



Newsletter / 23 April

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This week we would normally remember the efforts of the ANZACS who have represented our country in war efforts and in peacekeeping missions for close to 120 years. While we are not able to do the usual things in these difficult times, we are still remembering them in other ways. Some of the activities we have done this week have included placing our ANZAC bears in the school's windows as part of our ANZAC remembering and this is also part of the 'going on a bear hunt' walks that families are engaging in. We have made ANZAC biscuits – either remotely at home or for those who have come to school we made them for morning tea today – they were fantastic! We have read books or watched videos that recall the efforts of those soldiers, sailors and aircraft personnel as well. You might want to join the *Light up at Dawn* movement where we are encouraged to have a lit candle at the end of our driveway on Saturday morning at dawn, 6:00am. More information can be found here: <http://www.rslvic.com.au/commemoration/anzac-day/>.



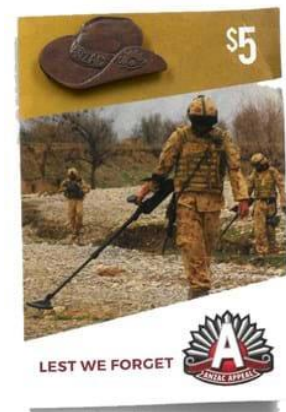
Teachers have continued to touch base with each student on a regular basis and also with parents, seeking your feedback and supporting you. If you are wondering about any aspect of student learning please make direct contact with your child's teacher via email or by phone to the school office. Our protocols around online meetings for the Middles and Seniors via *googlemeet* have been maintained with students ready to join the meeting at 9:00am dressed in neat casual clothes in a common area of the house. It is great to see parents and caregivers hovering in the background providing support and supervision.



Our key objective during this time of remote learning is to create learning opportunities that expand the horizons of each child.

ANZAC badges

ANZAC badges will be available at front reception should you wish to make a purchase. While these badges mark an important part of our history as Australians, they are part of the fundraising for the *RSL Welfare Fund* for returned soldiers and their families. The symbol of the rising sun is used along with the poppy on most of the badges. It is a symbol of purpose and endurance to carry on when others might give up – a great symbol for the current circumstances in which we find ourselves.





This excerpt explains the origins of the slouch hat:

In the prolonged and bitter struggles of World War 1 and World War 2, the soldiers of the 1st and 2nd AIF (Australian Imperial Forces) had this esprit-de-corps, and its focal point was a humble badge. The so-called 'Rising Sun' badge, worn on the up-turned brim of a slouch hat, typified the Spirit of ANZAC - the camaraderie of Australian soldiers to be resilient and endure their experiences with stoicism.

The badge had its origins in 1902 when a badge was urgently sought for the Australian contingents raised after Federation for service in South Africa during the Boer War. Major General Sir Edward Hutton, the then newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Forces, initiated the use of the rising sun following the receipt of a gift that represented a rising sun.

Hutton had earlier received as a gift from Brigadier General Joseph Gordon, a 'Trophy-of-Arms' comprising mounted cut and thrust swords and triangular bayonets which were arranged in a semi-circle around the Crown. To General Hutton the shield was symbolic of the co-operation of the naval and military forces of the Commonwealth. This became the rising sun symbol.

Resource Packs

Resource packs will be available for every class this Friday and 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. Resource packs will be available for pick-up on Friday from 2:00pm until 3:30pm

These resource packs 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. This week we are providing a link to the resource about privacy for parents and children:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/privacy-child>

Here is an excerpt from that resource:

It is important that your child is aware of where and how information that identifies them is available online. They should also think about who can access it, what others may be doing with their information and the impression they are leaving for others to find.

We are incorporating aspects of online safety into the learning program each week.

Program Support Group (PSG)

PSG meetings will be held via the phone for parents of students on Personalised Learning Plans in the week beginning 4 May. Previously we had scheduled them as meetings by attendance but we cannot do this at this time so they will be completed either by phone or an online meeting. Each parent will be contacted separately about this. Prior to this you will receive your updated PLP in an email and we will include a printed copy in the resource packs next week.

Prayer

Taking time each day to pray with God is an important aspect of our lives. This week you might want to focus on the resilience and endurance of the ANZACS and how we can embody those characteristics at this time.



Let's begin with:

- Lighting 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. (e.g. gratitude; Jesus; family; peace...)
- Repeat your word gently to support your focused attention.
- Quietly reflect on interactions with other people and how this has been the presence of God in your week.

And then conclude with this prayer: *The Ode* which comes from *For the Fallen*, a poem by the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon and was published in London in 1914.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

*They mingle not with their laughing comrades again,
They sit no more at familiar tables of home,
As the stars shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

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

Ms Caroline Sheehan
Acting Principal

Diary Dates

Diary Dates		
Term Two		
DUE TO CURRENT SITUATION, WE HAVE INCLUDED LIMITED DATES		
25 April (Saturday)	ANZAC Day	
8 June	Queen's Birthday public holiday	
19 June	Feast of Sacred Heart	
24 June	Semester 1 reports go home	
26 June	Term 2 concludes	3:15 pm



Religious Education



I don't know about you but times certainly feel strange as I never thought or imagined that I would be going to Mass via YouTube! And Easter has never been so different! The Easter Vigil has always been a Mass I love being part of - the rituals, the renewal of Baptismal Promises and the celebration with my Parish family. It was all very different this year, but I am grateful that I can still 'attend' Mass even though it is remote. The Archdiocese of Melbourne have shown great leadership in ensuring Mass is being live streamed in a number of parishes and from St Patrick's Cathedral in town. If you are wanting to attend Mass there is a live stream every Sunday from St Benedict's - this is the link to the [Parish website](#) where not only can you attend daily and Sunday Masses but also find out about other information concerning what's happening in the parish.

You can also 'attend' Mass at [St Patrick's Cathedral](#) which is also live streamed every Sunday. There is a fund of information about the Cathedral on their website too if you are interested in a bit of cathedral and Catholic history!

Second Sunday of Easter Gospel: John 20:19-31

Gospel Reflection



Because the focus of this week's gospel passage is usually placed on poor old doubting Thomas, we sometimes overlook the way the passage begins. The disciples are huddled in a room, 'for fear of the Jews'. Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. Their man, the one they had chosen to follow, was making waves and stirring the authorities – thumbing his nose at the rules. This, of course, made the disciples feel good to be around Jesus. However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. They had gone from riding the crest of a wave to being utterly dumped! They were cowering in a closed up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well. They had already had an experience of the resurrected Jesus yet they were still hiding and afraid.

Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, 'Peace be with you'. It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake – in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm. Thomas has received a pretty bad rap for the last 2000 years, forever labelled as 'Doubting Thomas' because he wasn't prepared to take someone else's word for the fact that Jesus had risen. However, despite his demand for evidence, once Jesus is before him, he abandons all thoughts about placing his fingers in the wounds and proclaims, 'My Lord and my God!' This is an absolutely extraordinary statement of faith. For the very first time, someone recognises Jesus, not as Messiah, prophet or Lord, but as God.

Have you thought? Those who have not seen Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we – blessed are we – who have not seen and yet still believe!

Mary Brooks

Religious Education Leader

Learning and Teaching

Senior B News

We are into the second week of our remote learning from home and so far it seems all is going reasonably smoothly. I know we were all quite anxious at the beginning and I think we are all on a rather steep learning curve. We use Google Meet to catch up each morning and some days we meet again before the end of the day. The Senior students are using Google Meet to collaborate with each other and chat about their work, which is a great way of keeping in touch with one another.

The students are completing their work around Global Connections as part of their Geography unit, as well as the geography knowledge. This has also involved a lot of reading strategies and skills. Our first Mathematics focus has been elapsed time and timetables. The next few weeks we will be looking at length, perimeter and area.

We are having to think differently about how some things are presented and learned, so a visit to an art gallery or observing the animals in the zoo are great learning experiences. Personally, I miss my students and I look forward to our morning catch ups. It's great to see their smiling faces each morning and have a quick chat about how they all are. Thank you to the parents who I know are doing a fabulous job at home under these very different circumstances.

Saturday is ANZAC Day and the students will be doing some learning around it. I hope to be standing in my driveway at 6am on Saturday morning with my candle to commemorate all those that have allowed me to live in this great country and to have such a wonderful free life. This [Australian War Memorial](#) link will take you to things you can do at home on ANZAC Day.

So, stay safe, wash your hands and keep your distance!

Ms Brooks

Middle School News

As we settle in to our new way of learning, we are meeting lots of challenges, we have had a few teething problems and we are learning a lot about ourselves and each other. The students in the Middle school are all logging on first thing in the morning for our class prayer and community meeting, and getting much better at not speaking over each other - something many adults are still trying to get their heads around! The first two weeks of term we have focussed on Earth Day and ANZAC Day, including making ANZAC biscuits and reading lots of books about the ANZAC story and why there are ANZAC Day marches. We have started a Health unit looking at how we can stay healthy and we are looking at how we stay safe online. In Religion we have been looking at the Easter story and what we can do as curators of God's creation.

Congratulations to all you amazing parents and caregivers. Remember, if something doesn't make sense, won't let you on a web page or is missing from your pack, let us know and we will try to fix it, but don't stress over it. We will have a new pack ready to be picked up Friday afternoon for next week, and will continue this each Friday.

Have a lovely ANZAC weekend and stay safe and well.

Jane and Maryann

Junior School News

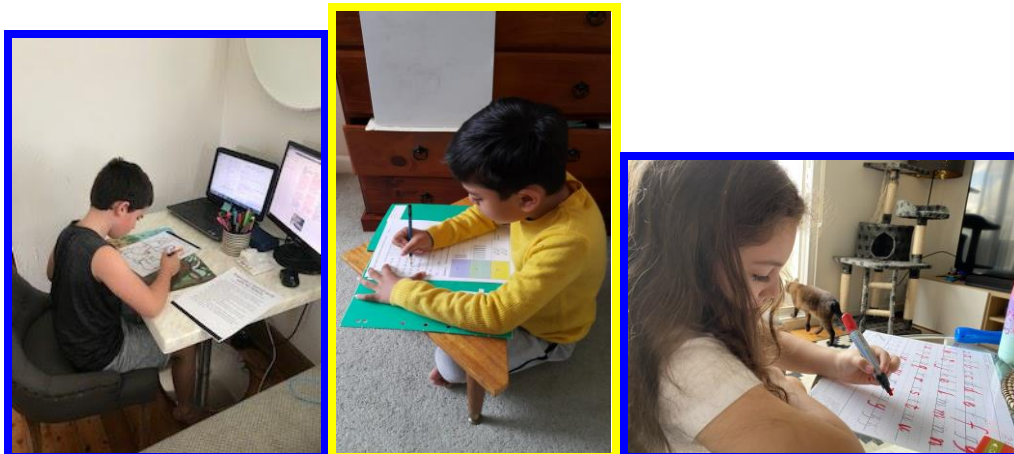
What a fortnight it has been for us all. Using technologies we never thought we would have to use. The children and parents have all been so positive and supportive of this new way of learning. I have enjoyed the photographs sent through of all the wonderful working spaces the children have at home. We are all looking forward to our first Google Chat tomorrow, the first time we will see each other since the school had to close because of Covid19.

Schools have been overwhelmed with available resources from all over the world during this challenging time. I have limited it to about 6 so that the children can be familiar with how they work. Please let me know if sites are not working for you or your child. Thankyou also for pretesting your child on the current unit of work around Place Value, there is another pre-test in your pack for next week for the next unit of work on Subtraction.

I hope you are all staying well and managing some of the dance breaks I am putting into the program.

Regards

Deb Torre



L'ITALIANO PER TUTTI (Italian for everyone)

Bentornati (welcome back) e buongiorno a tutti



What an interesting term!

All the students have/will have been given a copy of the class prayer we say in Italian each week. It would be good if they could use this prayer sometimes. Let them explain what it means and they could teach the family.

*Nel nome del Padre,
del Figlio,
e dello Spirito Santo.
Amen*

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

*A presto,
Signora Smarrelli*



Community News

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.



eSafetykids

esafety.gov.au/kids

Parenting Support

Do you have a child under the age of 12 and need support with parenting?



The Family Support Worker can assist families in dealing with:

- Tantrums
- Bedtime problems
- Mealtime difficulties
- Children not following instructions
- Aggression towards parents, siblings and others or
- Other areas of concern

Would you like to:

- Enjoy parenting more?
- Address concerns about your child's behaviour?
- Use positive parenting strategies to improve your child's behaviour?

Help is available through a Family Support Worker who will help you learn new skills to better manage your child's behaviour.

How to access the Family Support Worker

Referrals to the Family Support Worker can be made by contacting our Service Co-ordination team at healthAbility on **Ph 9430 9100** between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.



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