

Thursday 8th October 2020

Dear parents and Carers

On behalf of our school, I want to say a big thank you to all our students, parents and carers for your continued resilience and support throughout this year and especially during the lockdown period. I take this time to welcome everyone back to Term 4 and onsite schooling.

I know remote and flexible learning has not always been easy, but through our collective efforts, our students have continued to make valuable progress in their learning. You can be confident that our school will continue the excellent work undertaken by our parents, students and staff during remote learning.

Term 4 is important for every student, and our teachers will strive to deliver high-quality learning for everyone. Our focus for Term 4 is on making sure that every student is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs. The Victorian Government has outlined the staged return to on-site schooling for all students as part of its gradual roadmap towards reopening the community of Melbourne and beyond.

Today's newsletter contains vital information regarding the return to school program commencing next Monday 12th October, when we welcome back **ALL** grades and **ALL** students on Monday. The school will operate under strict COVID-19 guidelines that the Catholic Education Melbourne in conjunction with the Chief Medical Officer have provided for our school. It is important that all members of our school community adhere to these guidelines to ensure that our community moves towards further easing of our current community restrictions. The section in today's newsletter titled- '**Term 4 on-site schooling arrangements for students**' provides families with information regarding the safe transition back to onsite schooling next Monday.

Staffing Changes: Due to our teachers, Bianca Dowd- Prep D, Jade Herd - Prep H and Alisha Lok - Year 2L going on family leave at the end of the term this necessitated changing of staffing arrangements for these grades as follows

Year Prep H: Ms Mikayla Kelly & Ms Brooke Fitzgerald

Year Prep D : Mrs Amy Moate & Mrs Yolanda Grillo

Year 2L : Ms Carolyn Freebairn & Ms Sarah Mizzi

As you can see, we were fortunate enough to replace our teachers with current staff member who have an excellent working knowledge of our school and students.

Term 4 on-site schooling arrangements for students

Following advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has released a staged approach for students to return to on-site schooling. The purpose of the plan is to get students back in the classroom as soon and as safely as possible without putting at risk all that has been achieved through the period of restrictions to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

For our school, the following arrangements apply:

From 12 October (second week of Term 4)

Students in Prep to Grade 6 will return to on-site schooling on **Monday 12th October**. The existing remote learning program will cease as of Friday 9th October.

Student Attendance

All students are expected to attend onsite once their year level has returned to onsite learning. Exceptions may exist for medically vulnerable students. In the case that parents or carers make a choice for students not to attend on-site learning and where this decision is not based on medical advice In the case that parents or carers make a choice for students not to attend on-site learning and where this decision is not based on medical advice – teachers will not be expected to provide additional advice or support to students.

School Canteen

The Canteen will open for term 4 when we have Council approval and we will let you know when this occurs via *COMPASS*. At this stage the Canteen will operate on the usual days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. The Canteen continues with its 'contactless' policy and all payments must be made via the *COMPASS* app. NO CASH.

Outside school hours care

Outside school hours care will be available to all students attending school. Please make the usual arrangements via Camp Australia's Website .

School events and gatherings

Face-to-face school assemblies and other non-essential large gatherings eg Carols Night are to be postponed or cancelled .This includes Graduation ceremonies and liturgies- whole school and class level. We are currently considering the use of technology. School camps and excursions cannot take place at this term.

We are currently talking with secondary schools regarding the year 6- year 7 Transition and also the Kiner to Prep transition and Headstart Program.

Health and safety measures

Managing safe school arrival from 8.30 Onwards and departure from 3.15 onwards including multiple entries

When on-site schooling resumes next week, each grade level will have a designated drop off and collection point and time. Please consult the attached plan of the school for further details. In the morning we continue with the 'Drop and Go' procedures that worked so effectively earlier in the year. Ideally parents do not need to leave their car, so the hugs and kiss can happen prior to getting in the car, so when you arrive at school, students can leave the car with their bag where they will be supervised by school staff. When collecting students in the afternoon please arrive at the appropriate time at the appropriate gate and adhere to social distancing regulations.

Please ensure children have a raincoat in their bag - no umbrellas , parents can have those.

Please ensure particular attention to reducing the risks associated with congregation at school gates and taking steps to contribute to physical distancing within the school. *Please utilize the distancing dots in place at all entries.*

Practising good hygiene

All students will undertake regular hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet. This will be directed/ supervised by staff where required. Students should bring their own water bottle for use at school as students will not be permitted to drink directly from drinking fountains at this time. Taps may be used to refill water bottles. Sharing of food will not be encouraged. Use of non-contact greetings (not shaking hands, hugging or kissing) will be encouraged at all times.

Face Masks

Students who attend primary school in Prep to Year 6, are not required to wear a face mask. Students who are aged 12 or over by Year 6 who are attending primary school are **not** required to wear face masks at school. It is your decision if you wish your child to wear a mask to and from school. The school will not be providing face masks for students once we resume onsite schooling. If you wish your child to wear a facemask, the child will be responsible for the mask and its use. The school will take no responsibility for its use and cleanliness.

Parents and carers - Parents/carers *are required to wear face masks* whenever they leave the house, *including for school drop off and pick up.* If they are travelling in a car alone, or only with members of their household, they do not need to wear a face mask.

Temperature screening

Based on the advice of the Acting Deputy Chief Health Officer, given the current levels of community transmission in Victoria, mandatory temperature testing of all students on arrival to schools will not be required in Term 4.

Limit school access - Visitors to schools

Visitors to school grounds are limited to those delivering or supporting essential school services and operations. No parents are permitted to come onto the school grounds. Please ring the school if you require further advice on this matter. Office staff will provide you with your options. All entries to the school will be locked.

Student Entry & Exit Points

please observe times



NO ADULTS ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE SCHOOL SITE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthday wishes to all these children who celebrate their birthday this week: Mia 4M, Rosio 2S, Ricardo 2A, Lorena 2L, Ella 1S, Reon Prep B, Olivia 2L, Veronica 4C, Georgia 1G, Ryder Prep C, Ramiz 3T, Celeste Prep D, Xavier 1S, Meeval 3W. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE !**



PLEASE ENSURE YOUR DEVICES COME WITH YOU TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE CORD, DEVICE IN THE PLASTIC BAG FOR A SAFE RETURN



Our school, working with you, has shown it can be flexible and adaptable in responding to the challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19) and will continue to meet student needs as we look towards the end of the 2020 school year and ahead to 2021.

I can only stress one aspect of our COVID Safety plan:

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home

Thank you for your ongoing support of all of our staff and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at this time. principal@olps.vic.edu.au

Paul McEntee



Paul McEntee
Principal

Good luck to all our finalists

GO PIES

BEST WISHES TO MS SHIELS ON THE SAFE ARRIVAL OF
HARRY JAMES RYAN WHO MADE HIS WAY INTO THE
WORLD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER.

He was 3.1kgs (6lb 8oz) and 47cm

BEST WISHES TO KATE, BEN HARRY AND CHARLIE THE
DOG.





LETTERS OF HOPE ... DELIVERED!



A reflection written by Ms. Grindrod

Many things have changed this year, including how many organisations and charities operate. One of these charities that has had to adapt its approach is COTS (Christmas On the Streets). On Friday the 2nd of October, Ms. Elia and Ms. Grindrod attended what would under normal circumstances be called a street run. Where we visit our friends experiencing homelessness, visit with them and provide meals and other necessities.

However, in light of the current restrictions this looked very different last Friday. Since July the Victorian Government has provided emergency accommodation for those experiencing homelessness, and COTS is one of the seven charities chosen to provide meals to those in accommodation. Ms. Elia and Ms. Grindrod helped to unload and set up over 300 meals that were prepared by COTS in 6 different locations in Melbourne. The meals included fruit, a hot pasta meal, a sweet treat and a drink.

Many of the meals also had special messages from our Year 5 and 6 students attached to them.

Although the circumstances were very different and everyone had to be aware of social distancing, your teachers could still feel the wonderful sense of community and hope.



Gospel Challenge: Accept God's Invitation even by spending just five minutes in prayer each day.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14- Parable of the Wedding Banquet.

What a story! It's not your typical wedding. The king is God. The first people invited are those who reject God's way of living. The second people are those who don't expect the invitation but are delighted when it comes, and they accept it wholeheartedly. And the person not properly dressed represents those who may say that they have accepted God's invitation, but whose life choices show that they have not yet really said yes to God.



STUDENT WELLBEING @ OUR LADY'S

...PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



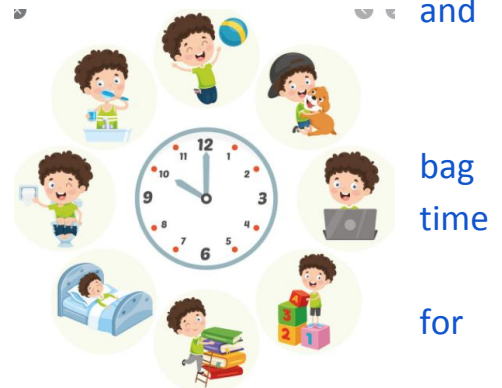
We have missed having our children at school.

We look forward to seeing them again on Monday.

We know that having them back at school is the best place now, as it is here that they can further develop academically, socially and emotionally.

This time is important to **re-establish normal routines** in the lead up to school:

- **Days before:** Return children to their usual wake up and bedtime routines, as well as breakfast and morning snack/lunch.
- **The day before:** Involve your child in packing their bag and preparing their uniform - this leaves you plenty of time to notice if anything is forgotten.
- **The morning of:** Allow more than usual to get ready for school



Talk to your children about how they feel.

Encourage children to discuss their feelings about returning to school. If they feel anxious or worried, help them understand this is perfectly normal, and that you and their teachers are there to support them.

Try not to share any anxiety you may be feeling with your children.

Try to give them a non-judgemental and supportive place to share any worries. Younger children, in particular, may not always have the words to express their feelings, so try to find a way of bringing up the conversation without putting pressure on them – for instance when you're playing with them or going for a walk.



Familiarise yourself with school procedures and support children to understand these - such as entry points, break times and hand washing routines.

It will be important for your child to understand social distancing and hygiene rules and, importantly, why they are in place.

Read school communications with your child and make sure they are prepared and know what to expect when they arrive at school.

Transition Back to School

Watch this 10 minute video by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg who gives valuable advice about returning to school

https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus-transition-back

PARENT ENGAGEMENT WITH LEARNING

AT OUR LADY'S WE VALUE OUR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

AS YOU PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION.

We also believe what the research tells us that:

'when schools and families work together, children do better, stay in school longer, are more engaged with their school work, go to school more regularly, behave better, and have better social skills.'

On Saturday 10th of October we invite you to attend a free webinar offered to all catholic school parents about the power of parent engagement for student learning and wellbeing. The details are below. Please feel free to participate.



connect
The power of connection

Connect Webinar Series hosted by Catholic School Parents Victoria

FREE WEBINAR

CSPV invite you to register for our Connect Webinar for parents with guest presenter Anne T Henderson.

The power of parent engagement for student learning and wellbeing

Saturday 10th October 2020 9.30am-10.30am

What is parent engagement? How can you continue to support your children's learning when they return to school?

In conversation with renowned parent engagement expert, Anne T Henderson, we'll focus on parent engagement and the importance of continuing to be engaged in your child's learning once they return to school.

What we will explore:

You now have a huge opportunity to continue to engage in your children's learning, to support them to thrive. Through the expertise of Anne, you will learn how important parent engagement is for children's learning and wellbeing and the extremely valuable role you as their parents have to support and enhance learning at home.

Who is this for?

Parents and carers of Catholic school students will benefit from learning from a parent engagement expert who has researched the impact of parent engagement in learning over the past four decades and proven that when parents are enabled and supported to be engaged, it significantly impacts student learning and wellbeing.

Register at: <https://event.webinarjam.com/channel/CSPVwebinar-2>

Rachel Saliba
CSPV Executive Officer - Host

Anne T Henderson
Guest presenter

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