



Newsletter / 7 May

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This weekend we will celebrate Mother's Day and it will continue to be one of those events dramatically affected by COVID19. I hope you will be able to celebrate the unique aspects of care, love, support and guidance that mothers provide. In our community I am conscious that for some this can be a day that is celebrated differently and will include grandmothers and aunties. And it might be a day of sadness as well. In my life there have been many other women who have cared for me alongside my Mother. They include my grandmothers, my aunties and even my sisters as we have become older. While I have not experienced that special bond of being a mother, I am only an aunty and in that way I know I have added to the array of women in the lives of my nieces and nephews who have laughed with them, supported them, taken great joy in their achievements, guided and cared for each one of them. So, as we celebrate the special gift that is our mother this weekend, my prayer for each family in our community is that we stay healthy and take great joy in the opportunities this time can offer.

A Mother's Love

*There are times when only a mother's love can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappointments and calm all of our fears.*

*There are times when only a mother's love can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about quite suddenly is real.*

*There are times when only a mother's faith can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence we need from day to day.*

*For a mother's heart and a mother's faith and a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels and sent from God above.*

- Author Unknown

Remote Learning

All staff at St Benedict's have continued to work hard to support students remotely and those who attend each day. It has been wonderful to see how they have maintained a focus that keeps the students at the heart of all that we do. 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 all students 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 guide and direct students and provide creative and imaginative activities to facilitate learning about themselves, others and the world around them. We continue to work with parents to mentor and develop each child.

St Benedict's Resource Packs

Resource packs are available for every class each 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 as well as *manipulatives* that are used as part of the learning process.

Each week all teachers are expecting various worksheets and other completed work items to be returned – this is part of their constant monitoring of the progress of your child and is part of the assessment protocols teachers maintain.

Program Support Group (PSG) for some students

PSG meetings will be held via the phone for parents of students on Personalised Learning Plans in the week beginning 11 May (previously they were scheduled for 4 May - we changed this to allow teachers to ensure they had accommodated remote learning aspects of your child's learning). 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 by your child's teacher. Prior to this you will receive your updated PLP in an email and we will include a printed copy in the resource packs this week.

Catholic Care resources

Catholic Care have generated some resources to support our community at this time. You can find them [here](#). Here is an excerpt:

Did you know that having strong relationships is just as powerful for the human body as having adequate sleep and a good diet? Research shows that people with strong relationships are happier, have fewer health problems, and live longer...

In addition to the great health benefits of having strong relationships, they can also help us to get through difficult times and deal with adversity. At the moment you may be working from home, you may be at your place of employment, you may be retired, you may have children and family at home, or you may be by yourself. Unfortunately, some of you may have lost your job or your income.

...one of things that we can do to support one another is by attending to our relationships and building on them to make them strong, positive and uplifting.

Kitchen Garden Program at home

In response to COVID-19 the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation has developed a new Kitchen Garden Program (KGP) [at home approach](#).

KGP at home consists of themed collections of recipes and activities, which are specifically tailored to assist kitchen garden parents and educators to deliver a kitchen garden program while students are learning remotely...

We are also developing a publicly available [series of recipes and videos](#) that reinforce KGP at home. The series will support families to enhance their learning at home, as well as inspire Aussie families to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh seasonal *delicious* food with your family.

Online safety

Children are using computers a lot more to support their remote learning and we expect them to maintain appropriate respectful relationships in the on-line sphere. Respect for each other is paramount. We have limited the time that students can access their chrome book to 8:00am-8:00pm as part of our risk management mitigation. We would also encourage parents and carers to have a conversation around appropriate language use in chats and emails. It is important to remember that not everyone wants to play some of the online games that others play – the same as in the school yard.



The e-Safety Commissioner has developed resources to support all of us about staying safe online at all times. We are incorporating aspects of online safety into the learning program each week. This week we are providing a link to the specifically created COVID19 online resource kit especially designed for families: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/blog/covid-19-online-safety-kit-parents-and-carers>

Here are some excerpts from that resource:

...it is important to ensure you can find reliable information, stay connected with family and friends, help your children stay safe online – and stay mentally healthy too...

Beware of false information and scams. A Coronavirus cure? Don't be ripped off by the online offers – currently there are no vaccines for COVID-19, but there are lots of dodgy pills and fake remedies.

Learn about the games, apps, social media and platforms children are using at [The eSafety Guide](#), including how to protect their information and report inappropriate content or conduct.

Catholic Education Today

We have included an excerpt from the publication [Catholic Education Today](#) which focuses on an appreciation of the many aspects of your role as you are supporting your children learning from home. This was written by *Catholic School Parents Victoria*. It includes an explanation of some of the aspects you are undertaking at this time – an extensive list – so if you are feeling tired then be assured there is an awareness of how much you are doing at this time as path builder and co-creator; as advisor, mentor and coach; as navigator and connector; as co-learner and advocate to name just a few aspect of your role as parent and carer.

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 gift of special women in our lives, especially our mothers. Let's begin with:

- Lighting a candle.
- Take time to breathe. And listen to the sounds around you.
- 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:

Good and Gentle God,

We pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of this family who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life and supporting growing children.

You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers and carers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life can bring.

Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.

Give them the faithful support of partner, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.

Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most.

[adapted from [Prayers for Mother's day](#)]

Blessings to each one of you and your families and happy Mother's Day to all.

Ms Caroline Sheehan
Acting Principal

Diary Dates

Term Two		
DUE TO CURRENT SITUATION, WE HAVE INCLUDED LIMITED DATES		
25 April (Saturday)	ANZAC Day	
8 May	Mother's Day Mass (streamed)	9:00am
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

Mother's Day Mass this Friday

This Friday (TOMORROW) Fr Dan will be live streaming Mass from Our Lady Chapel on the [St Benedict's Catholic Community](#) youtube channel for Mother's Day. As a school we would normally celebrate this special occasion with Mass and Morning Tea for all the wonderful mums, grandmas and carers in our lives. Please join us on the live stream at 9:00am. Those present at school will also be joining on the live stream.

Genevieve Bryant, a local singer and songwriter has been preparing and sharing [Gospel Reflections of Music and Prayer](#) on her youtube channel. Gen has a beautiful voice and is a gifted songstress. If you feel like some reflection time, make a visit.

This Sunday at 4pm another gifted artist Gary Pinto, is raising awareness of Caritas' work for the marginalised by having a free online concert featuring himself and some friends titled Gary Pinto's Loungeroom Sessions.



Fourth Sunday of Easter Gospel: John 10: 1-10

Gospel Reflection

The gospel readings for this week and next week shift the focus away from the resurrection and begin to set us up for the departure of Jesus from the earth – the Ascension – and the sending of the Holy Spirit – the Pentecost event.

Sunday's gospel passage comes from the Last Supper discourse in the gospel of John. When Jesus speaks about 'going away' for a time it could be interpreted as the period of his death and rising that are about to occur in the chronology of the story. However, the gospel of John is written a very long time after the death of Jesus; perhaps as much as 70 years after Jesus.



Given this period of time between the events and the writing, we know that the writer was also referring to this longer time of Jesus 'going away'. By the time of the writing of this gospel the early Christians were

starting to come to terms with the fact that Jesus probably wasn't going to return in their lifetime. They had seen the devastating destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans in 70CE which they thought had signalled the end of all time. However, here they were, still alive and still no sign of Jesus' return.

The theme of being present and being absent is very strong in this gospel. The discussion about Jesus and the Father being one is part of this theme. Jesus is God present in the world. God has come to dwell among the people. When Jesus speaks of preparing rooms in the Father's house, it is a reference to preparing the disciples to 'live' in God; to dwell in God just as God has dwelt in the people.

Living the Gospel – The Way, the Truth and the Life

When Thomas asks, 'we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answers by saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The reader of the gospel has known this truth all along from the opening line of the gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' Our aim, as Christian people, is to be one with God, not only by sharing in the resurrection but also in the way we live. Jesus makes clear that the way to be with God is by following his example.

Mary Brooks

Religious Education Leader

Learning and Teaching

Senior B News

It is hard to believe that next week being Week 5 means that we will all have been learning remotely for nearly half of the term. Everyone is doing such a stellar job! As a whole class we continue to have our Google Meets each morning and then sometimes other meetings during the day around Maths, Reading or Writing. I have also been meeting with individual students when needed for extra guidance or answering queries and questions. I love seeing them every day and cannot explain how much I miss them!

Mathematics next week continues to focus on the concept of area however the students will be working a more open ended task - designing a zoo! The writing task will be creating a poster or brochure to advertise his/her zoo.

In Religion we will be looking at '*One Holy, Catholic, Apostolic - The Church*' and the important beliefs of our Catholic faith community. This will then lead us into '*The Church, People of Pentecost*'. We will use art works, scripture, prayer and reflection to explore these topics.

Our new Inquiry topic comes under the concept of 'Organisations'. The Senior students will be exploring our Australian government as an organisation and how it is organised in different levels local, state and federal. The curriculum focus is Civics and Citizenship and History.

Happy Mother's Day for Sunday to all those who take on the mothering role in a family. Many will have added an extra string to their bow during this time of lockdown - 'Coordinator of Remote Learning' or CRL for short! I hope you get spoilt and your load is lightened on this special day.

It is important to take the time to reflect on those mums who are in heaven watching over us and we give thanks for all they did and ask that they continue guiding us from afar. We remember the sacrifice Jesus' mother made and can only begin to wonder how she must have felt as she stood at the foot of the cross as her beloved son took his final breath.

Stay well, take care of one another and God Bless,
Ms Brooks
Senior B Teacher

Middle School News

This term has been so different to any we have ever known but the Middle School has risen to the challenge of off-site learning. Every morning we all come together, (not one student has missed a morning), to pray and to share a community meeting with each other. As another friend comes into the meeting they are greeted with an enthusiastic 'Hi.' The simple question of 'How are you feeling today?' allows us to make a connection with each other. As a class we connect at the beginning of our school day and at the end of it.

Every week we have an individual spelling test with a whiteboard and a marker- we are in a routine now. We are able to have reading clinics, in groups, online, and we have learnt (especially Mrs Michael) a lot of new technology to be able to do our tasks online.

We have been busy. We have finished our online Geography project. We have looked at the States of Australia, capital and regional cities of states. We all chose a state of Australia to study in depth and discovered rivers, mountains, natural and man-made landmarks, the flora and fauna and the symbols in the State Coat of Arms, which were usually connected to the land. Our English focus was 'to inform'- information texts. The students presented their researched information in the form of bulleted lists, annotated drawings and reports.



We are learning how to 'touch type', finish online jigsaw puzzles and listening to the story of 'Winnie the Pooh' on Audiobook. We have made ANZAC biscuits, having Italian lessons online every week with Signora Smarrelli and practising our Performing Arts songs online.





We have been on an incursion to the CEM 'Creative Arts Exhibition 2020' where we could see and appreciate the talent of children our own age. We are exploring the concept of *Growth mindset* and the importance of this with our learning. In Mathematics we have been learning about the concept of 'Time' and revising concepts we have previously worked on this year. 'Space', in Science, 'Cyber Safety', in Digital Technologies, 'Healthy Bodies', in Health, and 'Art with Mrs Hamilton' are keeping our school days varied and interesting. Every day we 'Pay It Forward' by doing a job to help our family during this time. The students make sure they are taking 'Brain Breaks' during the day and are following Mrs Hamilton's P.E. daily program. In Religious Education we are exploring being a 'Steward of Creation'. What is God's message to us? What are we being asked to do?

The students are to be commended for their willingness at 'giving everything a go', taking risks in their learning in mastering new ways of receiving; and presenting their schoolwork and their resilience throughout the last four weeks.

A huge thanks to the parents of our students. Your children are following the examples of resilience and strength you are showing them every day. Thank you for your ongoing support during this time.

Happy Mother's Day to all our Mums and Caregivers this Sunday. Please join us for our Mother's Day Mass online with your children this Friday at 9.00am. The link is [St Benedict's YouTube](#).

Jane Michael and Maryann Hamilton
Middle MH Teachers

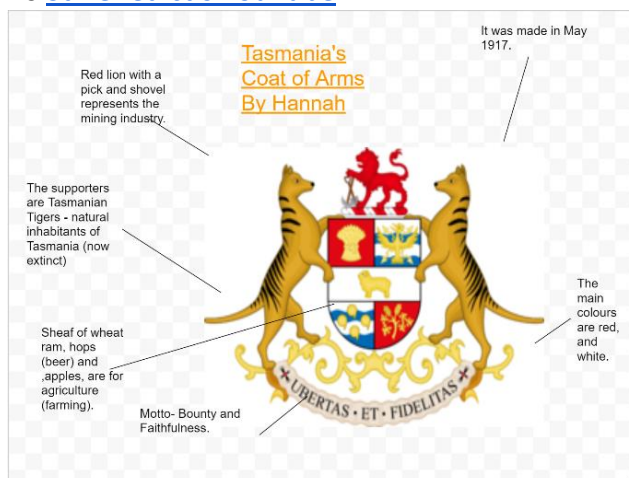
NATURAL LANDMARKS OF QUEENSLAND by Dimi



Facts about the Great Barrier Reef:

- World natural wonder
- The world's largest and most extensive coral reef system
- It has 2900 coral reefs
- The great barrier reef is home to turtles, clams, stingrays, fish, whales, dolphins and sharks
- It is 200 million years old.

Western Australian Floral Emblem- The Kangaroo Paw By Emma

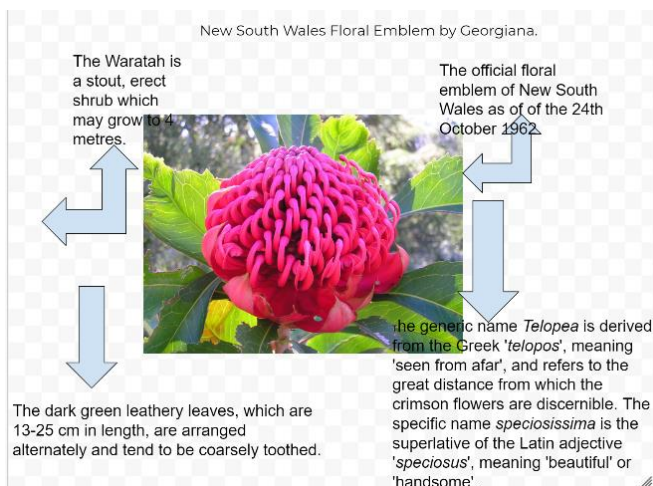


South Australian Man-Made Landmarks by Joseph



Adelaide Oval

- It is in Adelaide, South Australia.
- It is a stadium.
- It was built in 1871.
- It was designed by Adam Hannon.
- Cricket and AFL are the main events held there.



Leadbeater Possum

Leadbeater possums are an endangered animal
Leadbeater possums are only found in Victoria
It is the Victorian Fauna emblem

Leadbeater possums are one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy millimetres long. They have grey to greyish brown fur on the top of the body with a distinguishable dark mid-dorsal stripe, pale cream underside and a club-shaped tail that is broader at the tip.

They live in ash and snow gum forests Leadbeater possums eat Termites, crickets, beetles, spiders and plants.
They live together a communal-nesting species that live in colonies made up of two to twelve animals.
Most litters are one or two young and they stay in the pouch for eighty to ninety days.

Researched by Rafael.



Junior School News

Firstly, a big thankyou to all the parents for managing so well. You are doing a fantastic job helping your child with their learning. The work they are bringing in on Friday is really great. So great, I've decided to paste it into a book. In years to come it will be a lovely keepsake of all the work you collaborated on during this pandemic. Hopefully it will bring back some lovely memories.

Next week we will be finishing the unit on subtraction and moving onto telling the time. I will send another pre-test home with you on Friday.

The children are really delightful when we're on Google Chat and I can tell they enjoy it. I know they are missing each other and need the time to talk to one another too. Please have a well deserved Mother's Day on Sunday, it will certainly be one to remember.

Stay well and warm,
Deborah Torre
Junior T Teacher



L'ITALIANO PER TUTTI (Italian for everyone)

Buongiorno a tutti - Andrà tutto bene (This is the motto being used in Italy during this pandemic.)

Grazie, grazie, grazie to everyone who has sent back Italian work completed. I hope the children are explaining the work they are doing and teaching you in the process.

I am setting up 2 displays, so if the 'Grazie' and 'Andrà tutto bene' worksheets could come back coloured that would be wonderful.

Arrivederci,
Signora Smarrelli
Italian Teacher



Community News

Parenting Support

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



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.

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

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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917 Main Road Eltham VIC 3095
T (03) 9430 9100 F (03) 9431 0339 healthability.org.au
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SPARE ROOM?

- Hosting an international student is easy
- Set your own fees and inclusions.
- Choose guests to suit your Homestay.
- Enjoy more freedom and choice, than hosting via a Traditional Agency.

Supplement your income by becoming a Homestay Host. FREE 12 month memberships are available, for a limited time only, when applying coupon code FreeAnnual in the cart.

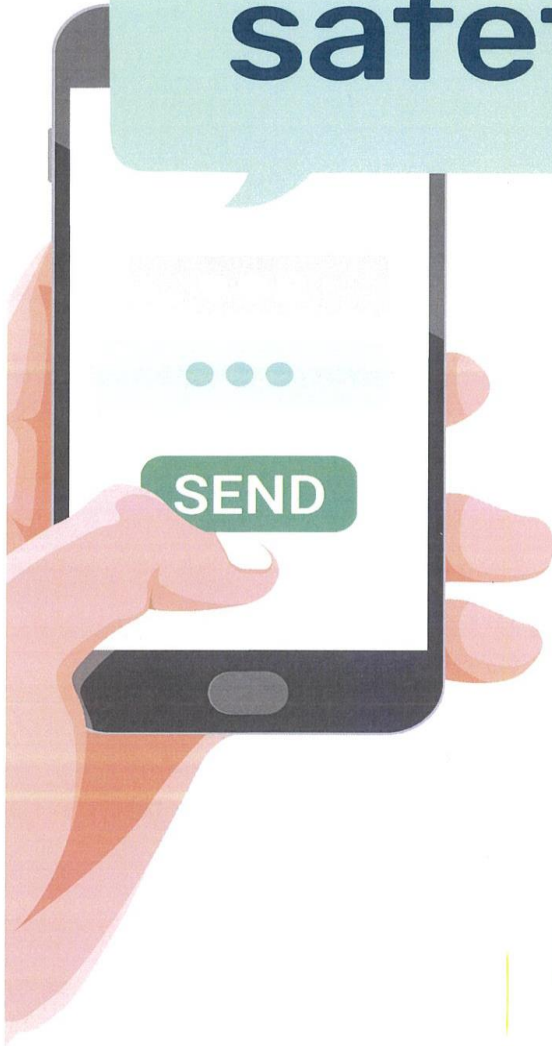


<https://homestayharmony.com/host-benefits/>

www.homestayharmony.com



Top 5 online safety tips



- 1 Think of others' feelings** before you post, like or share content.
- 2 Ask for permission** before you share a photo or video with someone else in it. Respectful online relationships start with consent.
- 3 Be an upstander** Speak up if you see someone cyberbullying or sharing nudes in a group chat – let them know that's not okay. Report and delete it.
- 4 Use privacy and screen time** settings to take control of your digital life and its impact on your mental health.
- 5 Ask for help** Cyberbullying and sharing intimate images without consent can be distressing, but eSafety can help remove them.



Parental GUIDANCE RECOMMENDED

What is your role in supporting learning at home?

By Catholic School Parents Victoria

As we move into a new way of learning, priorities have shifted to engaging families in the process. While teachers have extensively prepared over the past weeks to provide online learning, the role of parents is equally important.

With the situation unfolding, we have seen many comments about parents adapting to having children at home and assuming various roles to support their learning. Some say it's an ideal time to do things together and learn in different ways.

Children will need to have some routine and connect with their school learning. This is especially true where parents are now working from home and juggling that with children's learning. Educators should work with parents to engage in learning, support children and keep life as normal as possible.

To help parents understand their changing focus in guiding learning, we've outlined the roles they might play based on those depicted in the Global Family Research Project's [Joining together to create a bold vision for next generation family engagement](#):

Partners with educators: Now, more than ever, we need to work as partners. Two-way communication with the school is critical to help parents support their children to reach learning goals.

Path builder and co-creator: Parents can create opportunities for learning by asking questions. As parents know their children well, they are able to suggest ideas for learning activities that suit their interests, making it easier to motivate them to complete set tasks.

Adviser, monitor, coach: Advising is helpful if children have a question, while monitoring is about keeping them on track and supervising online learning. Coaching is an effective way to encourage children to talk about their learning, explore ideas, and prompt critical and creative thinking.

Negotiator and connector: Negotiate when learning happens with your children and their teachers. Connect learning at home with learning at school and highlight these connections, so children can see the link between life and education.

Co-learner: As parents will be learning alongside their children, they can ask questions and enable children to be teachers. This will enhance student-led or independent learning, allowing them to seek assistance if needed.

Networker and community builder: Our homes are our first communities, so should be nurtured. Patience will be tested and routines adapted, but parents have support networks through friends, relatives and colleagues, as well as their children's teachers.

Volunteer and leader: Parents are effectively volunteering to support learning at home, but it's important to acknowledge that many already do this. Leading by example in how we manage will have a huge impact on children, as they observe their parents become more resilient.

Advocate: Sharing feedback with teachers to work through solutions is essential. Conversations about learning at home or areas for improvement will be more useful than struggling or feeling frustrated. Working together will make your children's experience more rewarding.

The many roles that parents take on need to be supported during this time. It is critical that communication and understanding with a focus on wellbeing are maintained, and that we aim to work in partnership for the benefit of our children.

How informed are you when it comes to supporting your child's learning?

Catholic School Parents Victoria are a team of passionate parents of children in primary and secondary Catholic schools. As volunteer delegates we contribute parent perspective in education at a system, state and national level under the pillars of Parent Engagement and Parent Leadership in:



We achieve this through establishing relationships with critical partners in education, sourcing parent feedback via school representatives and CSPV parent forums, writing submissions for government and other bodies.

CSPV promotes Catholic education, parent engagement and parent leadership through forums and workshops, committees and policy development groups as well as communication with parents and schools.

CSPV invite you to subscribe to our newsletter, follow our Facebook page, visit our website or enquire about becoming a council delegate so you can be more informed to support children through Catholic education.

Visit www.cspv.catholic.edu.au/join-us or contact our Executive Officer on 03 9267 0458.

