



Newsletter / 17 September

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Staying positive throughout the past six months of remote and flexible learning has been an extraordinary task for all of us. We might have had fun days and difficult days, rainy days and days full of sunshine and we have stayed resilient throughout, supporting each other and caring for each other. I think back to that Monday 23 March when I went to speak with each class about what was happening as we did our first move to remote learning and stage 3 restrictions and what that would mean during the holidays. The response of the children was so level-headed and inquisitive. They listened carefully and had many questions - some of which we knew the answer and others we did not. At that time, I was struck by their level of resilience and the positive way they approached this whole experience. I was convinced they were living in homes full of love and trust and that this would carry them forward. The staff quickly pivoted to remote learning and pondered the implications of this for creating engaging learning. Our focus was maintaining a continuity of learning. Now 6 months later I am amazed by what has been done. Here are some of the amazing things our children have learnt to do:

- look after a school computer at home and troubleshoot if needed
- meet on google and understand the process of mute and taking turns to speak
- follow a complex schedule
- negotiate meetings with their peers
- work online with their peers on projects
- organised their research to present to online
- complete work over a week, sometimes rearranging aspects to suit their work style
- take on STEM challenges to create towers and bridges and catapults and domino runs
- create some wonderful and inspiring artworks
- solve maths problems and demonstrate new maths skills
- play whole class games like online bingo
- follow a recipe and create something yummy
- plant seeds, watch them grow and record observations

We have much to be grateful for and contributing to our gratitude sign was a fantastic community effort.





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 are planning a whole community event that will include invites to current and past students and staff. There will be a school only event. And then there will be the Grade 6 Graduation. Dates are yet to be finalised due to current COVID19 restrictions. As soon as we know we will share them with you.

Survey about remote learning

You might recall completing a survey following the first period of remote learning. Using that data, we modified and adjusted some of the things we were doing around delivery of remote learning. This more recent period of remote learning has been a challenging time for us all, but despite the major disruptions to normal activities, there will be many valuable lessons derived from this period.

Below is a link to an optional survey in order to help capture the learnings from the remote learning period. The surveys are designed to be a quick capture of learnings while the experience is fresh, and are not designed to capture every aspect of schooling during the lockdown period. Your feedback will be valuable in learning from the experience and improving education outcomes.

Here is the link to the survey. It is expected the survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and access to it will close on 28 September. [Parent / Carer survey](#)

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to our learnings as a school and education system.

School Assembly via google meet on Monday 12 October

We will be having a whole school assembly via Google meet at 9:30am on Monday 12 October.

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. Our plans about transition for 2021 are in development and reliant upon what happens as we move out of COVID19 restrictions. We are looking at 2-3 days for students to orient themselves to their new school. In addition, each teacher will provide your child's new teacher with information that will assist and support your child's learning going forward.

COVID19 - Stage 4 Restrictions → moving to return to school

We have been advised of the following arrangements for schools in metropolitan Melbourne:

- Students in Prep-Year 2 will return to onsite learning at St Benedict's from 12 October (second week of Term 4)
- All students from Year 3 to Year 6 in metropolitan Melbourne will continue with remote and flexible learning until further notice. A date for the return of these year levels to onsite learning will be subject to further health advice. It is possible that this date will be 26 October.

Thank you for your ongoing support of your child and teacher while flexible and remote learning continues. We are staying positive.

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 staying safe online from Kids Helpline [here](#). This is an excerpt from the staying safe online page:

There are a few simple things you can do to try to keep safe online:

- **Be careful of requests** – only accept ‘friend’ requests from people you know in real life. This reduces the chance of getting into an unsafe situation.
- **Block anyone you’ve had contact with that was negative or unsafe** – this stops them from having contact with you and from seeing your profile.
- **Think before you upload and share photos** – post photos that show you and your friends in a positive way. Once it’s uploaded, it’s no longer private and could be viewed by friends, family, teachers and strangers.

Reflection

Our reflection this week focuses on our uniqueness (from this [website](#))

My Uniqueness

by Liliana Kohann

It’s not my weakness, it is my openness.

It’s not my doubts, it is my questioning mind.

It’s not that I say too much, it’s my courage to share.

It’s not my fear, it’s my prudence.

It’s not my stupidity, it’s my choice of what I want to know.

It’s not my credulity, it is my trust.

It’s not my depression, it is my **acceptance**.

It’s not my recklessness, it is my curiosity, and love of life.

It’s not my chaos, it’s my artistic soul.

It’s not my weakness, it is my UNIQUENESS.

Blessings to each one of you and your families. Stay safe, stay healthy. Remember, by staying apart we are doing this together. May your holiday period be a time of rest for your whole family.

Ms Caroline Sheehan
Acting Principal



Diary Dates

Diary Dates		
Term Three		
18 September	Term 3 ends	3.00pm
Term Four		
4 October	Daylight savings	+ 1 hour
5 October	Term 4 commences	Remote and flexible learning for all
12 October		Prep to Year 2 on site at school Teddy Bear Picnic day (details to come)
23 October	Grand Final/ Thank-you (public holiday)	
26 October		Possible Year 3 to 6 return
2 November	School closure day	
3 November	Melbourne Cup Day (public holiday)	
11 November	Remembrance Day	
29 November	First Sunday of Advent	



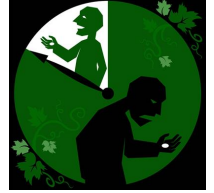
Religious Education

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16 *Parable of the workers in the vineyard*

Gospel Reflection

On a first reading of this gospel story, the reader is probably struck by the unfairness of the situation. The landowner has employed day labourers at different times throughout the day to work in his vineyard. However, come the end of the day, the landowner pays all the day labourers the same amount. Not surprisingly, the labourers employed at daybreak to work the whole day are upset that those who have only worked the last hour of the day are paid the same amount. The landowner reminds them that he is paying them what they agreed at the start of the day, and yet the reader is left uncomfortable about the whole arrangement.



Of course, this is the purpose of Jesus' story! The key to the story is in the introduction. Most of the kingdom parables told by Jesus begin with a formulaic statement, 'The kingdom is like ...' and this one is no different. What follows is almost always a description of an everyday event that is turned on its head. In all of the kingdom parables recorded in the gospels, Jesus describes a world order in which people respond in unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. His message is that the kingdom, or reign, of God turns expectations upside down. In the kingdom, people who are treated badly in this world are held in great esteem; the balance of power is turned upside down; and the usual order of things is challenged. The landowner's final comment in the parable, 'the last will be first, and the first, last', is a perfect example of the challenging nature of Jesus' kingdom parables. In the kingdom, those who hold themselves to be first in this world will be brought down, and those who are treated as least in this world will be exalted.

Historical Context – Labourers for hire

Jesus' parable describes a situation that would have been very familiar to his audience. At the time, there were many quite wealthy landowners who controlled large vineyards, orchards and crop fields. They would have employed a certain number of permanent workers but come harvest time there was a need for more workers and, much like today, they sought to employ part time workers for a short period of time until the rush was over. Men looking for work would gather in the marketplace of a village and landowners would select workers and send them to their property to work.

Scriptural context – Kingdom parables

A feature of the kingdom parables that Jesus used is a challenging 'shift' to the unexpected. Jesus only ever uses parables to describe what the kingdom is like, and never says exactly what it is or isn't. In each parable he compares the kingdom of God to something that would be familiar to a 1st century audience but then he twists the familiar and makes the challenging shift by making the familiar, unfamiliar. (This 'shift' is sometimes called a 'discombobulating shift'.) Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God disrupts our normal way of thinking, it turns our expectations upside down and it completely challenges our 'normal' relationships.

Have you thought? Equality or Equity?

How would you feel if you had done a full day's work and were paid the same as someone who had only worked for one hour? Is the landowner in the parable being unjust? He pays the workers exactly what he promised them – but he promised everyone the same amount, regardless of when they started work. The workers who started at 6.00 am complain. How do you think the workers who started later in the day felt? The landowner claims the right to be generous – is generosity unfair? There is a difference between treating people equally and equitably. What has the landowner done here?

Mary Brooks

Religious Education Leader

Learning and Teaching

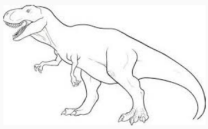
Senior B News

Well done to all our parents and students who have survived a whole term of remote learning. Who would have thought we would be living this in 2020? Thank you for the pickups and drop offs and the open communication which has enabled all of us to manage this so well. At times it has been challenging, frustrating and confronting, however there have been times of laughter and care and kindness as well as the 'special' visitors we have seen in our Google Meets named Harry and Pandora!

The students have continued with their poetry anthologies which are taking shape in the form of Google Slides. Here are some samples of their slides from Reema, Zoe, Jordan and Gabe.

Dinosaur Acrostic Poems


Dangerous
Intelligent (25% true I guess)
Nice (Not nice)
Old (At least 65 Million Years old!)
Scary (Carnivores are scary)
Abnormal (Not an alien)
Unusual (They are not lizards)
Razor sharp claws and teeth
Slimy (Yes)
By Reema



School
Talented people

Best school ever
End of term is soon
No better school in the world
Energetic
Did you know St Benedict had a sister called St Scholastica
I will miss you St Benedict's primary school
Clever
Terrific
Super


See you soon
Calm
High school here I come
Obstacles
Openhearted
Loving



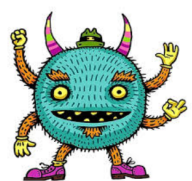
St Benedict's
Catholic Primary School

My Cinquain

Jacqui
Strong, supportive
Loving, caring, cooking
The best mother ever
Mum



My Monster - by Gabe



My monster has a
friendly face
It hides behind my
bedroom door
I feed it treats and
slices of cake
but it's always
wanting more ...

The anthologies are looking bright and colourful and the students are looking forward to sharing them with the other classes when we have all returned from remote learning.

Ms Mary Brooks

Junior School News

As we conclude ten weeks of remote learning, I can only reflect that this has been an amazing experience. The children have done so much work, covered so much of the curriculum and managed to stay positive throughout. Congratulations to them all.

I know you as parents have had to work hard to support, motivate and get them organised so congratulations to you too. If nothing else it has given you an opportunity to experience how your child learns, find out what they are interested in and what they find challenging. They have really impressed me with their attendance at the daily meeting and their improved on line etiquette. Who would have imagined that 6- and 7-year old students would be organising their own Google Meets to keep in contact with their classmates?

I have included a couple more photos of the beautiful artwork done over the past couple of weeks and one of the corn cob experiment started in the first week of this term. The tubs with resources for the first week back will be available to collect on Friday. I hope you have a restful and well-deserved break.

Regards
Deborah Torre





Italian News

L'ITALIANO PER TUTTI (Italian for everyone)

Buongiorno,

I can't believe that it is already the end of term. I'm sure you will agree that the children have worked very hard during the term and deserve a well-earned break from the routine of school activities (I think the parents/carers do as well).

Thank you to everyone for making sure that work is completed and returned to school – quite an unusual set of circumstances but we have all survived – some of us have even learnt quite a lot of new things.

If you are looking for some Italian activities to do during the holidays, you can always revisit the links shared with you throughout the term.

I look forward to seeing you next term.

Buone vacanze,

Signora Smarrelli

Whole School STEM Challenge

Well done to all those who have participated in the STEM challenges this term. Last newsletter the challenge was to build a bridge at least 10cm high, 15 cm long and able to hold a toy car. There were some interesting interpretations of this challenge!



Over the term we have challenged you to build a tower, create a domino run, construct a catapult and a bridge. Well done to Joseph who sent in a photo of every challenge.

Maryann Hamilton