



ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
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KEEPING OUR CONNECTIONS – UPDATE 4



Wednesday June 3 2020

Dear Community,

As we approach the end of learning at home for all students at St. Paul's, I would like to express my thanks to all the members of our St. Paul's 'family'.

To say that the last eleven weeks have been a challenge for us all would have to be an understatement! We have all had to come to terms with new ways of learning, teaching & working in our St. Paul's community, while at the same time dealing with the unknowns of a virus which has challenged the whole world with its ferocity and fatality.

To our students, I say "Thank you" – thank you for working so hard at home (and at school for some) with help from your parents, guardians, siblings, grandparents, friends, teachers & independently by yourselves. You have learnt with support & guidance, to manage & organise your learning away from school and for this you should all be very proud. We are proud of you!

To our parents, guardians & significant adults in the children's lives, I say "Thank you" – thank you for 'stepping up' and supporting & guiding your children in their learning at home. None of you trained for this or were prepared for this but you managed as best you could, in the busyness of your family's life, as well as in the busyness of your work lives, to be there for your children, as they learnt at home. We are in awe of your capacity to manage, with all that this virus has 'thrown' at you!

To our teachers & staff, I say "Thank you" – thank you for continuing to provide another way of educating the students of St. Paul's. The untold hours you have spent in planning & preparation, at school and after hours at home, have meant that our 350 students have continued to learn & grow, in spite of what this virus has done to the way we have learnt & taught. The time, effort & commitment you have given throughout this unprecedented time has been inspirational & exceptional; you have given over & above,

without question or complaint, as you worked together to ensure our 'little friends' continued to learn & grow. As educators you have displayed a level of service which has been incomparable & unsurpassed.

Now as we look to our return to a 'new normal', it is appropriate that we take time to reflect and think about what we all want that 'new normal' to look like. A principal colleague shared an Instagram posting with me last week, which reads as follows, ***"In a rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to"***. We will take the time to reflect on what has been, discuss what did & did not work and decide on the best way forward for our community. We do not intend to rush back into what was but rather we intend to take our time to reconnect, to reconsider and to reflect on what is best & worthwhile for all of us in our 'new normal'.

Again, "Thank you" for the support, encouragement and commitment you have all shared, in meeting this challenge together as a 'family'; we can only be the stronger because of it!

Denis.

Denis J. Daly

Principal



SOME ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

STAGE 2 RETURN TO SCHOOL: DROP OFF & PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

DROP OFF:

Drop off will go back to the normal time slot of 8:30 am to 8:50 am. Please direct your children to the closest crossing, once you have parked your car. The basketball court will be reopened for parking & dropping off; a staff member will be there to direct students into the school.

PICKUP:

There will be three different pickup points after school, based on family surname groupings, at different times. Please follow your allocated timeslot as closely as possible to ensure a smooth, safe and physically distanced pickup, as follows:

- ***3:00 pm - 3:10 pm: Surnames beginning with A-K; pickup point – St. Paul's Church front door.***
- ***3:10 pm - 3:20 pm: Surnames beginning with S-Z; pickup point - the gate between the hall & library.***
- ***3:20 pm - 3:30 pm: Surnames beginning with L-R; pickup point - the school hall side entrance, closest to the church car park.***

Please remember:

- No parents or guardians are to come into the school at drop off time or into the pickup areas at pick up times.
- Children not picked up from the designated pick up areas by 3.45 pm, will be taken to the office and parents or guardians called



OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM (BEFORE SCHOOL & AFTER SCHOOL CARE)

The OSHC (Before & After School Care) Program will operate out of the Multipurpose Room for the last three weeks of Term 2. The program runs in the morning Monday to Friday and in the afternoon Monday to Thursday. Parents & guardians must register their children for the program by ringing 0450 451 909. Any questions regarding the program should be directed to Mrs. Mary Zambara.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS: SEMESTER ONE

Teachers are currently in the process of writing reports for Semester One (Terms 1 & 2). Due to the changes in learning & teaching throughout the two terms, the reports will be sent home in hard copy; they will not be available electronically. **Reports will be sent home on Friday July 17.**



PARENT-TEACHER CONVERSATIONS

Parent-Teacher Conversations will take place on Thursday July 23. Further details about bookings, time slots, etc., will be provided before the end of Term 2.



FOUNDATION 2021 ENROLMENT INTERVIEWS & SCHOOL TOURS

If you have yet to submit an Enrolment Application for your four year old child for Foundation (Prep) 2021, please do so as soon as possible. If you know of a family who have a four year old who is due to start primary school next year and is not a part of the St. Paul's community, please let them know that they will need to fill out an Enrolment Application (available on the school website) as soon as possible also.

Enrolment Interviews & School Tours have been given the 'go ahead' by Catholic Education Melbourne; they will be conducted next week, on Wednesday June 11 & Thursday June 12 and in the following week, on Wednesday June 18 & on Thursday June 19. They will be of 30 minutes duration – a 15 minute Enrolment Interview and a 15 minute School Tour – with individual families (parents & child) only. Existing families will have their interviews in Term 3, on a date to be confirmed.

There have been a large number of Enrolment Applications submitted, so we need to make sure we allocate places to our existing families first, followed by allocations to new families.



BORROWED CHROMEBOOKS

Parents & guardians of students in all year levels, who borrowed Google Chromebooks, are asked to return them to the school next week, in the bag you received them in.

