



**ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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## **KEEPING OUR CONNECTIONS – UPDATE 14**



Thursday November 19 2020

Dear Families,

As we continue to come to terms with a year unlike any we have known in modern times, I am, amazed by stories and examples of resilience & courage, determination & persistence and kindness & strength.

It is our human disposition to fight to survive, in spite of what life 'throws' at us! And this is what we are seeing in people & families in our local, wider & global communities. The impact of COVID-19 has reached far & wide, affecting us personally & directly and causing us to re-evaluate who & what is important to us.

Never in modern times have family & friends been more vital, as we have all tried (and continue to try) our best, to deal with what this virus has 'thrown' at us.

For most of 2020 families have done their best to be there for each other – in person & from a distance. Restrictions may have kept us apart physically but they have certainly drawn us so much closer in support of each other. And as those restrictions are gradually being lifted many of us have realised just how important & valuable those family & friendship connections are.



**Strong communities. Strong culture. Stronger children.**

As a St. Paul's 'family' it has been an immense struggle to "keep our connections"; coming to terms with what remote learning has meant at home & at school, re-starting face-to-face learning & teaching, cancellation of significant school events, major changes to school operations, health concerns in a 'pandemic world', the stress & worry of illness ("Have I / have my family got the virus?"), trying to understand why we are or are not permitted to do something or go somewhere, trying to explain all these changes to our children - and so the list of changes & challenges goes on!



I strongly suspect we are all looking to 2021 to be a new start. Our world will be forever changed but we will all have a different view of life and how we can best live it safely, with knowledge and with the desire to keep going.

I continue to be amazed at the strength & resilience of your children and how they, with your love & support and in spite of all that the virus has 'thrown' at them, have continued to grow & learn. This year has been character building for them and they have shown us how well they have been able to cope & continue with resilience, on their life-long learning journey.



We have all had to grow our strength and ability to cope with life's challenges together; this is how we manage and move forward at St. Paul's. Our moving forward together needs to be with a sense of hope for our children's futures. Words cannot thank you all enough for the incredible job you have been doing and continue to do, as parents & guardians; your love, support & guidance for your children has been nothing short of 'stand out' in my eyes. And whilst the ever-present threat of the virus remains in our community, I think we have been encouraged by the recent decline in numbers, to be hopeful yet cautious, in planning ahead and trying to work out a new normal.

**TOGETHER  
WE CAN**

Thank you everyone for being in this together, for working together and for moving forward together in hope.

Denis.

**Denis J. Daly**

**Principal**

## **2021 TIMETABLE CHANGES**

The school day will finish at 3.15 pm from 2021 on. An overwhelming 80%+ of parents said “Yes” to the changed finish time in the Parent Survey. As families work to reorganise their school week pick up arrangements in 2021, School Leaders will remain on duty as usual, to provide supervision for those children not picked up at the new 3.15 pm finish time.



## **2021 SCHOOL LEADERS**

The **2021 School Leaders Group** will comprise of the following people:

- **Principal: Denis Daly**
- **Deputy Principal & Religious Education Leader: Patrick Pantalone**
- **Learning & Teaching Leader and Numeracy Leader: Narelle White**
- **Literacy Leader: Leanne Polidano**
- **Learning Diversity Leader: Belinda Mifsud**
- **Student Wellbeing Leader: Ashleigh Cahill**
- **eLearning Leader: Jared Zambara**
- **Community Partnerships Coordinator: Marlene Fenech**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tina Segulin, current Learning & Teaching Leader & Senior Literacy Leader, Bernadette Kardash, current Learning Diversity Leader & Junior Literacy Leader, John McCall, current Student Wellbeing Leader and Andrew Curmi, current I.C.T. Leader, for their many years of leadership service to the students, families & their staff colleagues, at St. Paul's. Their work in leadership has been extensive & invaluable, in ensuring students have been supported in achieving best possible learning outcomes and colleagues have been supported in their work as educators. Tina, Bernadette, John & Andrew will remain on staff and return to classroom teaching positions.



## 2021 CLASS GROUPS

Current class groups will remain the same moving into 2021. This decision has been made after consideration of the impact, challenges & complexities of the 2020 school year, as well as in discussion with Principal colleagues in other school settings. Students have spent a significantly reduced amount of time at school this year, with a consequent impact on developing friendship skills and class working relationships. We will not be taking requests for a child to be with or not with another student or with or not with a particular teacher. If you have any concerns relating to your child, please have a conversation with their current teacher, as they (the teachers) play a major part in the transition of students from one year level to the next, through a very thorough transition & handover process. Students will find out their 2021 teachers on 'Step Up day', on Monday December 14.



## ST. VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The St. Vincent De Paul Society has informed us this year that unfortunately, they will NOT be collecting non-perishable items for their annual Christmas Hampers, due to COVID-19 concerns. In place of the food collections, they will be giving out food vouchers to those less fortunate in our community. They are therefore, collecting money donations. In an effort to help their cause, we would like to 'dig deep' and extend this plea to our students and their families. In lieu of non-perishable food and Christmas items not being collected, we will be asking our families to help our wider community this year by giving money donations in Week 8 and Week 9 of the term. Classroom teachers will collect any donations from their students and their families each morning. We will be encouraging the students and their families to give generously and to think of others during this Advent season.



## LOST UNIFORM ITEMS

Could families (parents & guardians) please check that all uniform items which are often taken off at school – jumpers, jackets, hats, sports jackets, etc. – are clearly labelled with the child's name. A number of parents have informed the school that clearly labelled uniform items have gone missing or been taken by mistake. Please check your children's uniform items listed above, to be sure that you do not have another child's uniform item, taken home by mistake. We also have a HUGE number of 'lost 'n found' uniform items, in the 'Lost 'n Found' tub, outside the First Aid Room. If you need to

check for a lost uniform item, please report to the school office and office staff will arrange for you to go through the 'lost 'n found' items.



### **WARMER WEATHER – HAYFEVER & DRINK BOTTLES**

The warmer & windier weather is bringing with it an increase in the number of children with hay fever. Please be sure to administer hay fever medication to your children before they come to school each morning. Students who may require medication during the day need to provide the school with their medication and a Medical Health Plan, with all the necessary details filled out.



As detailed in last week's eNEWS, drinking taps (bubblers) have been switched off due to COVID-19 concerns. Every child MUST have a drink bottle with them at school. Drink bottles remain on the children's tables during class time and may be taken outside (and placed in class tubs) at play breaks, so they are able to have a drink while playing.





Join us online for  
a **TALK & TOUR**  
of our College.

**APPLICATIONS  
ARE OPEN FOR  
YEAR 7 2022**

Limited places available for Year 8-12 2021



For information and bookings visit:  
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