



St John Bosco's School NEWSLETTER



St John Bosco's School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all students and young people
www.sjbniddrie.catholic.edu.au E: principal@sjbniddrie.catholic.edu.au T: 9337 2314

Edition 7
19 March

Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved, you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them" St John Bosco

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Well has the last week been eventful. We have cancelled more events that plane flights out of New York. While this is a crazy time and one that will probably not be replicated in our lifetime, it is important that we continue on positively with an eye to the future.

School as we know it has changed with weekly Mass, Assembly, tuckshop, athletics sports, Arcadia visits, school board meetings, Easter liturgies and the Trivia Night all being cancelled within one day.

Today has also been full of changes. Play has been suspended on the adventure playground until further notice, drink taps are closed, Prep Literacy and Numeracy sessions were cancelled, Reconciliation for Grade 3 and Communion for Grade 4 is cancelled. The later a result of a decision made by the Bishops and sent to us this morning. This letter is included at the end of this newsletter.

Changes that have been put in place regarding hygiene are as follows:

Classroom and internal doors will be open in all rooms to save children from having to open the doors when entering or exiting.

All classroom tables will be wiped down every 2 hours with alcohol wipes or similar.

All tables will be disinfected at the end of each day.

All light switches, door handles and railings will be wiped down 2 hourly.

Prep children will be allowed to use the hand sanitizer in the disabled toilet due to size constraints.

All toilet floors will be disinfected at the end of each day.

Drink taps are closed and students must bring a water bottle.

No after school adventure playground permitted.

Social distancing is encouraged especially with parents and children.

As we move into next week, we ask parents to keep away of classrooms and corridors. Children can be picked up from the quiet area or outside their rooms if these have external doors. Signs will be placed outside to help children and parents locate each other.

We also ask parents if they could provide their child with a bar of soap and a hand towel in a labelled zip locked bag or the like. As sanitiser is scarce and hard to purchase, it is important that we keep up our hand washing. These bags and towels may need to be taken home, washed or replaced and returned on the following day.

IMPORTANT DATES

2020

Fri 20 March	National Day of Action against Bullying
Fri 27 March	Harmony Day
Fri 27 March	Last Day Term 1, 1pm dismissal
Mon 13 April	Easter Monday
Tues 14 April	First Day Term 2
Mon 4 May	School Photos
Fri 26 June	Last Day Term 2, 1pm dismissal
Mon 13 July	First Day Term 3
Sat 25 Jul	Year 6 Confirmation (12.30 and 3pm)
Fri 19 Sept	Last Day Term 3, 1pm dismissal
Mon 5 Oct	First Day Term 4
Mon 5/Tues 6 Oct	Year 3 Urban Camp
Mon 19 Oct	Whole School Photo
Tues 15 Dec	Last day 2020, 12.30pm Dismissal

On a brighter note we had our Prep Information Session yesterday and it was lovely to see so many families hoping to join our community in 2021. As we have high numbers of families applying, people will need to be involved in our parish community by attendance at Mass or Sacrificial Giving.

Our Prep Assembly for this week was videoed and posted on see saw. It was a pity that we could not have had our parents here but I think the video will help rectify the problem in some small way.

In closing, thank you for your ongoing support. We appreciate that it is a trying time for all and we all have different concerns and needs. We are trying to broach the day to day issues as best we can without placing undue concern onto parents and children.

RE NEWS

Catholic Education Week

This week has been Catholic Education Week at our school. The theme for this week is "The Future Is Listening!". Unfortunately, due to the situation we are facing at the moment we haven't celebrated this as we usually do. Nevertheless, we keep in mind that the involvement of the young and youth in our Catholic faith is so important for the future of the Church. We all continue to work together to foster this faith in our children/students.

Social Justice News- Project Compassion

The Mini Vinnies have been informing the school about the needs of those living unjustly and the services of Caritas. They are currently working on ways to help raise funds for Project Compassion that will involve the whole school. Meanwhile, collection boxes are located at the front office and in your child's classroom.

Family Mass - Year 3

Thank you to all the families who attended the Parish Mass Saturday night. It was wonderful to see so many participate.

Liturgical calendar.

Fourth Sunday of Lent Jn 9:1 - 41

Stevie Wonder, the famous singer and musician who is blind, once remarked that just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn't mean he lacks vision. What do you think he meant? What do you think we need to learn from him? Jesus cured a man born blind. That man had more 'vision' than the Pharisees, who could see. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us about spiritual and physical blindness?

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Last week we said that we would be sending home a list of works that our parishioners might like to assist with in relation to the renovation of the presbytery. We have decided to put things on hold as our attention is focused on the current issues and restrictions relating to COVID-19.

Also on hold are our parish community activities, mainly the Parish Picnic Fundraiser and get together after family masses. We look forward to rescheduling later in the year.

WELLBEING NEWS

What a whirlwind of a week it has been, so many changes and updates to process for ourselves and our children. Parents regularly share their concern with us about how to word conversations with their children correctly to avoid fueling their children's anxious feelings. This week we are including two supports that could assist you in continuing conversations with your children about Coronavirus, firstly an article from Parenting Ideas 'Leading the way for children during the Coronavirus Pandemic' and secondly a copy of a gorgeous social story.

Both of these documents are included at the end of the newsletter.

We often find that accompanying conversation with visuals can assist students in making sense of what is happening in the world around them.

One tool schools use to support this is social stories. Social stories not only pair visuals with a script, they help children understand a situation or expected behaviour, for example attending camp/excursion or playing with friends. Families may like to refer to a social story to help their child understand Coronavirus and to potentially alleviate fears and anxiety their children may be experiencing at this time. Social stories are adaptable; content can be interchanged as need be. Please be mindful the information in the social story below can be altered to suit our circumstances here in Niddrie.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Sommer Azzopardi & Naomi Scott, Student Wellbeing Team

Learn music
here at school

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, here at St. John Bosco's School.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from \$17.00 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 2.

Interested parents should call Nicholas during office hours on 9818 2333 or email nicholas@creativemusic.com.au

Creative Music
www.creativemusic.com.au

Tuckshop Roster: Term 1 2020			
	11am-2:30pm	10am-12pm	12:30pm-2:30pm
Friday 20th March	Eloise Romeo	Therese Patton	Natalie Khoury
			Megan Lewis
TUCKSHOP HAS FINISHED FOR TERM 1			
Please note: Ravioli is no longer available at the tuckshop			
MORE TUCKSHOP HELPERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ASSIST, PLEASE CALL VERONICA MOLONEY ON 0448 758 152			

Thanking you

Peter Monaghan
Principal

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

We've had to cancel our Trivia Night but look forward to rescheduling later in the year. Team captains should have heard from Belinda Walsh regarding rollover or refund of payments. If you haven't been contacted please email pandf@sjbniddrie.catholic.edu.au

Thanks to Belinda Walsh for all her work organizing the evening and to all who have donated prizes or collected donations on behalf of the P&F Committee. We will hold onto these for the future event and may be in touch regarding extending voucher expiry dates.



What a fantastic day had by all last Friday! Congratulations to all of our children who ran or walked, it was such a pleasure to see the children smiling and having fun whilst raising money for our playground updates and a bushfire affected school. We are still looking into which school needs our help most and will let you know details when we've selected a school.

We are currently sitting at just over

\$20,000 of our **\$25,000**

target! So impressive!!!

Online fundraising will continue until 27th March.

**If you have collected cash donations
you can send it back to school
BY TOMORROW.**

Congratulations to everyone and thanks again!

Our sincerest thanks to the School Fun Run Company, as well as our *fun run committee members* Sonja Scarpaci, Belinda Walsh, Sian D'Cruz, Kathy Trifilo, Brenda Cassar, Sophie Witt, Silvana Loschiavo, Anh Nguyen, Leanne Molly and Lisa Duray.

A special thank you to...

Sonja Scarpaci for donating the high vis vests for our volunteers to wear, as well as for organizing our corporate sponsor Zagame Automotive Group Tullamarine.

Thanks to Anthony Scarpaci for bringing the beautiful Maseratis for all to see!

Brenda and Ivan Cassar for organizing all the water play and donating the tubs and foam water guns.

Thanks to **Veronica** and her group of helpers for the wonderful sausage sizzle lunch! Special mention to Sophie for purchasing all the juice boxes in this difficult time of empty shelves!

ZAGAME
A U T O M O T I V E

We cannot host these events without our wonderful parent volunteers. We are blessed to always have such an extraordinary response from our community when we call out for help! Thank you to the following parents who were able to help on the day:

Leanne Agius	Mel Hodge	Rachel Randello
Nicole Arthurson	Melissa Hosie	Anna-Maria Rappa
Maria Caramia	Holly Lancashire	Anna Reed
Phoebe Carroll	Kylie Lemin	Michelle Rowbottom
Gina Gerace	Angela Manno	Misha Sequenzia
Angie Czaja	Lilly Najdovski	Natalie Spis
Megan Elkhouri	Maria Nguyen	Julie Stojanovski
Kylie Espandiar	Geroge Patronias	Gen Trevaskis
Kellie Farrugia	Nicole Piccolo	Darko Vasilerska
Kellie	Bianca Privitelli	Vassie Vatsilas-
Giampiccolo	Sharin Ramsay	D'arcangelo
Ashleigh Godino		Samantha Wade
Carmen Guajardo		

*****Sincerest apologies if we've missed anyone!*****

***The biggest thank you goes to our children, staff and Mr Monaghan and his leadership team for always being so enthusiastic, supportive and helpful (particularly the wonderful admin staff sending out notes and reminders!) and our parents and friends community who always give so generously, both in relation to fundraising and their time.
Thank you!***



SJB BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Rothmans Coatings

Theo - 0414 013 315



<https://www.mistermagnets.com.au/>



<http://schembrilawyers.com.au/>

SNDTek

<http://sndtek.com/>



<http://www.gmwealth.com.au/>

TONY'S PIES



<http://www.tonypies.com/>



<http://westwoodaccidentrepairs.com.a>

KE Property Styling

<https://kepropertystyling.com.au/team>



Reed Plumbing & Drainage Solutions

<https://reedplumbingsolutions.com.au/>



Sassi Fit

<https://sassifit.com.au/>



Collins Financial Planning

<https://collinsfp.com.au/>



Tuckshop Roster: Term 2 2020

	11am-2:30pm	10am-12pm	12:30pm-2:30pm
Tues 14th April		Antoinette Agresta	Lina Cutri
Fri 17th April	Kathy De Bono	Joanne Mosca	Natalie Khoury Kathy Hogan
Tues 21st April		Holly Lancashire	Joanne Saad Susanne Speranza
Fri 24th April	Megan Lewis	Melinda Karavias	Nicole Piccolo Mary Pantalleresco
Tues 28th April		Natalie Grieve	Rosanna Ramondetta Chelsea Fitzpatrick
Fri 1st May	Sophie Witt	Therese Patton	Kirsty Prosser Michelle Favero
Tues 5th May		Liliana Najdovski	Daniella Polimenakos Virginia De Nittis
Fri 8th May	Kelli Zougras	Margaret Conroy	Antoinette Agresta Nella Duvnjak
Tues 12th May		Michelle Tankard	Therese Garth Janet Mastropasqua
Fri 15th May	Sonia Andersen	Joanna Mosca	Andrea Hill Maria Caramia
Tues 19th May		Natalie Spis	Annette Villani Carmen Guardo Bridges
Fri 22nd May	Lisa Duray	Michelle Mlikota	Helene Sexton Susanne Speranza
Tues 26th May		Roslyn Scalise	Simone Callegari Kelli Giampiccolo
Fri 29th May	Silvana Loschiavo	Karen Healy	Vanessa Lo Giusto Megan Lewis
Tues 2nd June		Liz Wallis	Katherine D'Arcangelo
Fri 5th June	Melissa Ryan	Rebecca Ryan	Michelle Favero Angie Czaja
Tues 9th June		Joely Curwood	Debra Buckley Jan Federico
Fri 12th June	Kellie Farrugia	Ana Acosta	Lisa Duray Natalie Khoury
Tues 16th June		Kylie Condos	Belinda McGregor Gabby Benton
Fri 19th June	Sonia Medawar	Linda Rizzetti	Linda Patrionas Kathy Hogan
Tues 23rd June		Liliana Najdovski	Rosanna Ramondetta Kelli Farrugia
Thursday 25th June	HOT DOG DAY		
MORE TUCKSHOP HELPERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ASSIST, PLEASE CALL VERONICA MOLONEY ON 0448 758 152			



A LETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF VICTORIA

18 March 2020

Prayerful greetings to the people of God across Victoria,

This morning, the Prime Minister announced that non-essential indoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people, and outdoor events of more than 500 people will be disallowed, effective today. Given the seriousness of COVID-19, we support this measure as being responsible and sensible, and we encourage everyone to follow public safety guidelines respectfully.

The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions:

- Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.
- All other gatherings are suspended. For clarification of any concerns, please contact your local diocesan authority.

We are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants), it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation. Deferring these liturgies may also be an option that is offered to families.

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

We encourage our priests to continue to celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis. We assure our people that the Mass is being offered for you in our parishes and that while you are not physically present, you still participate spiritually and that you are close to the hearts of your pastors in the Eucharist.

We urge the clergy to make themselves available to visit individuals, especially those who are unwell and vulnerable. This includes viaticum and all the opportunities for healing through the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation.

Again, we encourage you to regularly consult your local websites for further details of local arrangements.

Tomorrow further pastoral guidelines will be shared in the Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst. Clergy and religious should consult with their Ordinary if any questions remain uncertain.

All of this is happening during the Season of Lent, a time of preparation for the Easter mysteries. While we are invited to be self-sacrificial at this time, we must remember the words of Jesus upon appearing before his disciples after his resurrection: Again and again he said 'peace be with you.' (Jn 20:19) Let us not panic, nor be anxious, nor reduce ourselves to caring only for ourselves. This is a time to be sensible, practical, prayerful, and to share Christ's peace with those who are struggling to feel calm and safe.

Thank you for all your patience, prayers and resilience.



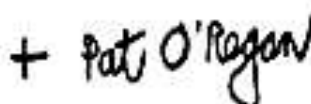
Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR MA, DD
BISHOP OF BALLARAT



Most Rev Shane Mackinlay
BISHOP OF SANDHURST



Most Rev Patrick Michael O'Regan
BISHOP OF SALE



INSIGHTS

Leading the way for children during the Coronavirus pandemic



If you're like me, the news of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has your head spinning and your heart pumping. That's only natural as life as we know has taken a seismic shift in recent days.

International travel bans, cancellation of sporting and cultural events, shopping frenzies and talk of school closures continue to dominate the airwaves. Terms such as social distancing, self-isolation and social lockdowns have entered our vocabularies and may soon become part of our daily lives.

Coronavirus is having an unprecedented impact on our daily lives, and will probably do so for some time. While keeping ourselves and children healthy and safe is our main concern, it's also essential to address the anxieties of children and young people during these changing times. Here are some ideas to help inform, reassure and keep children and young people safe.

Build on what your children know

Children and young people have already been exposed to a great deal of information about corona virus through media, digital means and direct social contact. Their understanding will vary depending on their age and also the quality of their information sources so you probably will need to help kids process what they already know.

Casual conversations with teenagers and older children can be useful ways to glean their understanding. You could ask questions like "What are you hearing about Coronavirus? Is there anything you're not sure about?" Younger primary age children may need a more direct approach with parents addressing their specific concerns without giving too much information that can overwhelm them.

Check your own thoughts and feelings

Check your own frame of mind and emotions about COVID-19 before talking to kids. Most children are astute mood detectives and they'll gauge their safety by the way you communicate with them. If you tell a child, "You've got to wash your hands or you'll get infected," you are communicating your own anxieties, making it difficult for them to maintain a healthy state of mind. Have a think about how you can frame your instructions and their importance in a way that doesn't heighten your child's anxieties.

Stay informed

It's difficult to work out fact from fiction, correct from incorrect, information from exaggeration when the news is changing so fast. However you need to educate yourself about the virus itself, including how it's transmitted and how to stay safe. Get information from trustworthy sources such as The Australian Government Health Department website and the current federal government corona virus information media campaign.

Answer questions truthfully

It's important that parents and teachers answer children's questions honestly in age-appropriate ways and within context of what is happening at the given time. If their sport or hobby has been temporarily cancelled empathise with their concerns, while helping them maintain a sense of perspective.

Initiate positive action

One way to reduce anxiety and allay children's fears is to involve them in planning and preparation for their personal and group safety. Positive activities such as maintenance of personal hygiene, greeting people with an elbow tap and getting plenty of sleep can help restore a sense of control, that is so important for their wellbeing.

Find refuge in rituals

Regular rituals such as mealtimes, bedtime stories and regular one-on-one time provide both an anchor to normality and a sense of connection for kids at times of change. Consider reconstituting favoured family rituals at this time if they have lapsed due to lack of time, or lifestyle frenzy.

Look outwards

In difficult times there is a tendency to look inwards, which is a natural protective strategy. The alternative is to establish a sense of connection and community spirit by focusing on generosity and togetherness. Help children see past their own needs and look for ways to assist others whether it's shopping for an elderly neighbour, helping a younger sibling occupy themselves, or planning an indoor movie night for the whole family.

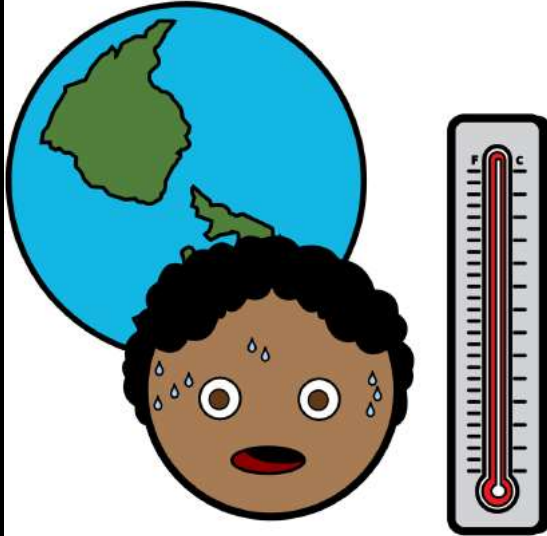
The Coronavirus presents many practical challenges to parents and other important adults in the lives of kids. Staying calm, keeping informed, and adjusting our own habits are just some of the challenges we face. However a significant challenge is one of personal leadership. That is, during these difficult times we need to be civil to each other, look out for each other and be mindful of the common good in everything we do. In this, we can all take a significant lead.



Michael Grose

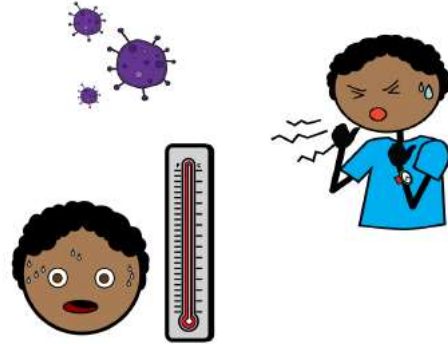
Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.

WHAT IS THE CORONAVIRUS?



Written by Amanda Mc Guinness

The Coronavirus is a virus that can make people feel unwell.



The Coronavirus can also be called "COVID-19".

COVID-19 / CORONAVIRUS



People who have the Coronavirus may have:



Sore Throat/Cough

Fever



Runny Nose



Most people who have the Coronavirus will stay at home to get better.

Some people who have the Coronavirus will go to the hospital to get better.



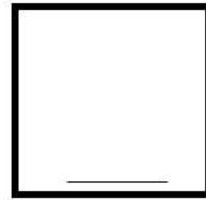
I can help stop the spread of germs by washing my hands with soap and water.

I can take my time when I wash my hands, making sure I wash between my fingers and all over my hands.

If I can't use soap I can use Hand Sanitizer.



There will be NO School for



School will reopen again.



I will stay at home while school is closed.



I will complete school-work /homework while I am at home.



I know that I will be safe and I don't have to feel afraid.

I will be safe and happy at home with my family.



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