter the classroom and school with all of its routines and social life.

Similarly, some parents and carers will thrive facilitating learning at home as it will allow them to spend more time with their children as well as getting a grasp on what children are actually learning at school. But of course some parents and carers will find it difficult for many reasons, the least of which may be that they are trying to work from home themselves whilst trying to facilitate their children's learning.

Some of our parents and carers may have always dreamed of home-schooling their children but their own work prevented them from doing that, or may have always had in the back of their mind that they wanted to be a teacher. Learning at Home may give them a small taste of what that's about. But it may also give a taste of what our teachers do every day (and quite often into the evenings) to ensure a quality education.

Because teaching is not just about delivering a lesson. It's also about planning and preparing materials for that lesson. It's about constantly reflecting on whether the aims of the lesson were met. It's about investigating whether students have learnt, how much they have learnt and how deep the learning is. It's about trying to balance time spent on individual aspects of the curriculum against covering the whole of the curriculum in the space of about 195 days. It's about marking work, giving feedback, looking at data, taking professional development opportunities, providing extra curricular activities, organising excursions, meeting deadlines, writing reports, attending meetings and making sure students with additional needs are able to access the curriculum.

In short, it's a very busy job. But of course it brings with it a lot of rewards, which is why teachers keep coming back. There are the day to day rewards of seeing students having a “lightbulb moment” as they pick up a concept, the longer term rewards as we look at our Year 10s at the end of the year and notice what fine young men and women they have become, and the even longer term rewards of having a past student come up to you in the street and thank you for how you helped them.

So, to all parents and carers out there who are facilitating *Learning at Home*, go easy on yourself. Just do the best you can do in your circumstance and, if only for a short time and in a different way, welcome to the club.

Mr Richard Chapman

Do all you can with
the means at your
disposal, and calmly
leave the rest to God.
- St Mary MacKillop
of the Cross

Attentiveness
Hospitality
and
Compassion



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

Religious Education and Faith Development

Hope and finding a new way of being...

This year has certainly been an Easter like no other. All the traditions and rituals we are so accustomed couldn't happen this year. There were no large family gatherings, no Easter Mass in community, no travel, no hugs and no last camping trip before winter sets in. Instead we have all experienced restrictions to our daily routines and celebrations. Coronavirus has brought sickness, death, unemployment and isolation for many around the globe.



In this time of uncertainty, like the disciples in the Easter story, we have felt a sense of loss and hope for the future. They had lost their leader and any hope that God would free his people. They were in 'lock down' fearing they would be arrested because they were followers of Jesus. Only the women dared to visit the tomb to anoint his body. And so it is at the tomb that this deep sense of loss becomes a celebration of life. Jesus defeats death and is very much present to his disciples. God had raised Jesus from death because God's love is more powerful than death.

In life's disappointments and upheavals a new hope springs from the Easter story. There is life and hope beyond what is happening at present. Like the disciples we are being challenged to think about what matters to us most and what are the life-giving events that will sustain us during this period? Easter is central in its invitation that calls us to grow more deeply in faith and hope.

Heart
Spirituality



Attentiveness
Hospitality

Project Compassion

This year due to school closure because of COVID19 we have not been able to run our annual inter house competition to raise important funds for Project Compassion. As you know Project Compassion supports the many men, women and children in Australia and around the world who live in poverty. Money raised goes towards giving people the education, skills and resources they need to escape hunger and poverty.

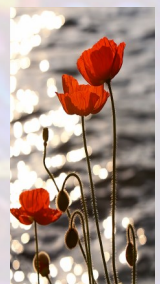
In your absence Mrs Siebert and I have held a coin scavenger hunt. We've managed to find money in classroom mission boxes, House competition boxes at the canteen, and even from some members of staff.

So as a College we have managed to raise **\$238.95**. That is pretty awesome! Thank you again for your generosity. Love only grows by sharing.

ANZAC Day

On Saturday we commemorated ANZAC Day where we remembered all those who had died in wars and conflicts around the world and had made the ultimate sacrifice. With grateful hearts we thank all those who gave their lives so that we are able to live in peace and freedom.

We pray for our world, which is facing a difficult
and challenging time
and pray that we work together to support
and care for each other.
May we always remember
to choose to live in peace with each other.



Learning from Home

Welcome to *Learning at Home*! Here are a couple of hints and tips to get you started:

- The work for the day is on Compass by 9am each morning. This week you'll get lots of emails and notifications reminding you it is there, but as time goes on these will start to disappear and you will know where the work is.
- It is helpful, especially for older students, to have a space set aside for them to do their work, along with a timetable for the day devised by you and your child.
- It will take us a week or so before we work out if the work we are setting is too much, not enough, or just right. So don't be too fussed if your child doesn't complete everything. It may just be a case that we haven't found that balance.
- Make use of the weekly Zoom meeting to check in with teachers, ask questions, or simply say hello. They are a good way to maintain contact.
- Most of our children with additional needs will be set work at their level. If you are having trouble finding this work, contact the school or Mrs Mac and we will hopefully be able to put you on the right track.
- And have fun! These weeks *Learning at Home* won't make or break your child's education, so don't get stressed about it! Just use it as a chance to get to know how your child is going academically and how you can assist.

Financial Assistance

Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you financially and you are concerned about paying fees? Well there is no need to worry. Star of the Sea Catholic College will offer support with fees to all families affected by the crisis. Simply contact Mrs Kathryn Condric at the school to find out how we can help.

Staff Movements

We congratulate Mrs Rebecca Britton who has been successful in her application for the ongoing Music teacher position here at Star of the Sea. Mrs Britton has already been working at our school for the last 2 terms and we look forward to her continuing her great work.

Enrolments for 2021

We would normally have a Kinder Information evening in early May and then begin our enrolment process after that, but that won't be happening this term! If you have children at our school already and would like to enrol a child in Kinder next year, simply pick up an enrolment form from our office, fill it in and return it to the office. In coming weeks we will be advertising more broadly for Kinder and Grade 7 enrolments for 2021.

Uniform Shop

Star of the Sea Uniform shop would like to advise parents that they will be open from 2.00pm - 4.00pm this and every Thursday, for any winter uniform requirements.

In keeping with the social distancing requirement, only one customer is permitted into the shop at a time. Seating is available for those who have to wait to be served.

Prayers and Thoughts

We keep in our prayers the family of Sheila Hayhurst who died on Good Friday. Mrs Hayhurst worked at Star of the Sea Catholic College in the 1970s.

*Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.
Amen.*

Awards Term 1 - 2020

Application to Learning

Kinder	Vanessa Linley
Prep	Macey Crick
Grade 1	Ashton Ratcliffe
Grade 2	Ruby McDonald
Grade 3	Maverick Watson
Grade 4	Leo Linley
Grade 5	Isabelle Anlezark
Grade 6	Belynda Hyland

Merit Awards

Year 7	Ashton Harrison	High achievement in all subject areas
	Maeve Lazdauskas	Effort and achievement in all subjects
	Tempress Tunks	Consistent application in all areas
	Nikiah Edwards	High achievement in all subjects
	Robert Tame	Positive attitude to learning
Year 8	Damien Thomas	Consistent application in all areas
	Jessica Boyd	Consistent application in all areas
	Dan Ungerhofer	Consistent application in all areas
	Molly Evans	Good work ethic and caring attitude towards others
Year 9	Azalea Lewis	High achievements in all areas
	Stella Hall	Consistent application in all areas
	Ella Vanderzwan	High achievement in all areas
	Jaxen Berne	Consistent application in all areas
Year 10	Brayden Ford	Effort and achievement in all areas
	Amber Youl	Effort and achievement in all areas
	Daniel Thomas	Consistent effort and application
	Briannah Burton	Effort and achievement in all areas
	Leah King	Consistent effort and application in most subjects



Mrs Hoffman is in the process of setting up a private Facebook page for our early years Setup for Success program.

Watch out for your invitation to join our page.

Suggested learning activities and provocations will be posted each Wednesday.

We look forward to seeing some photos of you playing with your children and trying out some of our activities.