

NEWSLETTER

Issue 6 8 May 2020



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Kallie helps Mia to class from the Benedict Drop Off

We learnt from home. The sun shone upon our return.
There are new enrolments and we are washing hands and sanitising.

There was a particular excitement about returning to school this term; a different excitement. The three week break, and the anxiety of world before the end of term, had had its impact. There was an enthusiasm for return. We needed to reconnect with something normal and good, something predictable and sure. With school life comes the assurance of community. We wanted that. We were ready for that. Holidays were over. We had been left to our own devices for too long. There had been rains on ANZAC Day just for the farmers to begin seeding. Ruby Dunbar had stood, candle in hand, at ANZAC dawn to pay tribute. There had been a fair bit of 'Netflixing' and isolation and we were restless. There were mates to talk to again. So it began on a sunny Tuesday morning that turned into a week of lunchtime rain. Not a complaint! Huddled in classrooms and under shelter we all thought 'Let it rain'. We were back together in growing numbers. We were bringing that better part of ourselves to school and on that Tuesday morning, when our students returned, it was like a tonic of reassurance. We were going to get back to normal. We were going to continue the preciousness of our learning. We were going to watch that Covid curve collapse. It may take a little more time but on that Tuesday morning we knew that the school gathers and we were all set to do our jobs again.

Learning at Home

The remote experience had its success and its challenge. One dad said to me "I'm glad that I had the chance to do Year 4 again. I did a lot better this time". We laughed. Remote learning made a demand on his family and I think there was a small sigh of relief when the children returned. I was grateful that he had seen his responsibility and taken it so seriously.

It was obvious that support was needed for learning at home to take place. I had a chance to walk around the school and ask how our young people had gone with learning at home. Some students spoke about the discipline needed to stay at it. They needed to find more self-reliance. Others talked about not losing their relationship with the teacher and the online communication with the class that helped to guide them. Some flushed a little embarrassed and said it was 'okay'. I wondered if they had lost momentum. Others were just fine. They had teachers checking in on them. They responded online to concerns. They didn't lose the drive. What was obvious to me was that teachers had put much time and effort, much creativity and organisation into the new learning. It refined and focussed us on how we teach and how we engage our young people. My strong sense is that things will be fine. There is commitment to return to what we know. The teachers continue to be committed to quality learning experiences.

Enrolment tours

I have felt very privileged to invite families into this wonderful community this week. We are in the enrolment season. This is the time of year that families bring a child to a formal appointment and ask for a place in the school. We take that request very seriously. We share a significant moment speaking about what we value and the kind of partnership we want and the hopes that we share for a young person. I make a promise about our commitment to the family. Now, sometimes that young person is so intimidated that they don't say a word or sometimes so distracted that they end up under the desk. That happens when you are four years old and attending a first interview. However, when we walk around for

KEY DATES



Benedict Captain Ruby received the Ode at dawn on ANZAC Day

a tour the eyes of the four year old light up at the invitation to a grand world of learning in the Junior Primary buildings. The colour, the excitement, the space, draws them in. They like the playground as well and they always soar like an eagle in the exhilaration of the space of the Good Samaritan Hall. On the other side of the school I take a new student on a tour and show them the facilities and I can sense that we are dreaming together about the potential within these bricks and mortar. The facilities are fantastic. They really are impressive but without doubt the greatest connection is made when we enter a classroom full of students. Our classes are well managed, focussed and an antenna picks up the care and cohesion. I guess that the young person is asking "Will I fit in?" and the parent wonders about safety and growth. This becomes one of my proudest moments. Teachers are on task and skilful; students are responding beautifully; the place looks great and is set up for plenty of enlightening and inspiring.

Boarding House

I was delighted to write to our boarding families and invite them back to Salesian House. We are reopening the boarding and that permits 23 young people to an opportunity that had been lost with this pandemic scare. I was always conscious that sacrifices had to be made in response to the COVID-19 and the need to isolate and stay safe. However, I felt very particularly disappointed that the boarders had to have a bit more of a share of what we all lost together. They bravely managed but they are now coming back. We have had to ensure some new safety protocols but it will be business as usual. I know that they are under the greatest of care with Denise Arbon in charge.

Scott Darlow and a powerful learning experience

Our staff community gathered to begin Term 2 on the first Monday back. More accurately we gathered in classrooms all over the school to connect together in an online environment and listen to our potentially

cancelled guest speaker Scott Darlow. We had ten people in each room and a very effective Microsoft Teams remote access to a very impressive speaker. Scott is an indigenous man and a storyteller and musician. His trip to the College from his home in Melbourne had to be cancelled but we connected remotely. His story was powerful. His challenge was significant. He seemed so at ease with the medium and communicated his message of justice and compassion very eloquently. He spoke about the pathway to reconciliation and he touched hearts. On that first day back there was much hope in the staff community and it happened at a simple press of a button: Enter Teams.

Catholic Education kindness

We have celebrated the wider Catholic Education community this week though the theme of kindness. It really is quite a fun way to go about a week. Our challenge was to look for ways to be kind. We wanted to offer spontaneous acts of kindness. We wanted to build our care and empathy. Lots of gentle funny moments happened. Lots of cups of tea, or gestures of support or generosity happened. Catholic Education is worth celebrating and kindness creates more kindness.

Reports online

I am conscious that the Bosco parents received Reports online for the very first time. We continue to refine processes and try and facilitate the most effective way to report to our families. The use of SEQTA is changing the way that we do things. I hope that parents found it effective. We would be keen to receive any feedback that you think could improve the process.

Nyrstar's donation

I acknowledge the generosity of Nyrstar who provided us with 15 litres of sanitiser, and the promise of more to come. It was a very scarce commodity over the last few weeks and now there are bottles filled all over the College. Thank you Nyrstar.

Mr Greg Hay, Principal

SH Parents' Council

Sunday 17 May, 7.30pm
Conference Room

College Board Meeting

Tuesday 19 May, 7.30pm
Conference Room

Mothers' Day

Sunday 8 May

Religious Education



From the APRIM

Welcome back to Term 2. It almost feels like the start of the year again – that is the great excitement of coming back together.

Scott Darlow

During our Student Free Day to begin Term 2 the whole staff of the College connected with Scott Darlow a musician, speaker and former teacher who bases his work on promoting understanding of First Nations people and human rights. He was booked to work with our students and staff at the end of Term 1 but the COVID Pandemic hit. Being a man of positivity and hope Scott went to work preparing online learning platforms for schools and students to ensure his important message is heard.

Scott has an acronym he lives by and one that is so important for our students to hear – FLUTE (Forgiveness, Love, Understanding, Tolerance and Empathy). All great qualities we would hope to instil in our students.

Scott is passionate about ensuring people are properly educated to be able to understand all people and their culture and now so are our teachers having met you through the power of Zoom! We look forward to trialling your online content Scott and hope to see you back here at the school soon!

Buildings are closed, Churches are not

It has been pleasing to see the way our Parish and Diocese have embraced the power of technology to gather us together in online communal prayer and I must say joining in prayer has become very comfortable in my pyjamas!

For those who would like to join in these Masses they are available on the Diocesan Website: <http://www.pp.catholic.org.au/online-masses> or search up one of our diocesan parishes on Facebook.

This week I communicated with our Year 7 families providing an update on Confirmation. While dates for sacramental celebrations can't be confirmed yet, the learning at school continues. Updates on dates for celebrating the sacraments will be communicated once the Government removes the restrictions on Church buildings.

Catholic Education Week- Bring Fire to the Earth

This week we celebrated Catholic Education Week.

Our goal this year is to search for ways to bring goodness and light to our world. As a school we came up with the theme Enlighten! Inspire! Act! It starts with us. During this week of celebrating our Catholic Identity and all that we hold dear as a school community we focussed on Kindness. Across the College we have been challenged to perform acts of kindness.

My hope is that each person in our community gained a greater awareness of how much of an impact our actions can have on others. Even the smallest deed can make a real difference to another person. May our students learn. It's not doing something for someone else because they can't, but because you can." – Andrew Iskander. May our school and our world become a better place through our deeds this week and as we move forward throughout the year.

Mothers' Day

A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take. -Cardinal Mermillod

This coming weekend we recognise mothers and special women in our lives and take the time to appreciate all that they are to us. Happy Mother's Day to all of our mums, may God's richest blessings be bestowed upon each of you as you are spoilt on Sunday 10 May.

Katie Pole, APRIM



Caitlin, Akaila, Willow and Jacob from Caregroup G1 with the 'Leave what you can, Give what you can' for their Act of Kindness in Catholic Education Week

A Mother's Love

There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.

For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels
And sent from God above.

- Author Unknown

REMINDER:

Winter Uniform is compulsory from Monday 11 May.

From the Deputy Principal

Greetings all!

We are absolutely delighted to be back at school. I know the staff are really enjoying seeing nearly all the Benedict students. Schools are just not the same without the students! Although we worked industriously during the Student Free Days in Week 11 preparing for Learning@Home, with only a few students it was an eerily quiet site. As we began Term 2; seeing the smiles, hearing about lost teeth and the Easter Bunny and listening to children's laughter and play has certainly lifted our spirits. If you haven't already done so, please return both Pack 1 and Pack 2 to school. This will assist teachers in determining class curriculum needs and save on photocopying!

Keeping students safe

Please rest assured we are doing all we can to ensure a safe and healthy environment for your children. Soap, sanitiser and disinfectants have been restocked and the playgrounds and Nature Play area are regularly being washed along with equipment, desks and door handles. Unfortunately, gatherings such as assemblies, liturgies and Masses still have restricted numbers for both students and families. We are especially grateful for the way families have altered drop off and pick up with no fuss and little notice. Please continue to stay outside the infamous yellow line until further notice.

Face-to-face teaching

Very soon, classes will revert to only face-to-face teaching. A friendly reminder that emails regarding work will cease and communication will be via Communication Books, diaries and phone calls to the office. Primary staff communicating with families via email was put in place to assist with Learning@Home. Another friendly reminder that contacting staff via social media platforms regarding school matters is not appropriate.

Winter Uniform

Next week we officially move to Winter Uniform. Please refer to the guidelines to ensure your child/ren are compliant. The guidelines can be found on the College website: [College Uniform Guidelines](#)

If you are waiting for items to be restocked, please let your child's class teacher know. Students can wear their PE uniform or an alternative item for the interim. Where possible, please keep to the same colour. For example, replace the school jumper with a blue/navy top rather than a pink one. Students not waiting on uniform orders and not compliant with the uniform guidelines will receive reminders from class teachers. It is an expectation that you adhere to the guidelines in a timely fashion. Students not compliant

with hair styles, etc can be asked to remain at home until the hair grows back or the colour is fixed. I would prefer not to insist on this so your cooperation before visiting the hairdressers would be greatly appreciated.

Some general uniform issues we are seeing:

- hair styles requiring shaving should be not shorter than a number 3
- hair touching the top of the collar is required to be tied back
- hair colour is expected to be natural
- hair accessories are in school colours and limited to clips and ribbons ie not flowers or butterflies
- no nail polish
- one earring per ear
- small round silver or gold coloured studs or sleepers in ears ie no unicorns, ice-cream cones, hearts etc. Small stones ie birthstones are permitted
- necklaces should be of religious significance only
- PE socks are white and cover the ankle ie not hidden socks
- school shoes are black lace up shoes (Years 3-6) not black sandshoes. Velcro straps and girls t-bars are permitted for Rec - Year 2 students. Please ensure girls shoes are plain school shoes and not dress shoes with additional accessories ie flowers, butterflies etc.
- if you need to wear a top under school uniforms please ensure they cannot be seen or are of the same colour ie navy long sleeve under PE top

We will allow a fortnight for students and families to address any uniform issues. After this time, please do not be offended if you are asked to make changes or purchase other items.

As always, please do not hesitate to approach school staff with any queries regarding uniform or other areas.

Kind regards,
Ms Melissa Gadaleta,
Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus

Benedict Campus



Wondering about rain in Reception Red

All of the rain we were having made us wonder about it. We were asked to think about...
Where does rain come from? How does rain happen? What makes it rain?

"It comes from the sky," Baylen

"When there is no rain, clouds bump into each other and they get darker and it starts to rain," Lucy

"Rain comes from the pond and the wind blows the water up, then it rains," Fraser

"It comes from the clouds," Mia

"The rain comes from the clouds; the butterfly wings flutter and they get wet they go up to the clouds and then it rains," Lottie

"When Santa waters his flowers, the water comes out onto the clouds and then boom-boom, it falls down to earth," Aubrey

"It comes from the clouds and when the clouds get darker it starts to rain," Ivy

"Rain comes from the clouds; big frost giants live in the sky - when they cry a lot it pours down really, really bad," Liam

"Clouds make the rain when they cry," James

"It comes from the ponds," Zaiyden

"The clouds bump into each other; the water floats into the air then it goes into the clouds and it starts to rain," Owais

"The rain falls because the clouds are being mean," Lana

"It comes from the sky," Ela

Mrs Angela,

Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus



Clouds and rain create by Reception Red



Owais, Lottie and Baylen from Reception Red

Commemorating ANZAC Day in Year 1 Red

Some thoughts from 1 Red about Anzac Day:

- We think about the people who died in the war.
- We have ANZAC Day to remember the people who fought in wars.
- The red poppies are to remember the people who died from the army.
- The soldiers fought for our country.
- ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corp.



Indiana with her painting of poppies



Hudson with his ANZAC art

REMINDER:

Winter Uniform is compulsory from Monday 11 May.

From the Deputy Principal



Our META High School Esport squad!

Academic Endeavour

On Friday during Pastoral Care, students gathered in their Caregroups to celebrate and acknowledge those within their peer group who in Term 1 consistently achieved exceptional results for perseverance. The Outstanding Perseverance Award acknowledges students who have applied themselves consistently and with determination over a variety of subjects. To receive an Outstanding Perseverance Award, students must consistently demonstrate considerable perseverance, participation and application in their learning and place in the top 10% of their cohort for effort.

We congratulate our Outstanding Perseverance Award Recipients:

Year 7

Eva Christensen-Lauder, Mitchell Court, Arquene Westdorp, Latrell Smith, Beau Bridley and Trey Luteria

Year 8

Ella Clements, Lara Mellow, Adam Smith, Bridie Mead, Kloe Tyler, Zara Bowman, Zara Clark, Addison Roberts, Angus Forster, Gemma Kelly, Isabella Martlew and Eliza Harris

Year 9

Amity Lane, Khemer Macatangay, Mia Arthur, Bella Porta, Sophie Tattoli, Kate Burgess, Aaliyan Hashmi, Tayla Syrigos and Ella Champion

Year 10

Logan Crouwkamp, Sheridan Jones, Gabrielle Cowin, Kalan Hayes, Lucinda Smith, Mabel Arbon, Taya Tilbrook and Tom Fox

Year 11

Eva Ferme, Quinn Lane, Taylah Smale, Georgia Pryor, Trixie Stanley, Hannah Mark, Georgia Winter, Flynn Hayes, Scarlett Tod, Fergus Tod, Meg Malycha, Ethan Markham, Laura Watt, Lucia Alvarez-Chamarro, Jessica Williams and Chloe Wright

Year 12

Leah Finlay, Georgina Grossman, Lillian Keain, Harry Mead, Lucy O'Dea, Sophie Millard, Amelia Smart, Stella Arbon, Matthew Fawcett, Jordan Gorey, Chloe Hillier and Lucy Pennell

Esport

This year St Mark's College is entering teams in the META High School Esports competitive league. META stands for Mateship, Education and Learning, Talent and Growth, and Authentic. The League developed in conjunction with the Adelaide Crows Football Club training and development.

Esports provides a competitive environment for aspiring players to compete against students from Australia and New Zealand in the League of Legends and Rocket League. This year the College is entering two teams in League of Legends and six Rocket League teams. These were selected because they are team-based games. Students have committed to playing the season and being accountable to their teammates. While social distancing restrictions are in place, students will play a mixture of on and off-site games, however, the intention is that eventually games will be played at the College.

META High Esports is free for students to join, using their existing devices. It is also an equal playing field for men and women, as physical size and strength are less useful than problem-solving skills, critical thinking and strong communication skills. All Esports players are encouraged to balance their time with physical exercise to help them retain better focus during the games.

Students will train and work together at school then compete in a weekly match against teams of a similar level. The league culminates in a live Grand Final, hosted at the Melbourne Esports Open, which determines the best high school teams in the Oceanic region.

Why Esports?

Esports is a healthy, challenging and fun activity that allows students to build life skills. Students learn to be resilient, use their communication skills, develop teamwork skills, and self-discipline through Esports.

Esports also allows students to translate their skills to other learning areas, particularly STEM subjects, and players are sought after in a range of STEM-related career fields, particularly engineering and coding.

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Bosco Campus



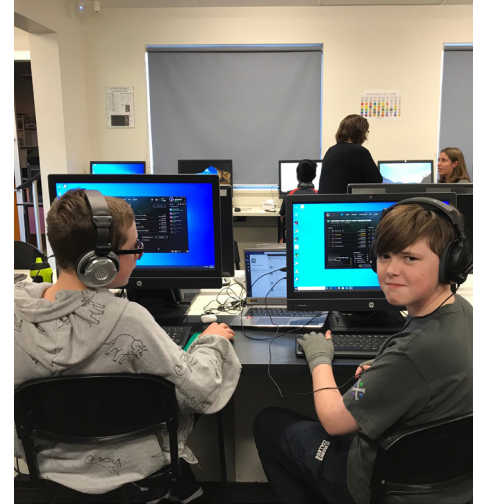
Competitive Esport players are also finding this as a career pathway- at the 2019 Dota 2 tournament, 'The International,' played in Shanghai, the prize pool topped US \$30 million dollars! Australian player Anathan Pham won \$6,000,000 alone at this event. St Mark's Esports is in its infancy, but we may see the professionals of the future get their start here in 2020.

I extend my gratitude to the ICT staff, Mrs Munday, Mr Brown, Ms Komljenovic and Mrs Forster for all their hard work in getting our teams established and for facilitating this opportunity. This is a great experience for our students, and I wish our teams the best of luck!

Ramadan

Thursday 23 April marked the beginning of Ramadan, a month of fasting for those within our Muslim community. Ramadan is the holiest month for Muslims, and I extend my best wishes to all during this time of faith...Eid Mubarak!

Mr Marc Forster,
Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus



Angus and Connor ready to play in the first Esports game

Stepping back in time

Year 7 HASS students have created individual models based on ancient civilisations.

In HASS we studied on Ancient Civilizations, I did Ancient Egypt. I built an ancient Egypt pyramid. On my pyramid I had a picture of the social class to show who was on top and then on the bottom.
Marco Dimou

In HASS we were studying ancient civilizations I chose Egypt. My ancient Egypt model is a miniature Nile river with a Egypt pyramid on one side and pebble rocks on the other.
Harry Promnitz

In Year 7 HASS, we were studying ancient civilisations. I chose to make a Greek house for my project because I thought it was interesting to make a model about what the people from Greece live in. I also thought that the structure of it was pretty interesting and fun to make.
Nikki Thompson

In HASS we have been learning about ancient civilisations. We started by creating a magazine about our civilisation. I chose ancient Egypt. My model included the river Nile, pyramids, palm trees and an oasis. I chose to make it because I liked the way it looked online so I decided to put my own twist on it.
Laycee Meaney



Molly with her Egyptian model



Hamish, Theo and Harry with their ancient civilisation models



Daniela, Nikki, Mia-Lee and William with their models

Bosco Campus



Challenging students in STEM

Rocket Science

The Year 9 STEM class started their unit on Rocket Science this week with style in the first of three challenges. Students had to design a zip line that dropped a marble on a target as close to the middle as possible. The only catch, you can't touch the cup once it has started to move! Students were given extra points for the length of the zip line and their accuracy, the winner will be decided by the class on a vote after watching the videos.

Moon Lander

Year 8 STEM have also been looking at space, specifically the moon landing. Students were challenged to create a Moon Lander that would protect their 'Eggonauts' upon impact, when falling from the second storey of the STEM building, along with trying to create the most accurate lander. So far we are at 50% survival rate!

Mrs Elizabeth Clarke,
Science Co-ordinator



Year 9 students testing their ziplines



Year 8s created Moon Landers for their 'eggonauts'!

Students create Sanitiser

While learning about alcohols and ethanol, Year 11 Chemistry students have made hand sanitiser in a practical lesson. The students in Classroom M5 have been using the hand sanitiser and have noted the difference between this and a store bought hand sanitiser.

The students enjoyed making the hand sanitiser as it was something essential that is used in these uncertain times.

Mrs Meriam De Vries,
Director of Administration



Hannah, Lucia and Ella



Samuel, Jordan and Laura



Shahmeer, Bailey and Tehan



Mrs De Vries instructing the students



Bec and Tahlia test the sanitiser

Around the College



Acts of kindness to celebrate Catholic Education Week

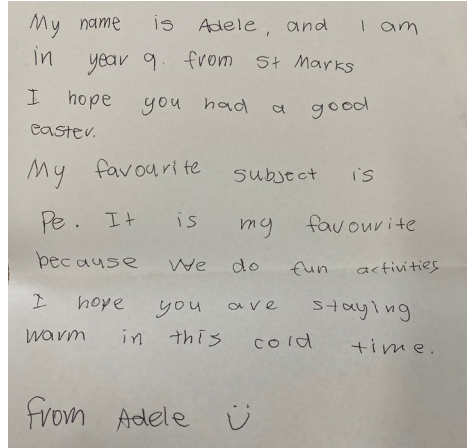
During Catholic Education Week we have discovered kindness is...



Telling someone they are appreciated



Cooking a surprise for someone



Writing a letter to a person in need of cheering up



Texting grandparents to say hello and see how they are doing



Small acts that make someones day brighter



Surprising someone with a gift



Feeding hungry Bosco students while raising funds for a local cause



Creating moments of fun leading to a bonfire of kindness



Back to school

SCHOOLS ARE SAFE PLACES FOR LEARNING.

From Monday 11 May, we are officially back to face-to-face learning across the College.

This means that students from Reception - Year 12 are expected back on-campus. Students will be taught all lessons, including practical lessons by their timetabled teacher.

However, where there are circumstances where families prefer to keep their children at home, we will continue to connect and provide learning opportunities for those students.

We encourage you to contact us if you do choose to continue learning from home.

We are so excited to be back!



Financially affected by COVID-19?

Have you been financially affected by COVID-19?

The College (along with all Catholic Education schools) have implemented the process of removing Term 2 fees for any families who have been affected by COVID-19. Affected families can simply complete a form to apply for this fee reduction.

If you have been financially impacted by the Coronavirus, please get in contact with the College on 86338800.

We are here to help!

Community Notices

Living through Uncertainty FREE Workshops for Families

Practical advice for parents, caregivers and teachers to support primary and secondary students through times of change and uncertainty.

Thursday 14 May from 7.00 – 8.00 pm (Week 3)

[Click to enrol in the primary student workshop](#)

Tuesday 19 May from 7.00 – 8.00 pm (Week 4)

[Click to enrol in the secondary student workshop](#)

Children and screens FREE webinar

Dr Justin Coulson and Dr Kristy Goodwin answer common concerns about screen time.

Tuesday 12 May, 7.00pm

[Click to register in the webinar](#)

Centacare

Financial assistance is available to anyone in times of crisis. Phone 1800 759 865.

Centacare
Catholic Country SA

In celebration of **families**
18th – 22nd May 2020

Join Us Families

For a 'Free' Family Activity Week from the comfort of your home

To Register for your Free Family Activity Pack
Phone 1800 759 865

Stay at Home

Promoting Stronger Safer Communities

www.cccsa.org.au

Recipes | Crafts | Activities | Colouring | Family Time | Fun Together

Port Football and Community Sporting Club

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