



**ST MARK'S
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Receptions celebrated Palm Sunday with Carys (Jesus) riding a donkey as her classrooms sang 'Hosanna'

A particular quiet in our unusual times. We stay with an Easter triumph.

There has been a particular quietness about the College this week. As families have decided to isolate in response to the COVID-19 challenge, the classes have become smaller. Teachers have been working with small groups of students or alternatively clicking computers to try and reach out to others at home. The teachers want the learning to continue. The students seem very keen to be involved. We are sharing our sense of purpose in the learning and the fun of discovery and the challenge of a new scholarship. However, what is underpinning this change is a very real concern about health and wellbeing, about what is normal and about what the next weeks will look like. What our week has become is lessons on line and small classes but for our families it has become about finances and the shelves at the supermarket. It's about how to manage sons and daughters at home for so long. It's about the value of every moment and not wanting to waste time. Our College is always about being together. That's where we get our sense of energy. That's where we get our spirit. Young people bring this St Mark's world to life. Gosh! It's quiet. So we are in unusual times.

My Thanks

I write with deep gratitude that people are responding with such care and dignity to these moments. Despite many staff working under extreme duress, due to the spectre of the COVID-19 virus, they have managed, inside two weeks, to completely reconfigure the way we will deliver the College's teaching and learning program. Alongside staff efforts our families have been in constant contact to create the connections and grow in the understanding of what is needed for this new experience. Students are a bit worried but they are robust and resilient and seem to bounce along. But they really are apprehensive and that is real. They seem to battle the unaccustomed uncertainty by trusting that things will be

okay. And of course things will be okay. I thank our community for the spirit of patience and tolerance.

Easter Time

Every year our young people are guided towards an Easter story that deals with the great themes of sacrifice and suffering, tragedy and triumph. We bring together a deep reverence for the Easter story. It is embedded in our culture. The students embrace the story and become part of it. They are allowed to be imaginative, and at other times are encouraged to be quiet. Sometimes they perform. Sometimes they create. Sometimes they pray. It is always a feature of the Benedict community when we gather for a Paschal re-enactment. We see the Jesus story unfold. We sense the graciousness and love of a man who endures a deep injustice. We seem to pray with more open hearts. The students learn the pathos and solemnity of the extraordinary events of Jesus' last week. Our community sits with the mystery. They wonder at the courage and the meaning. Our College celebrates Holy Week and the importance of Easter with deep and beautiful celebration every year. We connect by ritual and creativity, costume and symbol. But not quite this year.

I can do it!

It has taken me about four lessons to really get used to the online delivery. I think that I am nearly there. The software is fantastic. The students know how to use it intuitively. The potential is vast. We have made connection. It has just taken me a little bit of time. Well, actually a lot of time. I have been a bit frustrated. Perhaps I mean a bit inept. I assure you that I have tried to cover up my incompetence but the students can sense it. I have experienced the muffled laughing of a classroom of 17 year olds. This is a particularly gracious kind of humiliation. They don't mean

any ill but foolish I still feel. I catch them exchanging a quick glance at each other and the betrayal of the faintest of smiles. "Just unmute Mr Hay!" "Look, type in there." "You should be able to see the group." "You didn't attach it." "You'll be okay. We can hear you at least." In fact they were very patient and I'm ready and now we can connect and a learning process can begin. I feel confident. I thank Lara Evans and Darcy Conner who never gave up on me. That's what a Year 12 class should be like. Never give up on the learner.

Happy Easter

So we finish our term and it's a quiet finish. There have been prayer cards and Easter eggs. There have been different kinds of lessons and

different thinking. We will remember a good term. We didn't expect this but it's been good and much has been achieved. We finish the term knowing at some time hearts were touched and given a chance to connect with community. We finish knowing that relationships were established and College began with all its potential. We finish having learned lots and lots and we finished with a shared respect for the story of Easter. There is mystery even if things seem a little defeated. The apostles didn't know what was happening after Easter either and just look what happened.

Mr Greg Hay, Principal

An Easter Blessing



Living the Easter story has never been more important than now in the reality of a pandemic that we are experiencing throughout the world in 2020. I offer you this reflection from Henri Nouwen around hope and fear-

"Easter season is a time of hope. There still is fear, there still is a painful awareness of sinfulness, but there also is light breaking through. Something new is happening, something that goes beyond the changing moods of our life. We can be joyful or sad, optimistic or pessimistic, tranquil or angry, but the solid stream of God's presence moves deeper than the small waves of our minds and hearts. Easter brings the awareness that God is present even when his presence is not directly noticed. Easter brings the good news that, although things seem to get worse in the world, the Evil One has already been overcome. Easter allows us to affirm that although God seems very distant and although we remain preoccupied with many little things, our Lord walks with us on the road and keeps explaining his message of faith, hope and love to us. Thus there are many rays of hope casting their light on our way through life right now."

Loving God, Creator of all, Your Son appeared to those who had begun to lose hope and opened their eyes to what the Scriptures foretold. May the risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes today.

Bless each of us, in this Holy Week, and give us the grace to know your loving presence more intimately. Amen.

Mrs Katie Pole, APRIM

Sacramental Program

Sacramental learning will continue as part of the Religious Education Curriculum. Celebration of the Sacraments themselves will be reviewed once our Parish Churches are opened again.

The buildings are closed but Church is not.
We will continue to support families on their faith journey.

Around the College



Life cycle learning in 4 Red



Caprie, Leighton, Grace, Lewis, Lexi and Hunter with their blooming sunflowers

In Science Year 4 students have been learning about life cycles. We planted sunflower seeds at the beginning of the term and now they are flowering!

"Sunflowers are mostly yellow but can also be red, orange and striped."

Bailey

"Sunflower heads look at the sun all day. That means they will face east at sunrise and west at sunset."

Hunter

"The black seeds are used to make oil and striped seeds make snacks."

Grace

"A flower head can produce up to a thousand seeds!"

Caprie

"The tallest sunflower in the world was 9.1 metres."

Ashton

"I found out that the reason TLAP and the Port Pirie Regional Council are planting sunflowers is because they are running tests to see if sunflowers can absorb lead in the ground."

Leo

The Easter Story

Receptions have re-enacted parts of the Easter story to aid in their learning about this important religious event.



Spencer (Jesus) wandering through the crowd



Carter 'washes' the feet of his classmates as they celebrated the Last Supper

Around the College



Donuts at a Distance

New students at Bosco Campus enjoyed morning tea with Mr Hay as a celebration of completing Term 1.



New students in Years 8-12 enjoying a donut with Mr Hay



Mr Hay welcomes the new Year 7s to the College



Yum!

Taking a moment

Receptions have been learning the act of mindfulness with some yoga in the sunshine.



Nash enjoying a moment of quiet



Liam enjoying stretching and balancing

Around the College



Hairy Heads

Receptions were delighted to watch their fast-growing hairy heads as part of their learning about living things.



Baylen



Lucy



Liam

Modelling life from 250 years ago

The traditional owners of the land around Port Pirie are the Nukunu people.

In the past there were no shops, no schools and no houses. Our class 4 Red have designed some models to show what the land might have looked like 250 years ago.

In the past there were dingoes, crows, wombats, emus, kookaburras, brown snakes, wattle and gum trees, salt bush, mangrove swamp bush and eagles in the sky.

There were also the Nukunu people. They used nature to make their shelters, to make tools and weapons, food and animal skins to keep them warm.

The Nukunu people only took what they needed from the land.

Sahana and Kailee, 4 Red



Sienna and Rykah



Grace, Indee and Chloe



Sherwin and Leighton



Kailee and Sahana

Around the College



Growing skills at Bosco



Year 7 Cookery students caring for the herbs in the new Kitchen Garden



Year 11 Ag students Hannah and Eva, checking on their climbing snow peas



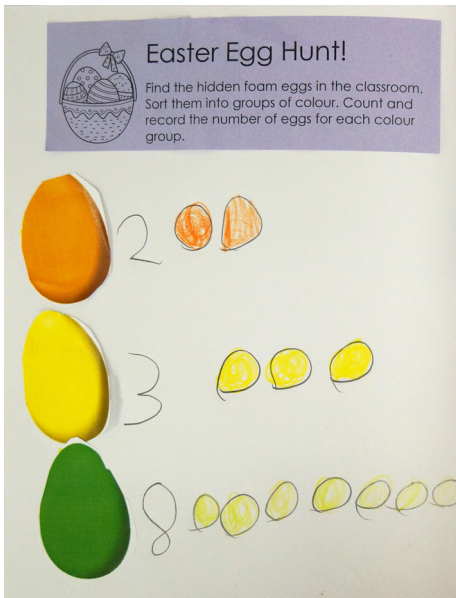
Year 11 Ag students Montana, Trixie, Tilly, Meg and Dakota with the radishes they have grown as part of their plant trials

Easter Bunny's maths problem

Easter Bunny dropped by Reception Green with a range of maths activities for them to practice.



Scarlett was super excited to hunt for eggs



Paxton finds a number 9 egg

Around the College



Abrupt end to the tennis season

With the challenges we all face due to COVID 19, I regretfully advise the 2019/2020 Tennis Season was cancelled and therefore grand finals did not take place on Saturday 28 March. It was an unfortunate end to the tennis season however it was the best decision for our community and all involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful coaches for their time, dedication, support and guidance given to our players this season. They are Colin and Natalie Ferme, Tracie Hawkins, Holly Reid and Andrea Tyler. Thank you also to Greg Phillips for assisting with trainings where possible. A big thank you to Karen Murphy, Megan Congdon and Grant Hanlon for their assistance with Orange Dot League this year. Karen and Grant volunteered their time to train these players on a Thursday morning at Benedict Campus, while Megan Congdon was the manager on Saturday mornings.

I would also like to congratulate the following players, who would have been presented with Best Team Person awards at presentation if we could have held one. They are; A Grade - Amity Lane, B Grade Larkins - Bailey Yarrow, B Grade Bade - Eden Ferme, B Grade O'Leary - Jonathon Wilks and B Grade Handley - Marco Dimou.

Thanks also to Carmel Freer for her help and support throughout this season.

Hope to see you all again playing tennis. Stay safe everyone!

Mrs Lisa Manners, **Tennis Coordinator**



Best Team Person - Amity



Best Team Person - Jonathan



Best Team Person - Marco



Best Team Person - Eden



Best Team Person - Bailey



Learning @ Home

Year 7 student Ava created this digital artwork inspired by the style of pop artist, Keith Haring.

"Tranquility and Hostility"

This painting represents the two forms of human action: Peace and War; Good and Bad; Right and Wrong. In the peaceful side, you can see a figure spreading their arms and small love hearts floating about, representing the sharing of peace and love. The other side has many figures, with army patterns, representing the soldiers, and in the sky there are large orange shapes plummeting down from the sky, representing the bombs being sent off by the opposition. They also represent the hatred and fear of people, being intimidating and worrying.



Lana's nature mandala

Learning fun

Year 12 Child Studies students prepared learning activities for our Year 1s to enjoy.



Eli loved making rain clouds with Mya



Ruby and Georgina wash the 'germs' from their hands



Lily draws with Isabella



Finn and Sophie make rainbows with Alice

Community Notices

We are looking for four passionate parents to be part of our small but influential council.

- Are you an active parent in your school community and enjoy being involved?
- Do you believe parents should have a voice and be heard on issues relating to children's education?
- Are you interested in being a voice for parents and families in SA Catholic schools to influence change?
- Do you want to find new ways and share ideas about how to support parents to be active in their children's learning and schooling?

Your influence and ideas can help Catholic schools provide a quality education for all children and help the government hear what parents think and need.

Is this you? Might this be you?

- You don't need to be 'a professional'. Just to be passionate about children's education and parents and schools working together.
- You don't need to be 'an expert'. Council members learn as they go along.
- You don't need to live in Adelaide. We meet 8 times a year by phone and face-to-face with travel expenses covered.

Visit www.parentfederation.catholic.edu.au for more information about our work and to contact us or phone Nicole Kovacevic on 0407 394 732.

Port Football and Community Sporting Club

Open daily from 9.00am

