



Newsletter / 19 March

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is a strange time in which we find ourselves. Shortages on supermarket shelves. People wearing facemasks whether they are sick or well. Arts venues closed. Sporting events cancelled – even the AFL is affected(!). Meanwhile we are following the advice of the Victorian Government, the Chief Medical Officer and CEM to remain open. We are wiping down surfaces and encouraging children to be diligent with handwashing. No doubt there is some angst in your family about what might happen and this could lead to fear and frustration manifesting itself. As adults we have such a huge responsibility to demonstrate a positive response to this crisis.

“

Kids are always learning.
What they're learning right now is
HOW ADULTS RESPOND.

JOSH STARR

I would continue to advise that you monitor the DHHS site and related official government sites. Never rely on social media (Facebook, twitter etc) for the latest news. Some parts

of the media can be unreliable as they are attempting to 'make a story' more dramatic and desperate than it actually is. You are welcome to discuss any concerns you have about what is happening at any time with myself.

Normally we would have had Seniors going to the Catholic Education Week mass of St Patrick and we intended to go to the CEM Art Show on Friday and then the Flower and Garden show next week. The teachers are very disappointed that these extra educational opportunities we were hoping to provide for your child have been cancelled but we have continued to create other learning opportunities to expand their horizons.

This week we have celebrated the work and messages of two great saints of the Catholic church. On St Patrick's day we had cupcakes with green icing and green jelly – to remind us where St Patrick did his best work – in Ireland. On Thursday we remembered St Joseph, the father of Jesus, and all those who work and create with their hands.

Earlier this week our outdoor (play) kitchen arrived, much to the delight of everyone. It is located near the sandpit and students have been making all sorts of weird and wonderful items. This imaginative play has really brought out the creativity of students. Here they are making soup.



If you have any spare buckets and spades for sand play – or small utensils that you no longer need we can add them to the implements the students are playing with in the sandpit and with the outdoor kitchen. In addition, any small toy cars would be greatly appreciated.

Think Sheets – a restorative process

A restorative approach to student wellbeing is intended to recognise and repair relationships that have been damaged through our actions. The process around restorative practices include *Think Sheets*. These are guided sheets to support students to think about their actions and how they have damaged the relationships they have with others in the classroom, including their teacher who is focused on their wellbeing and learning. They are in the context of the *St Benedict's Superheroes* actions of:

Honour responsibility

Expect respect

Remember resilience

Offer support to others

Ensure

Safety

With that in mind, if your child receives a *Think Sheet*, part of the process involves them taking the sheet home for you to read over with them and discuss and then sign as acknowledgement and then the child returns it to their teacher. A key element of this is for us to work together to adjust the wellbeing and learning approach of your child so that the experience is as constructive and positive as we can make it. Additional consequences are, of course, at your discretion, but often not needed.

Enrolments 2021

Our progress with enrolments for 2021 is looking positive. Our *Open Morning* on 12 March was a great success in terms of getting our school looking sparkling for the event. Thanks to all the staff who put in extra hours and effort to ensure their classrooms and surrounding areas looked interesting and places of learning. Thanks to Nicole Hendricks who set up our library with themed displays. The library is such an important part of a primary school. While we had a small turnout, this may have been affected by greater events. Individual tours are available upon request. **We are aiming to have our next *Open Morning* on 29 April beginning at 9:15am. There will be an alternative session of an *Open Twilight* on the same evening beginning at 5:00pm.** (this date may be adjusted should that become necessary).

We hope you enjoy this weekend and continue to pray for each other's ongoing good health and mental well-being.

Blessings



Ms Caroline Sheehan
Acting Principal



Diary Dates

Diary Dates		
Term One		
25 March	Junior level class mass (in gathering space)	9:00am
25 March	Easter raffle (tickets available next week)	Tickets 50c each (pls see note on nxt page)
26 March	Excursion to Melbourne Flower & Garden Show	cancelled
27 March	End Term One	3:15pm
Term Two		
13 April	Easter Monday public holiday	
14 April (Tuesday)	Term Two commences	8:45am
14 April	Easter Liturgy	
14 April	Easter raffle drawn at recess	
17 April	Incursion – Construction with Planks	
20 April	Incursion – Meet the police officer	
24 April	ANZAC Day Liturgy	
25 April (Saturday)	ANZAC Day	
29 April	Reconciliation Faith Night	7:00 – 8:00pm
8 May	Mother's Day Mass/Stall	9:00am
12-14 May	NAPLAN	Years 3 & 5
21 May	Reconciliation (Year 3)	7:00 – 8:00pm
3 June	School Photos	
8 June	Queen's Birthday public holiday	
19 June	Feast of Sacred Heart Mass	9:00 am
24 June	Semester 1 reports go home	
26 June	Term 2 concludes	3:15 pm

**A REMINDER THAT SCHOOL FEES & LEVIES ARE
NOW DUE AND PAYABLE.**



MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY EACH WEEK
(NO SERVICE on TUESDAYS or FRIDAYS!)

Classroom Cuisine offer freshly delivered lunch two or three course lunches. They deliver to St. Benedict's on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

If you would like to place a lunch order through Classroom Cuisine just log on to their website register your child and follow the prompts. Payment is made via visa or mastercard when orders placed.

Cancellations can be made up until 9.30am on day of delivery.

Visit classroomcuisine.com.au

REMINDERS

We ask parents/carers to please leave any items to be passed on to their child at the office. Please do not go to your child's classroom as this disrupts the class and teaching time.

SCHOOL ABSENCES

A reminder to parents/carers to please advise the school office by 9am if your child is absent from school. This can be done via email admin@sbburwood.catholic.edu.au or by phone on 9808 8551.

SCHOOL HATS

All children must have a hat to wear when outside.

NO HAT means NO PLAY



St Benedict's Easter Raffle

This year we will draw our Easter Raffle prize just a few short days after Easter, on the first day of Term 2, 14 April.

Tickets will be sold during the last week of Term 1, beginning 23 March for .50c each. The Easter Raffle prize will be drawn at recess on Tuesday 14 April.

Religious Education

Who is Caritas Australia and what is Project Compassion?



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. It only takes seconds to make the world a better place. Are you with us?

Since the beginning of Lent, the Senior students in particular have been learning about where Caritas Australia has placed its Project Compassion focus for 2020. So far we have learnt about Shirley from the Philippines, Phany from Cambodia, Barry from Australia and Sakun from India. Each person has their own story of how Caritas Australia,



through the work of Project Compassion, has changed their life. I often say to my students 'Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will never go hungry'. I believe that this is what Caritas does. They work alongside these people in their communities; helping them help themselves through upskilling, education and providing them with the materials to make their life and the life of their community better.

Each week, as part of the resources that Caritas make available on their website, there is a quote to help us reflect on our responsibility. As Catholics, God asks us to 'Go out and spread the Good News', be faithful and build the Kingdom. He also asks us to be of service to others.

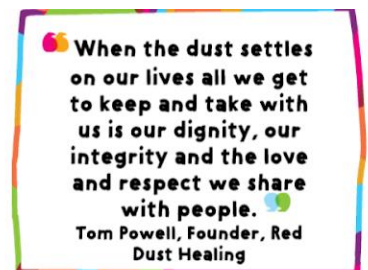
Imagine if, instead of that take away coffee every day, we decided to have one less take away coffee a week and the money from that one coffee was donated to Project Compassion? Here's how our donations can help.

A donation of:

\$1 can buy two notebooks for a child of a vulnerable farming family so they can go to school in rural Cambodia.

\$5 can buy three packets of vegetable seeds for home gardening to increase nutrition and provide some income for a family living in rural Cambodia.

\$20 can provide a week's supply of food to a domestic violence survivor and her children who have fled to a Safe House in Papua New Guinea.



As they were growing up three of my nieces (who are all now in their twenties) had money boxes that were divided into three sections - Saving, Spending, Giving. The 'Saving' section was locked and the parents had the key. This money was banked on a regular basis; the 'Spending' was for whatever they wanted and the 'Giving' developed an expectation that part of their pocket money went towards helping others. The money in the 'Giving' was used for gold coin donation days at school, giving to door knocking organisations such as the Heart Foundation and donating to charities such as Project

Compassion.

Those five cent pieces all add up so emptying your pockets and donating the loose change to Project Compassion will make a significant difference to someone else's life. Give generously if you can, every coin counts!



Mary Brooks
Religious Education Leader

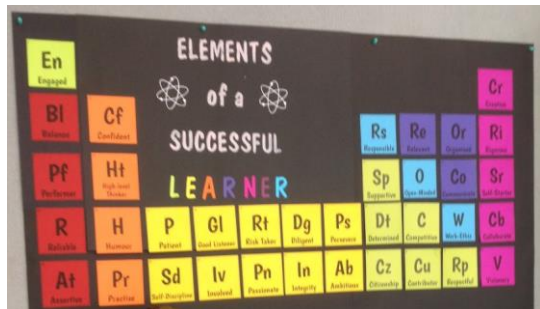
Learning and Teaching

A Letter from the Middle School to St Benedict's

Dear St Benedict's,

Thank you for an amazing school term. We have learnt so much, laughed, played and learnt new games and we have nearly finished our world jigsaw puzzle.

In maths, we learnt about numbers and their place value, what the features of different 2D shapes, symmetry, chance and how we can describe it in fractional terms, what is a fair and unfair chance game using spinners, collection of data and the best graph to display our information and we have been Maths detectives tackling mysterious investigations using a lot of different skills and concepts.



In English we have been visiting our library to borrow books. Thank you, Nicole, for making our library look amazing and for all the great work you have been doing in there. We are lucky to

have so many books to choose from. We have written a narrative about bushfires, wrote a memoir about an animal of our choice in the first person, learnt how to do an annotated report and wrote facts using bullet points. We read different texts and discussed them in our guided reading groups.



We have talked about 'zones of regulation', devised our 'Safety Plans' to help us stay in the 'Green Zone', participated in Community Meetings, shared our Learning Goals with our parents. Our classroom is a 'can do' zone. We have Art with Mrs White, Italian with Signora Smarrelli and Performing Arts with Ms Ellis.

During this term we have had Baseball coaching sessions with Jon. We attended the 'Catechesis of the Good Shepherd' sessions, every Tuesday, with Cathy and Jenny.

We have attended Adoration, with Sr Majella and participated in Whole-School Masses. We participated in an inter-school sports day. It was a great day and we all competed to the best of our abilities.



At lunchtimes everyone plays and talks to everyone.

We have played whole school Octopus and Tiggy. We have an outdoor kitchen, and there are plenty of balls, hoops and skipping ropes to share. We even played a cricket match with Ms Sheehan. On St Patrick's Day we celebrated with green jelly and cupcakes with green icing made by Ms Brooks and Ms Sheehan.

A highlight of our week is the St Benedict's Snack Bar which is held every Friday. Thank you to the mothers who organise this. We love it!

No week is the same, each has its own adventure and new learning opportunity for us to discover.





Sadly, we say good bye to Mrs White as she is going on maternity leave. We thank her for all the learning opportunities she planned for us this term. We will miss her but we know there are exciting adventures ahead for her. Thank you, St Benedict's for all the learning, the laughter and the new friends throughout the school we have made. Thank you to Father Dan, Ms Sheehan, Mrs Dermietzel, Mrs Piva and all our teachers for making 'everyone and every moment count.'



*Yours Sincerely,
The Students of the Middle School.*

News from Senior B

Camp

The Senior students had a wonderful time on camp with the Year Five and Six students and staff from St Scholastica's. Thank you to Ms Sheehan for coming up for the day on Thursday and joining in all the activities.

The activities continued in spite of a lot of rain Wednesday evening and all day Thursday. The students did abseiling, canoeing, swung on the giant swing, had a disco, played Capture the Flag into the dark evening and thoroughly enjoyed the marvellous flying fox. It was heart-warming to watch the students from both schools take care of each other, encourage each other and have fun together. The long weekend was definitely timely!

Camp Reflections from the students:

It was fun and scary at the same time. Gabe

The Giant Swing was fun because you got to do it with a friend. Jordan

The food was YUMMY and the giant swing was good. Layla

I really liked the giant swing and the flying fox because it was really, really fun. Reema

I loved the giant swing very much because Reema and I had fun swinging. Nadine

I really liked the flying fox because I felt really safe and it was really fun. Zoe

I loved it when Ms Sheehan bought some fresh water to the camp. The flying fox was really fun Noah

The flying fox was really fast and exciting. Kyiel

It was a really fun camp! Senior B consensus.



Day One



Day Three.....

Inquiry

Our Global Connections inquiry topic continues to thread its way through Religious Education, Reading and Geography. The students have been researching how Australia is connected globally through international aid, trade, tourism and migration. The Religious Education connection has been through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion focus of Going Further Together.

PE - Baseball

On Wednesday 18 March the students had their final baseball session with Jon. Over the sessions the students learnt how to throw a ball properly, played lots of different games and how to play Baseball Five. We are grateful for the opportunity to have Jon come and teach us these skills.

As part of learning about the CoronaVirus (COVID19) the students have also ensured they are practising good hygiene such as regularly washing and drying their hands and keeping their tables clean. They watched a clear and concise explanation of it on BrainPop and we had some class discussion around it.

Senior B and Ms Brooks

News from Junior School

Hello everyone,

The Junior class has been incredibly busy over the past few weeks. The children have all been well and the classroom is washed down and disinfected daily in this challenging time. We have spent some time learning about the importance of hand washing and keeping a little distance between each other.



Thank you for the support you gave your child/children in researching a little information about their grandparents and supplying photos. This has really enhanced our unit on being part of God's family. We have also been looking at what we can do and what we are asked to do in this time of Lent. We also celebrated St Patrick's Day on 17 March with shamrocks, green cakes and green jelly. On 19 March, we will look at St Joseph's Day, and as the patron saint of fathers it will tie in nicely with our unit on family. In Maths we have been working on knowing the months of the year and the seasons, along with strategies for adding and identifying the attributes of 2D shapes.



Thank you again for filling in the reading diaries every night. The children are enjoying the challenge and a few children have already reached the 25 nights of reading: Yuvraj, Imogen, Massi and Jax. Nearly everyone has achieved a 'promotion' in learning their sight words, so keep up the momentum and don't forget to read to your child over the holidays.

It has been a fantastic term with an exciting sports day, the introduction of the snack bar, meeting new children, and advancing our literacy and numeracy skills.

We farewelled Adeline and Jonas on Tuesday, 16 March at a moment's notice. They headed back to Hong Kong yesterday. They were a great addition to the class and hopefully will take great memories back with them.

If I don't see you before the holidays I wish you and your family a very happy and blessed Easter.

Regards

Deborah Torre

L'ITALIANO PER TUTTI (Italian for everyone)

Some questions and answers you can use with your children. We have been discussing that sometimes we cannot translate text 'word for word'.

Come ti chiami? What are you called?

(What is your name?)

Mi chiamo I am called

(My name is)

Come ti senti? How are you feeling?

Mi sento I am feeling

All the students have been learning songs or poems and would benefit from sharing them with you -

Juniors - a song called, '*Ciao, come ti chiami?*'

Middles – a song called, '*L'alfabeto italiano*' and a poem called, '*Io ho un nome*'.

Seniors - a poem called, '*L'amicizia*'.

A presto,

Signora Smarrelli



Community News

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HOLIDAY CLINICS

WEEK 1: 30th March - 3rd April
(Burwood TC/North Kew TC)
WEEK 2: 6th April - 9th April
(Burwood TC/Deepdene TC)

BLUE
(AGES 3-5)
\$40
9-11am

RED
(AGES 5-8)
\$40
9-11am

ORANGE
(AGES 8-10)
\$55
9-1pm

GREEN
(AGES 9-11)
\$55
9-1pm

YELLOW
AGES 12+
\$55
9-1pm

PLAY AND STAY: 11-1pm (Optional - \$15)

We are offering Red and Blue students the opportunity to stay on for an extra two hours of fun! We will go to the playground and play a lot of games both inside and out!

FLEXIBLE BOOKINGS

Flexible options to suit your school holiday plans. Book any number of days you like, or book a full week and save 20%.



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St Benedict's
Catholic Primary School



Dear Community members

In order to protect our wider school community, the College has made the difficult decision to **postpone the 80th anniversary Celebration Mass and Alumnae Lunch on Wednesday, 29 April 2020.**

At the time of writing, there are currently no known cases of COVID-19 within our community, however there is the potential of considerable risk in holding events and social distancing has been advised. Therefore, we believe the right and prudent decision is to exercise an abundance of caution and sadly cancel or postpone any large community events.

We are currently working on an alternative date for our 80th celebrations later in the school year and we will inform you once details have been finalised.

My sincere thanks for your understanding at this time as we navigate our way through this difficult situation.

Please direct any queries to Liz Merrett at imerrett@siena.vic.edu.au

Regards, Elizabeth Hanney



EMMAUS
COLLEGE

Dear prospective Emmaus families

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the COVID-19 virus has the potential to have a significant impact on schools and the wider community. Emmaus College has reviewed information received from both the Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV) and the Department of Health and Human Services and decided to **postpone our Open Day scheduled for Thursday 26th March.** We typically have around 700+ visitors to our school on this day, and in the current circumstances, it is prudent to protect our school community and visitors. Front and centre to all our decision making is our obligation to safeguard our students and staff, and any visitors to our school community. We hope to be able to hold an Open Day in coming months, once the threat of COVID-19 has passed. We expect to be able to continue to run our regular smaller tours during Term 2 and Term 3. A reminder that enrolments for Year 7 2022 close on 21st August this year.

Regards, **Tony Hirst**
College Principal

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