

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

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From the Principal

We hear in the news of various countries around the world starting to wind back their COVID-19 restrictions. We even hear in our own country of different states starting to ease restrictions, allowing a few more things to go on. We hear whispers of AFL starting again and wonder what that might look like. We start to believe there is light at the end of the tunnel and things will slowly get back to normal.

But is that what we really want? Do we want things to get back to normal? On the surface we probably do, because what we knew beforehand seemed to be much better than what is going on at the moment. But in other ways, normal would be disappointing as it would mean we haven't learnt anything over the past few months, we haven't grown in any way.

Because we need to remember that *normal* included us having very busy lives, rushing around all the time, trying to fulfil all sorts of commitments. If nothing else, the last couple of months have given us the opportunity to slow down. We need to remember that *normal* included the unemployed in our country getting only a very small wage from Centrelink that meant a lot of them struggled to make ends meet. If nothing else, the increased wage for the unemployed has allowed many to save money for the first time in many a year. And we need to remember that *normal* included us not always being fully present to those around us. If nothing else the past couple of months has allowed us to really take notice of, and really listen to, various people in our lives, whether it be through our obligatory Zoom meetings or through helping our children with their schoolwork.

For some of us, *normal* included us not being very good with using computers or particular computer programs. I am sure there would be many people now, including our staff, who would say our IT skills have improved dramatically over the past couple of months because they have been forced to! Do we want to go back to *normal* where we didn't take advantage of this?

And we also have to ask ourselves after what we have experienced, "why not?" If working from home worked for some people in some professions, why can't they continue to do so? If doing things differently in our schools and our businesses seemed to make things better, why don't we continue doing them, either in part or fully?

As my mother would say, the "good ol' days" weren't that great. And if we are honest, there were probably some aspects of the time before COVID-19 restrictions that weren't that great either. As the community of Star of the Sea Catholic College, may we learn from what has been and be prepared to take the good parts of it as we move into the future.

Mr Richard Chapman
Principal

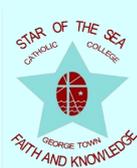
The good old days
are now.

- Tom Clancy

Attentiveness

Hospitality
and

Compassion



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

Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart

Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality



Mother's Day was first celebrated in Australia in 1924. Following the losses in World War 1, Sydney woman, Janet Heyden started the tradition of gift giving after noticing so many lonely, forgotten and aged mothers at Newington State hospital. Her tradition of honouring these mums with a card and a small gift caught on and soon families from around Australia were celebrating Mother's Day with their mums.

This is a time to honour mothers and all women who take on a motherly role. Thank you God for our mothers who have been so special throughout our lives and for the wonderful way they care for and nurture us. We are grateful for the unconditional love that mothers give.

Did you know that scientists at the Wisconsin University have discovered that a Mother's voice can be very comforting. Research showed that even hearing a mother's voice over the phone has the same effect as a hug. So on Sunday, let your mother know how much you love her!

We hold all mothers in our hearts and pray for God's special blessings on them.

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.



Parents and students
please join us

on

Thursday 7th May

@ 2.00pm

for our

Mothers Day Prayer

and

Primary Assembly

via Zoom

(Keep an eye on Compass for the code.)



Learning at Home

We have had some great responses with regards to our Learning at Home program, but we also realize it isn't perfect. Here are some tips for this week:

- A survey has been sent out via Compass for parents and students. We encourage as many people as possible to fill it out so we can hear your impression of how things are going and we can improve our program.
- Sometimes things can get a bit overwhelming with all of the different pieces of work and the different messages coming from different teachers! Usually we have subject time each day that everything can be broken down into, but at home you don't get that luxury. For our upper primary and secondary students, a handy tool might be to draw up a table every couple of days that looks like this:

SUBJECT	WORK	DUE DATE (if applicable)	I need help with this
Maths	pg 42	N/A	Yes
English	Finish questions	12th May	No
German	Watch YouTube	Already completed	No

In this way parents and students can keep track of what is needed to be completed and what has already been done.

- We are slowly working out when we have given too much work and not enough. If you can't get through everything as a family in your situation, that's alright. Just do your best.

Assemblies and Mothers Day

Today we held our first Secondary assembly for the term. On Thursday at 2:00pm we will hold our first Primary Assembly which will double as our Mother's Day prayer. We encourage all primary students, and all mothers, to join us via Zoom. Details will be on Compass before the day. Unfortunately we haven't worked out a way to offer our mothers a virtual Afternoon Tea!

Cross Country

We released information about our Virtual Cross Country last Friday on Compass and Facebook. We encourage everyone to get involved, whether it be running or walking. And it also provides a great opportunity to get outside during this time of isolation! And we don't have to worry about bad weather. Students can choose to do it on a day when the weather is good!

Flu Immunisations

Every year the school offers our staff the chance to have a flu immunisation. A number of staff will take up that opportunity tomorrow for their own benefit and the benefit of our College.

Cleaning of Playground Equipment

As we have students currently attending school it is important we still stick to good hygiene practices. With this in mind our playground equipment across the school is being cleaned twice a day, once before recess and once before lunch.