



## Newsletter / 3 September

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Sunshine, wind and squally showers – it must be Spring in Melbourne. We hope you enjoyed the screen free day on Wednesday. It was great to hear of some of your plans for that day and I hope you enjoyed doing something different. We might plan one more of these days before the end of term but that will rely on your feedback about the benefits of that day – so please let us know about your experiences. Signs of spring in the school garden include the roses sending out new growth (and we have our first bloom), the bulbs sending forth their flowers and birds finding places to nest. All evidence that we are moving to a new season.



The general feedback I am receiving from the staff is that remote learning at home is going really well at the moment. Learning continues apace with

teachers putting together interesting lessons, worksheets and resources. They are constantly creating new ways to ensure that your child's learning continues positively. I have been told that some days can be more challenging than others where motivation maybe an issue. The parents I have spoken with are managing to cope and are thankful for the work the teachers and the support staff are providing. If there are issues that arise please contact your child's teacher and discuss them and a plan going forward. This partnership is so important at this time.

With the support of CEM we are proceeding with the process of ensuring there will be appropriate celebrations to mark the end of this experience at St Benedict's for existing students. We also have the responsibility of ensuring that every child has a place to continue their education for 2021. It has been great to chat with each of you over the past few weeks as you discern the next part of the journey for your child's education. We will be making plans for transition events during term 4 for all children. Most importantly our Year 6 students will have their graduation celebration as part of their departure to Year 7 and secondary schooling.

### **School Assembly via google meet on Monday**

We will be having a whole school assembly via Google meet at 9:30am on Monday 7 September. One key agenda item will be about the plan to celebrate St Benedict's school. We will outline some of the ideas so far and invite students and families to think about and share other ideas as well.

## Poetry

The Middles have been delving into poetry in its many forms over the past few weeks. Here are some examples:

Fire flies up in to the night sky  
Fire reaching to the moon high  
Fire burns so hot at midday  
Fire can rage for the whole way



Quatrain poem written by Dimi  
(September the first 2020)

One day I found a daisy  
It was yellow like the sun  
With lots of black little seeds  
It wanted to have some fun.



Quatrain poem written by Emma

**This virus making us sick  
At home we all have to stick.  
We must not go out today  
So next time we can go play**



A Quatrain Poem written by Hannah.

## Today is National Flag Day

Today, 3 September 2020, is the 119th anniversary of the first time our national flag was flown in 1901. In what has been a strange and difficult year, Australian National Flag Day gives Australians a chance to celebrate a momentous occasion in our history and unite through this national symbol.

Gladys Liu (the federal member for Chisholm) has invited school communities to join in a quiz. Take Gladys Liu's Flag Day quiz to go in the draw to receive a desktop Australian flag.

<https://www.gladysliu.com.au/flag-day-quiz>

## School transition 2021 support

As each of you make your decision about the next step in your child's journey in education there are many things in place to support you and your child as they transition. If you need to photocopy documents to submit with applications then please feel free to make use of the school photocopier (with the temporary closure of Officeworks I know this is a concern). When you submit your applications – please make sure you let them know your child is a St Benedict's student.

## COVID19 - Stage 4 Restrictions

We will hear more on Sunday from Victoria's Premier and Chief Health Officer about the plan to return to some semblance of normality. When we return to on-site learning, we are planning exciting and inspiring experiences for the children. Teaching and learning, assessment, reports and folios will continue to be the experience at St Benedict's till December.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support the learning of your child while flexible and remote learning continues. We are staying positive that we will return to on-site learning – and if not, we are ready to continue with remote and flexible learning.



## Resource Pack pick up

Resource packs will be available at the front office each Friday afternoon from 2:30-3:45pm. If this time does not suit, please email your child's classroom teach to arrange an alternative time.

## On-Line Safety – being a good e-citizen

There are resources about being a good e-citizen to support parents on a great website: [Raising Children](#) – these are age focused so if you have pre-schoolers or pre-teens or teenagers then please explore the website to find other ideas. This excerpt is from the pre-teens page:

### **What is responsible digital citizenship?**

*Being a responsible digital citizen means having the online social skills to take part in online community life in an ethical and respectful way.*

*Responsible digital citizenship also means:*

- *behaving lawfully – for example, it's a crime to hack, steal, illegally download or cause damage to other people's work, identity or property online*
- *protecting your privacy and that of others*
- *recognising your rights and responsibilities when using digital media*
- *thinking about how your online activities affect yourself, other people you know, and the wider online community*

## Prayer

Our prayer this week focuses on Mary, the mother of God. Next week, 8 September will be the feast day that celebrates the birth of Mary (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary). An interesting fact and a quiz question...we only celebrate 3 birthdays in the Catholic Church, one is Jesus, another is Mary, who is the third one? Here is some history of the feast day (excerpts from [here](#)):

*The feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated each year on the eighth of September. Usually it is the custom of the church to celebrate the feast day of a saint on the date of their death. The nativity of Mary is a cause for great joy as it is considered the "dawn of our salvation" as Pope Paul VI wrote in the document, Marialis Cultus in 1972.*

*There is no reference in the Sacred Scriptures to the birth of Mary. That which is known about Mary's nativity is found in the Apocryphal books. They give us a detailed account of the birth of Mary.*

*The earliest document commemorating this feast comes from the sixth century. It is generally believed that this feast originated in Jerusalem since there is evidence, in the fifth century, of a church dedicated to St. Anne, located north of the Temple in the neighbourhood of the Pool of Bethesda. Sofronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, affirmed in the year 603 that this was the location of Mary's birth. After the Council of Ephesus in 431 CE, devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary increased significantly.*

*Scholars believe that the date of 8 September was chosen since it was symbolic that the "beginning" of the work of salvation should be commemorated near to the beginning of the new year as it was in Constantinople at that time. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary was later fixed at December 8, nine months prior.*



*The primary theme portrayed in the liturgical celebration of this feast day is that the world had been in the darkness of sin and with the arrival of Mary begins a glimmer of light. That light which appears at Mary's holy birth pre-announces the arrival of Christ, the Light of the World.*

We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world. And so, we give thanks for each child in our lives – especially the children of St Benedict's. This prayer is especially pertinent for our world today:

**Prayer to Mary for a Good Mind**

**(A. Hanrion, S.J.)**

O Mary, my Mother,  
I offer you my soul, my mind, and my heart.  
Make of me God's instrument.  
Give me a penetrating mind to discover,  
firm to judge,  
open to understand,  
free to serve the truth;  
an honest mind in telling what it sees rather than what it wants to see;  
a tolerant mind which does not dictate to other people,  
but which explain what it sees clearly;  
a mind infused by the light and the truth of your Son Jesus,  
patient in faith,  
while waiting for the vision of eternal life.  
Amen.

Blessings to each one of you and your families. Stay safe, stay healthy. Remember, by staying apart we are doing this together.

Ms Caroline Sheehan  
Acting Principal



## Diary Dates

Diary Dates		
<b>Term Three</b>		
18 September	Term 3 ends	3:15pm
<b>Term Four</b>		
4 October	Daylight savings	+ 1 hour
5 October	Term 4 commences	8.45am
23 October	Thank you day	
2 November	School closure day	
3 November	Melbourne Cup day (public holiday)	

## Community News

**EMMAUS COLLEGE**  
Years 7-12: 503 Springvale Road, Vermont South  
Y9B1: 285 Warrigal Road, Burwood  
Telephone: 9845 3211

Join us for one of our Virtual  
**INFORMATION SESSIONS**  
14 Sept & 5 Oct | 6pm, 7pm or 8pm  
Limited places available for each session, so book now!  
[www.emmaus.vic.edu.au](http://www.emmaus.vic.edu.au)

### 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](http://www.homestayharmony.com)

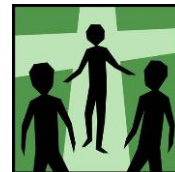
# Religious Education

## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:15-25 *Find ways to win others over; prayer shall be answered.*

### Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel provides us with a lesson that could be well heeded in our contemporary world. Matthew relates a discourse on dealing with a grievance or sin between two 'brothers' – community members; fellow disciples. Matthew advises his audience that the first step is to try to resolve the matter privately between the offender and the one offended. This is a practice that seems to have almost disappeared today. When one person feels offended or hurt by another, it seems the last thing they do is to go and speak to the person, confront them with the hurt and try to resolve it. Soap operas and TV sitcoms promote avoidance of issues. The sub-text of so many TV shows is about lying to cover up a mistake; seeking revenge for some perceived (usually incorrect) insult; or working through others to try to deal with some hurt. If characters on these TV shows were to confront one another with a perceived hurt and seek to resolve the difference between them, then there would be no 'drama' to play out in the show. Admittedly, it doesn't make for great television, but it does make for much better relationships!



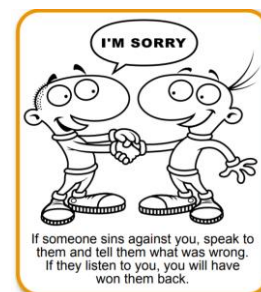
Matthew advises his community that only after a failed attempt to address an issue face to face should other members of the community become involved to further confront the offender through witnessing to their fault. The third step is to bring the person before the church community to be confronted with their actions and only after these three attempts to challenge the person fail should they be shunned. There is a very strong message of reconciliation that comes through this process. The person is given every chance to face their error and to seek amends with the one they have hurt. The whole process works towards bringing the community back together in harmony, not to seek revenge and punishment.

### Scriptural context – A Scriptural Sandwich

The placement of this discourse about confronting your brother within the gospel of Matthew helps to shed light on its meaning. Immediately preceding this passage is the parable of the Lost Sheep, about leaving the 99 to go out in search of the one lost sheep. Immediately following this week's passage is the parable of the unmerciful or unforgiving servant who, despite receiving forgiveness of his own debt from his master, throws a fellow servant in debtor's prison for failing to pay back money owed. The three passages together give a detailed discourse on forgiveness and reconciliation – dealing with those who have sinned, even against you personally and the powerful call to compassion and mercy.

### Living the Gospel – Facing the issue

It can be very difficult when we feel that someone has hurt us to actually go and speak to them about how we are feeling. It is so much easier to revel in our hurt or seek payback for the hurt. Sometimes we feel that we might ruin a friendship by speaking to our friend about a way in which they have hurt us. But a hurt that goes unaddressed will continue to hurt and will probably be repeated. This week's gospel reminds us of the need to challenge our friends when they hurt us but it also reminds us that when we have hurt others we need to be challenged about it and called to account for our actions.



**Mary Brooks**

**Religious Education Leader**

# Learning and Teaching

## Senior B News

What have Senior B been up to?

Games have been an important part of our learning during the remote learning period. Sometimes we've played whole class games together over a Google Meet and other times the students have broken into pairs or threes, set up their own Google Meet and played a game together. We've played games in maths and English to revise and consolidate learning.

This is one of our Fraction/Decimal/Percentage Bingo games.



Here is a photo of all our cheery faces during one of our Google Meets. As you can see the camera brings out the many personalities of Senior B!



The students are well and truly immersed in their poetry unit. They are working towards producing their own poetry anthology composed of poems they have written themselves and poems they have found in books and on the internet that they like. One particular poem they have learnt to write is called a Quatrain. Quatrains are short poems that can be written about any topic. The second and last lines of the quatrains must rhyme. The students were directed to write four different versions of the quatrain 'Down Behind the Dustbin'.

Here are some of their poetic works.

<p><i>Down behind the dustbin I met a boy called Curly He said that I had woken him Because it was too early.</i> Noah H</p>	<p><i>Down behind the dustbin I met a horse called Jay He was a very nice horse Who liked to eat hay</i> Charlie</p>
<p><i>Down behind the dustbin I met a pig called snouty He isn't very kind In fact he's rather pouty</i> Zoe</p>	<p><i>Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Jim. I think he really hated me Because I couldn't swim.</i> Reema</p>

Mary Brooks  
Senior B Teacher

## Middle School News

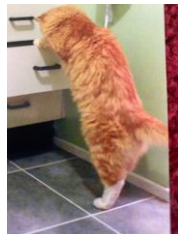
Can you believe only two weeks left this term! We have completed the preparation for Reconciliation and have begun our unit on Eucharist, which includes preparation for receiving the Sacrament for the first time. Thank you to those who remembered to return their purple Reconciliation book last week. Keep an eye out for your yellow Eucharist book in your pack.

In Maths we are learning to represent and solve multiplication problems using a variety of mental and written strategies. These include partitioning (breaking the numbers down), multiples of 10, 100 and 1000, and using multiples of the numbers to simplify the equation. We have been studying grid references and compass directions and are moving to transformation of shapes (flip, slide and turn).

We have continued reading and discussing Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes in our book club, as well as investigating different types of poetry and the use of onomatopoeia.



Scooting down the road quickly  
With my brother behind me  
Scooting, Scooting so briskly  
Having so much fun are we  
*Quantrain Poem written by Joseph.*



Pets are so lovely  
I had two cats Tom and Stripes  
They made me happy.  
*Haiku poem by Georgiana*

We have started our Science-based unit Plant It, looking at the parts of plants and how we use them. Our Culture unit continues to focus on the use of storytelling in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Wishing all the dads a Happy Father's Day on Sunday. Hope you manage to celebrate and appreciate all the special people in your lives.

Jane Michael and Maryann Hamilton



## Junior School News

Hello Parents,

Spring is finally here so we look forward to some beautiful sunny days as the COVID numbers continue to decrease and the chance of a little more freedom continues to grow.

As we approach Father's Day the children have written some beautiful poems, written some interesting reports, drawn some gorgeous drawings and made some lovely gifts to celebrate their lovely dads. Happy Father's Day to you all. We have also been focusing our attention on Spring, so don't forget to point out the blossoms and buds when you are out for a walk.

In Maths for the last 2 weeks of term we will be learning about money; something the children don't see a lot of in this time of cards and transfers. We will be learning about the value of coins and notes and using our skip counting and addition skills to add amounts together. In Religion we will continue to learn about the Mass as a celebration as the year 4 students prepare for their first communion.

Thank you for all your support this term. The children have worked so well and definitely deserved a 'day off' yesterday. I will send the children's work home this week in their tub so that you can all marvel at how well they've done. If you could return the book at the end of term I would appreciate it.

Enjoy the weekend and the celebrations.

Regards,

Deborah



**Happy Father's Day**

## L'Italiano per Tutti (Italian for everyone)

Buongiorno,

È arrivata la primavera (Spring has arrived). Che belli i colori della primavera (How beautiful are the colours of Spring).

The Seasons    Le Stagioni

Spring    la primavera

Summer    l'estate

Autumn    l'autunno

Winter    l'inverno

The days of the week | i giorni della settimana

Monday	lunedì	<b>Note</b> - no capital letters
Tuesday	martedì	the use of accents
Wednesday	mercoledì	
Thursday	giovedì	Can you see the connection
Friday	venerdì	between the days, the Solar
Saturday	sabato	System and Roman
Sunday	domenica	mythology?

Arrivederci,  
Signora Smarrelli

## STEM – Whole School Challenge

Sick of being stuck at home? Build a bridge! This week's challenge is to build a bridge using any materials you like (straws, cardboard, lego etc.). Your bridge must be at least 10cm high, 15 cm long and able to hold a toy car. Think about which shapes are the strongest, have a look at some famous bridges, put together a plan and be prepared to adjust.

Here are a couple of the ingenious catapults created as part of the last challenge.



BRIDGE BUILDING STEM CHALLENGE