



Newsletter / 18 June

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have had some wonderful days over the past few weeks. While there have been cold mornings – they have led to glorious sunny days. Our welcome back celebration of 'make your own pizza' was great fun. Our footy day lunch was equally enjoyable. School Photos this week were an opportunity to capture a moment in time of your child's experience at St Benedict's. Staff have been working hard at writing reports and we expect to send those home with your child's portfolio next Wednesday 24 June.

This Friday is the *Feast of the Sacred Heart*. The image of the Sacred Heart can be somewhat challenging for children – and perhaps for some adults too. Artists and writers over time have attempted to present to us the meaning of the symbol. An article in the August 2019 edition of *Melbourne Catholics* that prompted my reflection time had some great insights. (You can find these magazines online at <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Melbourne-Catholic-magazine>). Here are a couple of excerpts from a *relationship of the heart with God* (p8-9):

According to the biblical worldview, the heart was believed to be the centre of the human being, integrating intellect and emotion and will... For the ancient Jews the heart was also the centre of one's relationship with God and others. Because it was the centre of personal integration, it was the seat of deepest encounter with others.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the heart in this way:

...The heart is our hidden centre, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully. The heart is the place of decision. Deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth, where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of the covenant (paragraph 2563).

The heart then is the seat of our deepest relationships and commitments, where our identity is entwined with others. The human heart is always seeking beyond itself for these connections and relationships...Through a relationship of the heart with Jesus, humans can enter into relationship with God and each other.



As the Sacred Heart was a strong image at my alma mater, I am constantly reminded that I am a child of the Sacred Heart and with it comes a responsibility to be considerate and careful in my relationships with others. Sometimes I succeed – other times I need to work harder at my interactions with others to ensure kindness and care.

All this term, whether learning remotely or on campus I have been aware of staff being called upon to resolve issues that arise amongst children. In fact, they probably do every day. Each time it seems that there may



Prayer

Taking time each day to pray with God is an important aspect of our lives. You might want to try using it for your family on occasion.

Our prayer this week is a blessing/reflection for the Sacred Heart from the Sisters of St Joseph:

My Heart is pierced by miserly loving, indifference to others, deliberate injustices and by unexpected kindnesses.

My Heart goes out to those in pain, feeling lonely, overcome by life's struggles and to those who seek to understand and comfort them.

My Heart draws in those at the edges, those feeling alienated and lost and all those whose arms create community.

My Heart is strengthened by day to day faithfulness, standing with, walking beside and when invited – by walking in front.

My Heart is ablaze transforming poverty, war, rootlessness and hopelessness and with the spread of reconciling relationship.

My Heart cries out for right relationship, meaningful connections, making the most of life now, and for a gentle time with you.

My Heart is your heart. Be my heart!

Blessings to each one of you and your families.

Ms Caroline Sheehan
Acting Principal

Diary Dates

Diary Dates		
Term Two		
19 June	Feast of Sacred Heart	9:00am streamed via Youtube
24 June	Semester 1 reports go home	
26 June	Term 2 concludes	3:15 pm
Term Three		
11 July	St. Benedict's Feast Day	
13 July	Term 3 commences	8:45am
17 July	St. Benedict's Feast Day Celebrations	Day of celebration
26 July	First Eucharist Commitment Mass	10:00am Mass at St. Benedict's
19 August	First Eucharist Reflection Day	
30 August	First Eucharist	10:00am Mass at St. Benedict's
8 September	Andrew Chinn Workshop	



Welcome back Yrs 3-6



Pizza making



Footy Day Lunch

Religious Education

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33

'Do not be afraid' is one of the most commonly repeated sentences in the Bible. In one form or another, the command to 'be not afraid' or 'fear not' appears several hundred times throughout the Old and New Testaments. Sunday's gospel passage is part of the sending out of the Twelve that occupies all of Chapter 10 in the gospel. It follows a little later in the chapter from last week's reading in which Jesus called the Twelve and sent them out as Apostles. The remainder of the chapter provides an extended teaching on what it means and what it costs to take the message of Jesus out into the world. Jesus teaches the Twelve that the message they bear will not always be well received and there will be those who will seek to silence the Apostles through violent means. But then the teaching comes to the section of today's passage and Jesus commands the Twelve, 'Do not be afraid'.



The message to "not be afraid" is as much for the original intended audience of the gospel as it was for the apostles. The community for whom this gospel was written were on the verge of being 'squeezed out' and forced into secret. The passage reminds them to have courage and to have the courage of their convictions; to shout from the house-tops their message, not whisper it in darkness. It is a reminder of the abundant love of God who cares for them and sees all their efforts to continue to live out the message and ministry of Jesus.

It is equally a message for us, today. We are called to continue the spread of the gospel message; continuing the work of those early Christian communities, the Twelve and Jesus himself.

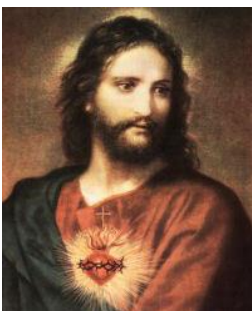
Gospel Focus- Fear

When scripture uses the term fear, it tends to fall into one of two meanings. When used in the context of 'do not be afraid' or 'fear not', it is a command to not be daunted by the woes and trials that the world imposes. The other use tends to be a command that we should fear God. In this context, the word does not mean to be frightened of God but rather to show proper reverence. To fear God is to stand in wonder and awe rather than to cower and hide. So, fear God, but do not be afraid!

Living the Gospel – From the house-tops

One of the messages of Jesus to his disciples and, through him, of Matthew to the original community, is to have courage and to have pride in their belief. No matter what threat or persecution they are to endure, the command is to proclaim the message of Jesus from the house-tops. They are to be proud of what they believe and be prepared to share it with others. In a world today that is not always open to the message of Jesus, we too are called to be proud of what we believe and not whisper it in the darkness.

The Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



Tomorrow, June 19, is the Feast of the Sacred Heart. The heart has always been seen as the "centre" or essence of a person. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is devotion to Jesus Christ Himself.

"Therefore, love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength." Deuteronomy 6:5-6

Throughout the Gospel, we see the outpouring of Jesus' love from His heart, whether in miracle stories, the reconciliation of sinners, or compassion for the grieving.

Your generosity with this has been fantastic and evidence of our caring community.

Mary Brooks

Religious Education Leader

Learning and Teaching

Senior B News

Oh how lovely it is to have the students back! The sound of laughter in the playground and chatter in the classroom is joy to the ears. Thank you parents for all you did during the time of remote learning - it definitely was a partnership. No one presumed this was going to be easy for anyone. I think we all learnt new things about ourselves and others. It would also be remiss of me to not acknowledge the students themselves for navigating this unknown path and coming out the other side of it in a good place.

I have recently done some reflective reading about how this time of remote learning created a new paradigm and now it's changed back again; students may not all adjust to the change back as well as we expect so be alert to any signs that may be showing your child is not managing being back in the 'normal' routine. It may take some time to adjust. The reality is that if we put all the time the students were away from school (Week 10 of Term 1 through to Week 8 of Term 2, including two weeks of school holidays; 11 weeks) it was almost twice as long as the Christmas holidays!

We've loved the celebrations upon the return of the Middle and Senior students - balloons to welcome them back, pizza lunch and then footy day and footy food on Thursday. Thank you to Ms Sheehan for all her creative and enthusiastic ideas.

The Mathematics focus has been using efficient methods and strategies to solve multiplication and division problems. Next week we will be investigating Chance.

Our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) sessions have started up again with the focus being on Personal Strengths. We will be looking at the difference between **talents** and **character strengths** and what character strengths the students admire or value in others.

Our History of the Australian Church in Australia topic continues in Religious Education. The students are now investigating migration stories - what did those who came to Australia bring with them regarding their faith, symbols, texts etc? The students need to bring an empty shoe box to use as part of their presentation.

The Inquiry topic about Australian Governments moves back in time this week to Federation and then back to the present day to find out how laws are made.

We had the Juniors join us for Art last week and had great fun creating abstract paintings using marbles and paint. The students then used bubble wrap, filters and their fingertip to create paintings of Three Trees Three Ways. Here are some of their creations.



Feast of the Sacred Heart

Senior B have been asked to donate Evening Meal items/canned goods to St Vincent de Paul for them to make up hampers. Normally we would also be going to Mass to remind us that Jesus asks us, as Christians, to look after those who are in need. Thank you for all the generous donations so far.

This is the final news for Senior B for Term 2 so enjoy the holidays. Continue to be warm, safe and wise as well as enjoying time with family and friends.

Mary Brooks

Senior B Teacher

Middle School News

It is so wonderful to have the Middle School students in the classroom and to hear the chatter and laughter in the corridors once again.

All the students have settled back into the classroom routines and enjoy being back together again. They were treated to a pizza lunch that they made themselves.

It was important to speak about Remote Learning and how the students felt about it. In English we had been discussing character traits and the different emotions that are associated with them. The learning focus was: *We are attributing character traits to ourselves that we exhibited during Home Learning and match behaviours to those traits.*

'Living in a bubble' refers to a good or fortunate situation that is isolated from reality or unlikely to last. This is what it was like 'Learning from home.'

We all wrote how we felt during Remote Learning. We blew bubbles, hundreds of bubbles, we had so much fun. At times it was hard but **during this time there were bubbles of joy, inspiration, learning about ourselves and perseverance.**

We are grateful for what we have learnt about how amazing we are.

Bubbles float and fly to great heights. That is what the Middle School achieved.





We are completing our Religious Education unit, 'Living in Harmony,' focusing on Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si.' The students are busy working on a google slide cartoon which will show their understanding of Pope Francis' letter to the world in 2015 and how they can be a 'steward of creation.'



We watched an animated poem exploring how the Covid-19 pandemic has reminded us of the importance of living in harmony with nature. You may like to watch it as it links to the message of 'Laudato Si.' ["What happened when we all stopped" narrated by Jane Goodall.](#)

We have completed writing out imaginative narrative- fantasy- and are now preparing to create a story board. Our focus is on how our illustrations add detail and depth to our story. We are recording our 'first person' narratives to share with the Junior School students. We have explored space in Science, continued our Healthy Foods unit in Health, discussing why it is important to have rules and laws. We have learnt and



recited Italian poems, practiced our roles in Performing Arts. We are mastering addition and subtraction equations and creating Zentangle pictures in Art.

This week is the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Our class are collecting 'breakfast foods' to make a hamper to donate to the St Vincent de Paul Society. Tomorrow is the last day that you have a chance to donate food. Thank you for your contributions so far.

As the term is coming to a conclusion, we wish all our families a restful holiday. Keep safe and we will see you again in Third Term.

Mrs Jane Michael and Mrs Maryann Hamilton



Junior School News

Week 10, it's hard to believe. We're very busy in the Junior school finishing off units around Sustainability and Prayer. The children are loving their time in the art room creating their dioramas about the beautiful environment God created for us.



Please send Book Boxes back tomorrow so that I can check progress and organise books for next week. Next Tuesday will be the last chance to borrow from the library before the school break. Please return all books so that your child can borrow for the holidays. We are also finishing the work we started in first term on our family trees. Thank you for helping with this task. Please send them in tomorrow so that we can add them to our beautiful display.

We have finished our unit on telling the time but don't forget to use opportunities during the break to practise. We're just about to start work on division and multiplication so any mention of equal groups and equal shares will help to support this concept. Please encourage your child to write and read over the holidays and keep up their counting skills.



Thankyou also for the toiletries you have sent in to support our local branch of St Vincent de Paul. Tomorrow will be your last chance if you haven't had a chance yet. Thank you for your generous contributions. Stay well and rested over the break. Thank you for all your help and support over this very challenging term.

Regards,
Deborah Torre

L'Italiano per tutti (Italian for everyone)

Buongiorno,

It is *bellissimo* (very good) to have all the *bambini* (children) back at school. They have certainly done well with their remote learning and getting themselves organised (some with a little help I'm sure).

We have been doing some work with recognising the use of gender in the Italian language. The students have been introduced to the words 'masculine' and 'feminine' when describing these. We have looked at nouns in particular and the endings of names and words, e.g.

Questo è Mario. - This is Mario.

bambino - boy (masculine)

amico – friend (masculine)

mio – my (masculine)

Questo è . . . – This is . . . (masculine)

Questo è il mio amico.

This is my friend. (masculine)

Questa è Maria. - This is Maria.

bambina – girl (feminine)

amica – friend (feminine)

mia – my (feminine)

Questa è . . . – This is . . . (feminine)

Questa è la mia amica.

This is my friend. (feminine)

Have a restful and well-earned holiday.

Buone vacanze,

Signora Smarrelli



Community News



HOLIDAY CLINICS

WEEK 1: 29th June - 3rd July
(Burwood TC/North Kew TC)
WEEK 2: 6th July - 10th July
(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
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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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Community News



STRONGER TOGETHER



MONDAY VIRTUAL TOURS

Did you know our virtual Monday Tours are rated 4.6 stars (out of 5)?

Guided by our welcoming Principal, Registrar and Tour Guides, our Monday virtual tours provide families with the opportunity to view College grounds and speak to those with experience to share. Held at 3:45pm every week during term, book via salesian.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

"Very well presented. You can see that Principal Brennan is very passionate about his school. The tour covered everything we needed to know, and we loved the fact that there is plenty of room [on campus] for the boys to run around and kick a ball. We will be applying to Salesian."

YEAR 7 2022 ENROLMENTS

Applications close Friday 21 August 2020.

2020 WINTER GRIFFIN



Our 2020 Winter Griffin features CEO of the Reach Foundation, **Sasha Lawrence** (Class of 2007). Sasha shares how he is navigating a philanthropic ship in the midst of COVID-19 chaos, and links his moral compass to his time on school grounds 13 years ago.



College Captain Robert Amendola reflects on the power of a strong foundation of values in guiding us through difficult times.

"Integrity, respect, belonging, joy and dynamism are not only our College values; they are the roots of our identity."

"These values are the touchstone that we look to in times of uncertainty. In our Year 12 cohort, the common problems and anxieties we are now facing [during COVID-19] have not secluded us from each other. Rather, they have brought us closer than ever, as we continue to elevate each other with motivation and encouragement."



In a virtual interview with our Vice Captains Adam Stone and Jacob Curry, Vietnam War Veteran **John Stretch** (Class of 1963) shares his advice on maintaining a positive mindset.

"Whether you are doing everything possible to survive in a war, whether you are dealing with COVID-19, or whether you are striving to attain a particular ATAR score, the formula for success is the same. Know what you have to do each day to progress towards your goal, and do it."

Read more via salesian.vic.edu.au/news/publications

VIRTUAL INFORMATION EVENING FOR FUTURE FAMILIES



Addressed by Principal Mr Robert Brennan and a junior and senior student, our Virtual Information Evening for Future Families is a tailored presentation to prospective families providing key educational and transition material, including a high-level understanding of our values and educational approach.

Register your attendance for Tuesday 28 July via salesian.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/

Tues 28 July



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