



Newsletter / 21 May

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Today is the Solemnity of the Ascension – 40 days after Easter. We find that only Luke dates this event “on the fortieth day”. For students at the time of Jesus, learning about a master’s teaching, 40 days was the symbolic time it took to learn the teachings well enough to be able to repeat them. So, this feast day is a reminder for us to keep centering ourselves on the work and messages of Jesus and become contemplatively aware of the needs of others around us. After Easter we are being invited to be the ones who proclaim the messages we have learnt from Jesus about how to welcome each other, about how to support each other and about how to care for each other. The importance of welcome, support and care has become so crucial in the time of COVID19 restrictions.

If you would like to read more about the feast day I would encourage you to look at the reflections of [Joan Chittister about the Ascension](#).

This week I stumbled across this quote:

We learn to fly not by being fearless, but by the daily practice of courage. (Sam Keen)

Each day over the past few months has required us to be courageous – and loving – towards everyone that we meet. From the check-out person at the store, to our neighbours, our family and our colleagues at work we have ‘checked-in’ on their wellbeing, thanking them for who they are or for what they are doing in the midst of this pandemic. Each day these small regular practices of courage have added to goodwill in the world. I am particularly grateful to each member of the St Benedict’s staff who have maintained a joyful spirit in the face of so much change in the way they support student learning, their concern for each child is palpable and they have been striving to ensure positive, constructive learning experiences throughout this term. In so doing they have maintained our focus on *every child, every moment*.

As we approach changes to learning for the Juniors and a return to the classroom beginning on Tuesday 26 May we have been preparing the school site. Some of the things we have been doing included labelling gates and doors (you will see these from Central Avenue); placing distancing spots in the undercroft; closing off the bubblers with hazard tape; purchasing soap and hand sanitiser for every classroom; sanitising surfaces, key touch points and the lower adventure playground; and distancing student desks and chairs to comply with requirements.

Welcome back Juniors 26 May at 8:45am (Middles and Seniors 9 June)

Learning at school begins for the Juniors at 8:45am on Tuesday 26 May. Gates open at 8:15am. School will conclude at 3:15pm each day. We will welcome back year levels with some lunchtime hot food. Staff will maintain high level food handling hygiene practices with respect to these events.

- 26 May – **Welcome back to Juniors** hot lunch – *mac and cheese*
- 9 June – **Welcome back to Middles and Seniors** (this will be for all students) - *make your own pizza day*
- 11 June - **Footy colours day** – wear your favourite football team’s colours (includes AFL; Soccer; Gaelic football; Rugby) *footy food lunch* will be provided

The following changes to drop-off in the morning and pick-up in the afternoon will apply:

- Access to the school buildings is for students, staff, cleaners and contractors only
- **Drop-off in the morning for students is via the driveway Gate 1**
- Late-comers will arrive via Reception Gate 3
- Please, parents avoid being on the school grounds or in school buildings at any time
- Pick-up is via driveway Gate 1 – please wait in your car or on the footpath along Central Avenue to collect your children
- If it is raining, then we will have the children in the corridor behind Door B on sit-spots separated by 1.5 metres and will call them forward as you arrive for pick-up.
- All external gates will be locked at all times to prevent any other members of the wider Burwood community from accessing the school site – access through the rear gate (Gate 6) will not be possible during Term 2 – this will be reviewed for Term 3.

Strategies you can do to support us all staying healthy

We ask that you spend some time discussing with your child some strategies they can implement to ensure we all stay healthy. Some of these are very difficult because they are not what we want to do, but they are what we need to do:

- remind your child not to hug other children when returning to school
- if your child is unwell with any of the regular COVID19 symptoms – stay home please
- discuss with them about social distancing
- try to maintain social distancing from any other people outside immediate family throughout the week and on weekends for the health of all

Winter Uniform

All students will return to school this term in winter uniform as follows:

- Girls:
 - St Benedict's tunic or navy-blue pants;
 - long-sleeved pale-yellow shirt or long-sleeved yellow polo top;
 - St Benedict's navy-blue jumper or St Benedict's bomber jacket;
 - navy blue tights or navy-blue leggings or white socks;
 - SB beanie (optional);
 - black shoes (not runners)
- Boys:
 - long navy-blue pants;
 - long sleeved blue shirt or long-sleeved yellow polo top;
 - St Benedict's navy-blue jumper or St Benedict' bomber jacket;
 - dark socks (no logos);
 - SB beanie (optional);
 - black shoes (not runners)

Sport and PE

Sport and PE will continue for all students at St Benedict's and we will modify the activities to ensure good hygiene practices. In addition, we will ask all students to use hand sanitiser before and after each session.

Sport and PE for Juniors will be Wednesday and Friday. For the Middles -Wednesday and Thursday. For the Seniors - Wednesday and Friday.

- Sports uniform:
 - Navy trackpants with long-sleeved polo shirt;
 - St Benedict's navy-blue jumper or St Benedict's bomber jacket;
 - white socks
 - runners/sports shoes (not fashion items)

Remote Learning

As remote learning comes to an end for the Juniors, and with just two weeks remaining for the Middles and the Seniors, we hope it has been a positive experience for your family. No doubt it has had challenging moments and we are grateful for the support you have provided while we have been doing this remotely. We look forward to the return of students to the school over the next few weeks. 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. We continue to work with parents and carers to mentor and develop each child.

St Benedict's Resource Packs

Resource packs are available for Middles and Seniors 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

Online safety

As part of our ongoing e-safety information for parents and students we have referred you to the federal governments' e-safety website. There is a section specifically for young children about being an *e-safe kid*. You can find this here: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/kids>

Prayer

Taking time each day to pray with God is an important aspect of our lives. I will provide each student in their pack this week with a small prayer for this time of pandemic that comes from Joan Chittister, a Benedictine nun from the USA, Blessings to each one of you and your families.



Ms Caroline Sheehan
Acting Principal



Diary Dates

Term Two		
DUE TO CURRENT SITUATION, WE HAVE INCLUDED LIMITED DATES		
25 May	Staff Professional Learning day	Pupil free day
26 May	School resumes for Prep, Year 1 and 2 Hot lunch provided - Mac & Cheese	8:45 – 3:15pm
8 June	Queen's Birthday public holiday	
9 June	School resumes for Years 3 – 6 Make your own pizza lunch (all students)	
11 June	Footy colour day – lunch provided	
19 June	Feast of Sacred Heart	
24 June	Semester 1 reports go home	
26 June	Term 2 concludes	3:15 pm



ST BENEDICT'S PRIMARY – T2, 2020
RESUMPTION OF SERVICE
WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS FROM 29TH MAY!

Greetings to everyone at SBPS!

We hope that you and your families have all managed well through the Covid19 Change of Life.

It's been wonderful and we are extremely grateful to have received so many emails from your school community sending kind wishes to our business in what has been a particularly difficult time.....obviously, we've been totally shuttered but it's now time, as our children return to face to face learning, to take tentative steps back to life - with your continued support.

Obviously, the landscape looks a bit different for us in terms of running our Food Preparation Kitchen and our Packing Room with the new social distancing guidelines. We want you to know and be assured that we have Food Safety and Occupation Health and Safety at the forefront of our minds. In our workplace Masks, Gloves and Temperature Checks will be the new norm for all of our staff. In terms of Food Handling and Safety we've always adhered to best practice and fortunately never had a food safety issue so we're confident we can operate safely on that level!

In the first instance for the remainder of Term 2, while we find our way in this new normal, we will be operating on Wednesdays and Fridays with a reduced Menu which will be posted online shortly.

We look forward to resuming our service and continuing to delight your school community with our Lunch Service.

www.classroomcuisine.com.au

Religious Education

Sixth Sunday of Easter Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 Feast of the Ascension

Gospel Reflection



The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then.

However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description should not be taken literally.

However, the message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus, the human incarnation of God on earth, was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost.

The description of Jesus being taken up into heaven is a close parallel to the description of the great prophet Elijah also being taken up to heaven. Chapter 2 of 2 Kings describes Elijah speaking to his disciple Elisha in similar words to those used by Jesus to his disciples. The Jewish tradition had no belief in an individual resurrection and so the idea of Ascension was to recognise the greatness of the prophet. He was to be united with God in Heaven rather than having to wait for the great resurrection of all people at the end of time.

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others

Mary Brooks
Religious Education Leader

Learning and Teaching

Senior B News

We are almost there, and soon we will all be back together. No doubt this may initially feel strange after such a long time apart and away from the routines of school life. However, I have great faith that we will all adjust well, just as we have to this period of learning remotely.

Our Morning Meetings continue to be well attended.... sometimes with some toast, a mug of hot chocolate or even a bowl of cereal. It's great to see all the students smiling faces each day.

The students have adjusted so well and have shown they are capable of becoming very independent learners. I was unsure of my expectations that they would manage all these changes - such as checking the weekly schedule on a daily basis, using Google Classroom to locate and complete work, turning up for pre-arranged Google Meets and the quick adjustments to being socially aware of the protocols when using a chat room forum. Taking on board all of this has been almost seamless.

In Writing this week the students are all writing letters (referred to as Transactional text). The first letter is to a fellow student in the class, so, I hope your child enjoys receiving some 'happy mail' in the post. The second letter is to be written to a relative or friend that they don't normally see and who they think would also enjoy receiving some 'happy mail'. My parents have kept a letter I wrote to them as a child when I stayed here in Melbourne at a relative's home and I wrote and told them about going to the zoo and to the drive-in to see a movie called *Ride a Wild Pony*. A treasured possession.

Addition and Subtraction worded problems are our current Mathematics focus. The students have been viewing some short movies and clips about the History of the Catholic Faith in Australia as an introduction to our Religious Education topic and some short programs about the Australian Government beginning with Parliament House in Canberra for the Inquiry unit. Both of these topics would make for some interesting discussion about what they are learning.

I look forward to seeing all of Senior B on Tuesday 9 June.

Stay well, take care of one another and God Bless,

Ms Brooks

Middle School News

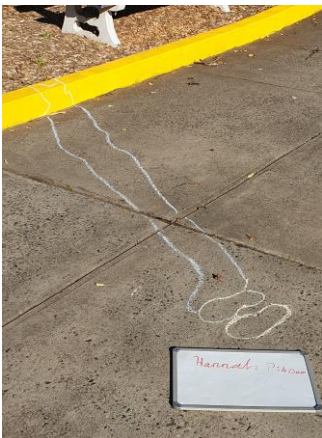
We are finishing our sixth week of remote learning. We have learnt so much about what we are all capable of achieving, how resilient we all are and how fortunate we are to be part of St Benedict's School community. Our uniqueness has been our strength in the Middle School as we have been able to communicate with each other a couple of times a day. We start the day as a community of learners and end the day as a community of learners. Throughout the day we learn together in whole class and small group clinics.

We pray, laugh, chat about what we have been doing and share our knowledge with each other. The Middle School students are amazing and have not 'missed a beat' since we have begun remote learning. We all have much to be grateful for. This is a 'shared' experience and we will always remember 'who' we shared it with.

In Mathematics we are learning about addition mental strategies like 'friendly jump' and 'partitioning.' We will then move onto subtraction mental strategies. Maths has been, for teachers, the hardest domains to teach as we like it to be predominately 'hands on.' However, as teachers, we have had to learn new ways of presenting information to ensure our student's progression- so in essence we have had to learn new

technology and implement programs. We have been fortunate to have supportive parents who have helped their children master new maths concepts when they have experienced difficulties. Thank you for your time and energy.

In English we are learning about characterisation and how to convey this without being explicit. We have explored literature, pictures and film to see how we can use it in our writing. We are preparing to begin writing an 'imaginative narrative- fantasy.' To improve our writing, we have continued our spelling program, learnt how adverbs and the correct use of commas can enhance the quality of our writing. In Digital Technologies the students have been learning about coding which they are really enjoying. They are still exploring 'Space', finding out why some foods are better for our body than others, following a P.E.



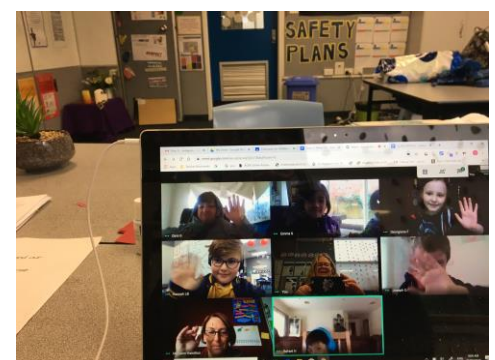
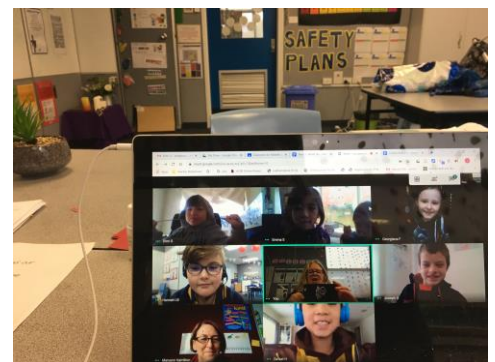
program and realising how important physical activity is in our lives. The students are exploring the benefits of having a 'growth mindset', discussing Rules and Laws in our Civics and Citizenship Inquiry unit and becoming artistic making Mother's Day cards and using chalk and shadows to show the effect of the Earth's movement around the sun.

Thanks to our innovative specialist teachers, Mrs Smarrelli and Ms Ellis, the students have been attending Italian and Performing Arts lessons via Google Meet.

Yesterday we had a Religious Education lesson via google meet to begin our study of Pope Francis' letter 'Laudato Si' - Care for our Common Home. This is an integral part of our Religious Education unit, *We are Stewards of Creation*. We discussed 'Integral Ecology: Everything is connected.' Pope Francis asks us to make 'Laudato Si' a part of our lives "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?" (#160) Pope Francis. Our special guest was Father Dan, who joined us in our google meet. It was great to have him join us and he added great insights in our discussion.

Thank you, once again to our amazing Middle School students who have mastered and excelled expectations of remote learning, to our extremely supportive parents who have showed their children examples of inner strength, calmness and guidance throughout this time and to the staff of St Benedict's who have embraced challenges and supported each other during this time. We have lots to be grateful for and are extremely fortunate to be part of St Benedict's Primary School community.

Jane Michael and Maryann Hamilton



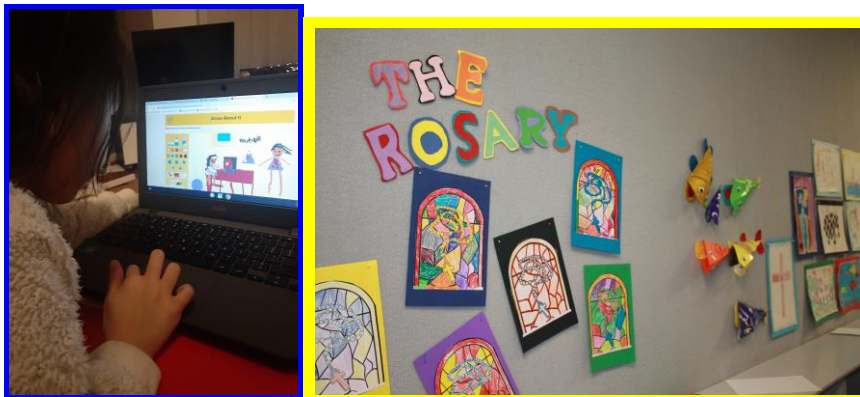
Junior School News

It's hard to believe that six weeks have already passed this term and that the children will be returning next week. I know they are excited to be coming back. As I mentioned in my last newsletter you've all done a wonderful job teaching, guiding and organising your child through this experience especially if you've also had to work from home with your own job or study.

As the weather has turned cold don't forget to pull out the winter uniform. Please send along drink bottles, brain food (fruit), snack and lunch next week when learning at school begins again. The start time is 8.45am and dismissal 3.15pm. The procedure for this is outlined in this newsletter. I cannot stress enough how important it is for your child to be here on time every day so that they are aware of the day's schedule and hear the introduction to the morning literacy session. This builds their confidence and independence.

As I mentioned in my email on Sunday if you would be kind enough to return their tub, completed work, work book and computer with the lead and any other school materials on Friday, 22 May that will give me time to look at what has been completed and what needs extra revision. Many thanks in advance for that. Stay warm and well.

Regards,
Deborah



L'ITALIANO PER TUTTI (Italian for everyone)

Buongiorno a tutti.

Spero che tutti state bene. (I hope everyone is well.)

'Mi sento eccitata e felice' (I am feeling excited and happy) and looking forward to seeing the Juniors back next week.

'Mi sento triste' (I am feeling sad) that it can't be everyone but it will happen soon.

Ciao,

Signora Smarrelli



Community News



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