

Friday 17th April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome back to term two at Our Lady's. Life as we know it has certainly changed since the beginning of the year and the impact on how school is operating is certainly a challenge for all of us. What I can say, is that even at this early stage, I have been so impressed with everyone's attitude and support to a completely different school and education experience and I thank you as parents for being very supportive during these challenging times.

As a Catholic School operating in the Melbourne Archdiocese, we operate under the direction of the State Education Department and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV). At this moment in time the directive is very clear: **If you can learn from home you MUST learn from home.** The safety and welfare of all families of our school community staff and students alike are of paramount importance. The decision to have school operating with a minimum of persons on site is to ensure we adhere to health and safety standards outlined for the Australian community during the Pandemic. If at any time this changes you will be the first to know.



Birthday wishes to all these children who celebrate their birthday this week and during the holidays: Yousif 6G, Luca Prep H, Jessica 3T, Milka 3B, Andera 5C, Carter 5E, Mirna 5E, Ayden 5H, Isabella 1M, Daniel Prep H, Eliana 5C, Antonio 2M, Nathan Prep H, Sienna 4M, Orshena 6G, Maya 5E, Therese 1G, Phillippe 6A,

Matteos 1T, Anhad Prep B, Josephine 1G, Ryan 1G, Evan 4M, Ajeet 5H, Montolivo 2S, Carlos 1S, Thomas 6A, Matthew 6C, Catherine 3W, Myra 3W, David 2M, Maryam 2L, Sonia 4M, Ninmar Prep B, Isabella 2L, Tavleen Prep B, Keerat Prep B, Kurtis 6A, Samar 6G, Marcus 4P, Norfeleo 5E, Gadi Prep D, Holly 1S, Stephanie 3B, Azaria 2A, Tayla 5N, Davyon 1G, Aiden 2A, Sierra 6C, Sofia 3W, Ryder 4M, Deon 1M, Eden 1M, Briana 4C & Mia Prep C . HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

From the Enrolment Desk



- Prep 2021 Enrolment Forms are being posted to current families early next week.
- If you know of anyone who requires an enrolment form for Prep 2021 please advise them to email school: office@olps.vic.edu.au

Today's newsletter will outline our school program going forward and how we will be 'ramping up' our online Home Education Learning Program (**HELP**).

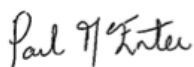
- **HELP Packs:** should now be in all households. All packs were posted to the address you have given us at school. If that has changed you will need to contact your previous address to collect your pack. It contains necessary materials for next week's program.
- **Attendance Record:** we are still required by law to track and maintain attendance records. Please complete the google form daily at this stage , so we can keep our records up to date.
- **Chromebooks and iPads:** these are not essential items of HELP at this stage, however we will be providing devices for all students commencing next Tuesday. Please check COMPASS for further information regarding the rollout of devices. We envisage commencing this next Tuesday with Chromebooks and iPads to follow.
- Application for Attendance onsite will be coming out via COMPASS on Thursday. Parents of children who are not eligible to attend will be contacted by phone.

Thank you to the families who have completed the attendance form and provided feedback on how HELP is operating in your home. I want to congratulate all parents and children for their attitude towards this new educational experience. We are all learning new things daily and what do know is that every family operates differently and routines are important and need to suit the family situations. Praise and regular breaks will also lessen the frustration of home life at this time.

Clear communication is paramount during the Pandemic, and our school is relying on the COMPASS platform as our main communication avenue. Our teachers thank you for taking their calls and they will be making contact with all families weekly, so if you see a Caller id block call it may be your child's teacher. There will be an attendance form that requires daily completion and there will be also regular updates during the week.

Remember to give all your children a big hug from all our staff here at Our Lady's. Like adults, children are navigating something they have never experienced before. Finding the right way to talk to them about COVID-19 can help protect children and reduce their fear. It can be hard to know how to explain COVID-19, but we need to shield them from much of the hysteria on social and mainstream media. Remind them that there have been pandemics across history, the experts know what to do, and the disease will run its course (as all epidemics do). It will be a great story to tell their grandchildren !

Best wishes and stay safe at home



Paul McEntee
Principal

STUDENT WELLBEING @ OUR LADY'S

...PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



Home Education Learning Program

How you can support your child

You can support your child by:

- having a **routine and setting expectations** for each day
- making sure your child has a **space to work in**, where it is quiet and comfortable
- providing a **level of supervision** suitable to your child's stage of development
- **checking in with your child** often to help them manage and pace their work

Establishing routines and expectations

Start and end each day with a check-in to help your child:

- clarify and understand the instructions they get from their teachers
 - help them organise them
- In the morning, ask:

Morning Check in Questions to ask your child:

- What are you learning today?
- What are your learning targets or goals?
- How will you be spending your time?
- What resources do you need?
- What support do you need?

Afternoon Check in Questions to ask your child:

- What did you learn today?
- What was challenging? You could come up with a way to deal with the same problem if it comes up again.
- Consider three things that went well today. Why were they good?
- Are you ok? Do you need to ask your teacher for something? Do you need help with something to make tomorrow more successful?

A healthy daily routine is great for mental and physical health,

as well as concentration and learning

Encourage regular **exercise** breaks.

This might mean going for a walk, using exercise DVDs and apps, dancing, floor exercises or using home exercise equipment.



Encourage **healthy eating** habits



Make sure they **drink** enough water





Lord Jesus, come fill us with light,
come fill us with love,
fill us with hope,
fill us with joy.
As your friends found your tomb empty,
help us to find you alive in our lives.
Let your light shine upon us.
May your flame guide us.
May we be drawn to the fire of your love.
we ask this through Christ our Risen Lord,
Amen - Alleluia



Spanning through the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of Caritas Australia's caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

We thank you for your generosity during term one in donating and supporting families around the world especially during this challenging time. As a school, we have raised \$1498.78. This is a great effort by everyone given the shortened term we had this year! Well done!

The year level that raised the most donations was.... YEAR 4! With a total of \$4774.55! Excellent effort by both the teachers and the students. You will be receiving your prize once we are back at school from Mr. McEntee.