



Newsletter / 16 April

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This has been the most extraordinary start to a school term for all of us. And everyone has risen to the challenge. We can truly say we are a learning community with students, parents/caregivers and staff learning new things every day. I know staff have worked hard to develop and access resources to support student learning. They have searched for ways to solve online problems and data issues. They have adapted and will continue to adapt to different ways of teaching and supporting student learning in a positive mindset. I am grateful for their positive energy at this difficult time every day.

Teachers have commented on how it was great to touch base with each student over the past few days. For those who have begun with online meetings via googlemeet they have worked for the most part and we have worked to solve the data issues. It was great to see parents and caregivers hovering in the background providing support and supervision.

You might recollect this excerpt from the end of Term 1 newsletter regarding our plans for this term:

***Plan B** - will focus on delivery of learning at home... We want to ensure that 'continuity of learning' is maintained so your role is very important here. Hopefully you have been able to establish a routine with each day that includes some reading, writing and maths... We will have a suggested timetable; a regular resources pack for collection at the school office; access to more online and paper resources for children; a procedure for online meetings that allow for face to face opportunities from the comfort and security of home – all to support your role as the person supporting their learning with the teacher facilitating the program. As you know we have activated this plan and developed it substantially. Our key objective is to create learning opportunities that expand the horizons of each child. The learning opportunities in everyday life are waiting to be seized. As part of this, try to limit recreational screen time to a certain amount of time each day.*

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Resource Packs

Resource packs will be created each week to support the learning of each child. Thank you to each parent who has collected resource packs from the front office this week. This will continue throughout the term each Friday afternoon – Juniors and Middles beginning this week. Seniors already have their resources for this week and next so they will start this process next week.

When these resource packs are picked up each Friday there will also be an opportunity to visit the library. We will be doing this one family at a time so your patience with this process is appreciated. This will begin from 2:00pm on Friday 17 April for Juniors and Middles and then every week after that. The Seniors will begin this on Friday 24 April at 2:00pm and then every week after that.

These resource packs will consist of handouts and worksheets for students – this is meant to alleviate the requirements to print things at home. It will also include items such as dice or cards or other learning objects - in teacher talk these are *manipulatives* that we use as part of the learning process.

Online safety

The e-Safety Commissioner has developed resources to support all of us about staying safe online at all times. They can be accessed here: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/covid-19>. Here is an excerpt from the letter to parents and attached is the poster on the top 5 tips for online safety for kids:

*...As your children are likely to be interacting more online for learning, playing and socialising over the coming weeks, **the need to set expectations about online behaviour is even greater than usual** – regardless of their comfort level or proficiency with technology. Have a conversation with them to ensure they know they have reporting pathways if something negative happens online. Check out eSafety's Top 5 online safety tips for kids...*

We are incorporating aspects of online safety into the learning program as well. It has been great to see the students online and we hope the learning is a joyous occasion for you too. Students in Years 3-6 have been managing the online google meet system very well and each day their skills in this area will improve. This new manner of meeting that is being used across the world in every level of business and government is a great skill for them to acquire for future use.

Prayer

Taking time each day to pray with God is an important aspect of our lives. For me prayer is to enable us to deepen our loving relationship with God through Christ.

Desire for God is at the heart of prayer and quiet time enables God to meet that desire and to fulfil it. I would encourage everyone to have some quiet time each day to be still and to be silent and open your heart to God. Silence restores us and brings us wellsprings of hope. It is the source of our power to bring unconditional love into the world we live in. You might begin your prayer with the following simple actions:

- Light a candle.
- Take time to breathe. And listen to the sounds around you.
- Use a sacred word to get you to a place of inner quiet.
- Repeat your word gently to support your focused attention.

You could conclude with this prayer from Ireland, especially crafted for this time:

*Loving God,
we place into your care
all our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers.
Give them courage of heart and strength of mind and body.*



Keep them safe from harm.

*May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing
to heal and help those affected by the coronavirus.*

God of all consolation

may they know your protection and peace.

Bless them in these challenging days and bless their families.

Amen.

Blessings to each one of you and your families at this time.

Ms Caroline Sheehan

Acting Principal

Learning and Teaching

Senior News

The Senior students have written about holidaying under very different circumstances. This is an excerpt from Noah H's recount.

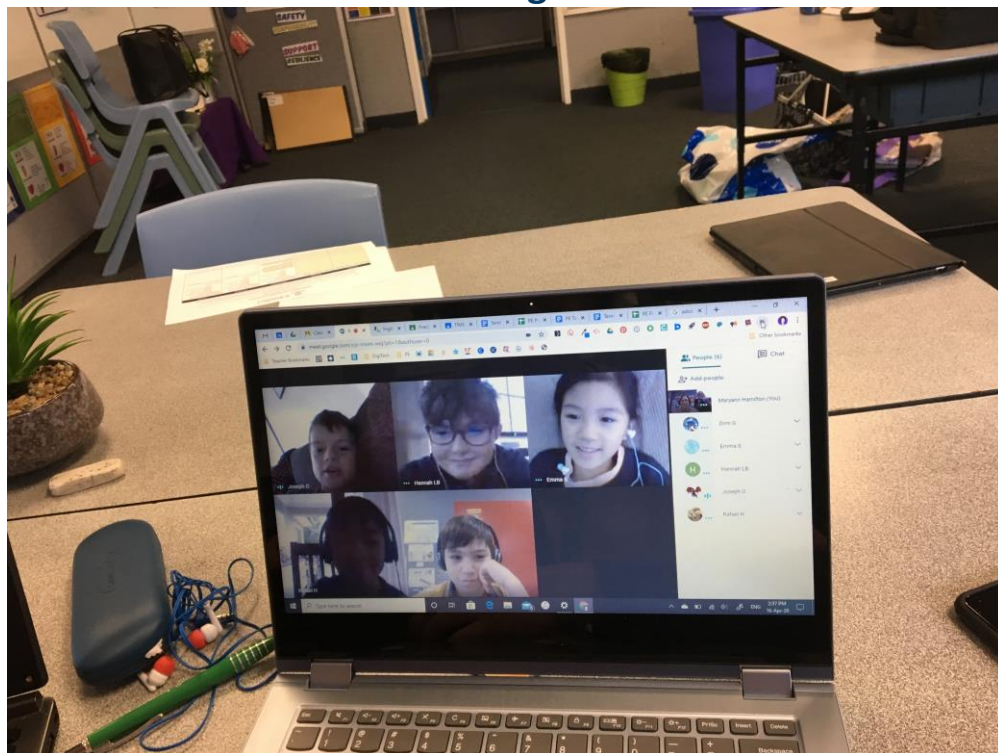
So... a big readjustment of our mindset had to take place. Mum even started joking that we had become like dogs; walking around the house looking for food constantly and getting really excited about going for a walk or a drive in the car.

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Finally the highlight of the two weeks was the arrival of the tramp scooter which my mum bought for Levi and I. I've spent many hours perfecting my skills. All this exercise has been good for me because I have eaten my own body weight in brownies.

Noah H (and mum)

Middle School Online Learning





Top 5 online safety tips for kids

1

Set up your device to protect your information.

2

Explore safely & tell an adult if you see anything online that makes you feel yuck.

3

Limit who can contact you when you're playing games.

4

Stop all contact with anyone online who asks you to do anything you don't want to do. Report and block them.

5

Ask for help if anything online is bothering you.

