



St Benedict's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

5 August 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is with heavy hearts that we write to advise you that at the conclusion of the academic year, in December, St Benedict's Catholic Primary School will close.

Due to the decline in enrolments despite our best efforts over the past eighteen months to turn the enrolment trend around, our school has unfortunately become unsustainable. I therefore had no other choice but to request approval from Archbishop Peter Comensoli to close the school, which has been granted.

This decision has not been taken lightly given the school's 75-year history of service to the Parish community and its children. As a Parish we have always valued our school community, and will miss the opportunity to journey with students and families in the school setting.

Throughout 2020 our dedicated and faithful staff, with the support of the whole school community, have worked incredibly hard to provide wonderful learning opportunities for our students.

Our year has been marked by engaging learning opportunities within the classroom, complimented by extra-curricular offerings such as the inter-school sports, weekly meditation, school masses, conversations with Xavier students, and our Seniors Camp. We have also been able to support our students with their remote learning through a lot of one-on-one and small group care and attention, which we know has been very important for their mental wellbeing during these unprecedented times.

However, the challenges facing the school are significant and unfortunately, we are currently looking at a further decline in students in 2021, which we cannot financially sustain, nor would it enable us to provide the very best education for our children.

We want to assure you that we will support your child's move to a new school. The choices available to you are extensive.

As part of the support we are offering, discussions will commence with St Scholastica's and other Catholic schools in the area in forthcoming days. You will be warmly welcomed by them. In addition, Caroline will gladly have discussions with the principal at your school of choice to support a positive transition experience. We will support the transition processes for each child as thoroughly as we can during Term 4.

Nothing can take away the sadness and loss that a school closing brings to all who have been a part of its life, both past and present. At this time, I am especially mindful of our dedicated staff, most of whom have been with us for many years, and given so much to our students and community.

But we wish to end on a positive note.

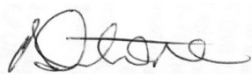
Our children's resilience will allow them to launch out in faith into a future that brings them new opportunities. May that positive response from our children encourage us to turn sorrow into joy and loss into new life as we move forward for both our own generation and the next.

There will be opportunities to celebrate and give thanks for all that St Benedict's school has been to the Burwood community for more than 75 years. More will be communicated about this in forthcoming weeks.

We understand that this might be concerning news for your family and if you need to discuss this further please do not hesitate to call either of us if there is a need.

Please keep our school community in your prayers, especially our children and school staff.

Kind regards



Fr Daniel Serratore
Parish Priest
(9808 2492)



Ms Caroline Sheehan
Acting Principal
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