



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

PREP TO YEAR 6

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PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

24th April 2020

Dear Parents

We are now one week closer to things returning to normal.

It has been a challenge for us all, and yet there have also been positives.

Many families have spoken of the way relationships with their children have deepened through having to slow down the busyness of life. People have adjusted their priorities in terms of what is really important, and all of us have learned to appreciate so many things that we previously took for granted. We have been forced to depend more upon each other at school, in our region, nationally and internationally, and people everywhere have stepped up.

I read recently that you cannot truly be grateful and unhappy at the same time, and few people have more reasons to be grateful than us. Sure we have had challenges, but we are going forward and progressing in a hundred ways.

Our staff have kept our school open so that we can support the essential workers who are attending their workplaces to ensure our community is healthy, safe and comfortable. Thanks for the wonderful support and gratitude you have shown them. They have been amazing, and continue to make us all so very proud.

Prep 2021 Enrolments

If you have a child eligible for Prep in 2021 and you haven't already done so, please download an application form from our website and send it in. We have already received many applications, and we expect more as we make contact with our local kindies. Existing families get first preference, but this is of course conditional on an application having been submitted.

School Events

I'm sure parents are well aware that we are unable to hold assemblies, sporting competitions and the like until restrictions are lifted. Please be assured we will definitely keep you advised about when such things can be resumed.

STUDENTS NEEDING TO ATTEND SCHOOL

Parents of Students Attending School

Next week we will continue to support our community through supervising those students whose parents are essential workers and vulnerable children.

- **Essential workers** are any workers who must continue to attend their workplace for essential business/work during this time;
- **Vulnerable children** include children identified by schools or who are currently receiving services from Child Safety, including children who are subject to a child protection order, or are subject to a youth justice order.

Students who attend school will be supervised as they work through the on-line learning activities provided to students who are learning from home. Teachers will continue to have a specific focus upon online learning.

For students attending school, we will offer supervision as usual from 8:15am. Students will need to wear their school uniform of their choice each day. This includes school hat or cap. Please have children wear their Sports Uniform on Friday.

Students in Years 3-6 need to bring their devices (and musical instruments if applicable). Students will need to also bring their own lunchbox and water bottle, and the tuckshop will operate on Mondays and Wednesdays for lunch only.

When school concludes at 3:00pm, all three Pick Up Zones and bus services will operate as usual, and After School Care is available as normal.

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—CARMEL NASH

Monday April 20 2020

TO ALL PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN QUEENSLAND

During this time of COVID-19, I write to you to seek your support for your Catholic Schools and to acknowledge the ongoing support that they will provide to your child and to your family.

These are new experiences for everyone – students, families, principals, teachers and other school staff. We are all learning together how to manage this crisis and so I ask you to be patient and to just do the best you can for your child/children who may be learning from home for at least the next five weeks. We also thank those essential workers who are out there in the front line helping to ensure we are all safe and also supporting those who may have lost their jobs through the impacts of COVID-19.

This is not a time to panic – your child's education will be ok. Catholic Education Diocesan Offices and other Catholic Education authorities, along with schools are working hard to ensure that your child can continue to learn from home in multiple ways which suit differing family circumstances. They will provide you with learning materials which are appropriate to your circumstances at home. This may be online for many but also may be paper based for those who do not have the connectivity or facilities at home to be online. Make sure you contact your school if you have any problems at all with managing learning at home. They are there to help you I can assure you of that. Everyone is learning what to do and how to do it at the same time and so if there are some hiccups then be assured that your school will work through this with you. You do not have to be the teacher – they already have one of those – but be a guiding hand at keeping them on track. Also please remember that if your young person is online then this is like a normal classroom so please follow protocols sent from your school and set them up as suggested if possible. We know that it will be different for each family. Also this is not the time for you to be talking with the teacher or interrupting them as they will have many students on line. Contact them later if you have any questions or issues.

This is a wonderful time to engage with your child's learning and to be even more aware of their wellbeing. We talk about Parent Engagement all the time but this is truly living it. There are many activities you can do at home during this time that will enhance their awareness of the connection between what they are doing in school and how it lives out in real life. Take this opportunity with both hands and enjoy it as you will be a lot more aware of what they are learning at school and their capability in learning areas (and may have a new appreciation for teachers). – You can also have them help more around the house doing simple things e.g. helping prepare meals through measurement, size shape etc, folding washing, picking up after themselves, keeping their workspace tidy etc. as well as reading and playing games together both inside and outside. There are many activities on line that you can download and do with them or they can do by themselves if they are older. Keep watching our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pandfqlid/>) for ideas and activities.

One more thing – it is about school fees. I am sure by now that many of you have received information about school fees for Term 2. Catholic Education across Queensland has said that no child will be denied a place at their school because of the financial implications of COVID-19. Those families that need a discount for this period of time in order for their child to be able to continue their learning with their school will be allowed to do so through applying for fee discounts. Please do this so that schools know what is happening with every family and payment. I also ask that those who are in employment with no disruptions because of this crisis continue to pay their full school fees so our schools can manage to pay staff who are working to keep your child able to learn whether at home or at school. Be assured that staff are working harder than every during this time. This full payment is very important otherwise many of our schools may struggle financially which may have implications when children return to school. After all, Catholic Schools are about working together for the good of all who are in our community. So please support by paying your school fees if you can.

There is so much advice around about what and how you should do at home with home learning that I am not going to repeat it here. Too much advice can be a bad thing. Please read whatever you are sent by your school and follow it as closely as you can but if you cannot do everything do not worry. Try to have a routine and follow it but remember just be a parent and that all of this is not worth a fractured relationship with your child over differing opinions about how things are done now and how they were when you were at school. You are all learning together.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Best wishes for the next five weeks.

Yours sincerely



Carmel Nash
Executive Director



CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS
QUEENSLAND

SUMMARY OF EVENTS CANCELLED/POSTPONED

As you are aware the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the impact this is having on communities is concerning for us all. Due to the increasing threat and impact on health from the Coronavirus, please note a summary of events that regrettably have either been postponed or cancelled.

- Morning Parade and Courtyard Prayer have ceased for the remainder of term. This includes Mother's Day Liturgy.
- School Musical Rehearsals have been postponed for the remainder of term. The musical performance date will be moved to a later time in Term 4 with the date to be confirmed.
- Music Camp scheduled for Friday 8th May has been postponed.
- Junior and Senior Cross Country scheduled for this week has been postponed.
- All representative school sport programs, including district, regional, state, national, interstate and international competitions, are cancelled until further notice from 17 March 2020. In addition, Queensland School Sport teams will not be participating in any national, interstate or international events organised across Australia or internationally.
- Bundaberg Regional Eisteddfod to be held in May 2020 has been cancelled.
- NAPLAN testing for Years 3 and 5 has been cancelled for 2020.
- The Queensland Catholic Music Festival (QCMF) scheduled for mid August has been cancelled.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

MOTHER'S DAY



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
Term 2
Labour Day
Monday 3rd May
Bundaberg Show Holiday
Thursday 28th May



Mother's DAY

Whilst we will not hold our annual Mother's Day Liturgy we would like to celebrate the special Mums in our lives in a video post via our Facebook page. To assist can each family please send in **one** photo per family of Mum and the kids to spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au no later than Monday 4th May to be included in the presentation.

BOOKCLUB AT HOME

TUCKSHOP CHANGES

SCHOLASTIC  **Book Club**

BOOK CLUB IS HERE—Virtual Catalogue while Students Learn from Home

BookClub is offering families the opportunity to participate in a virtual BookClub. If you would like to participate, please click on the following links. It is important to note, **any book orders must be delivered to your home address** and the BookClub is not organised by the school as normal.

[VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB CATALOGUE](#)

Or order online via

[BOOKCLUB WEBSITE](#)



Due to smaller student numbers currently at school, please note school tuckshop is only available for first break each Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure afternoon tea is packed for your child.

Orders can also be placed via QKR app on mobile devices before 8.15am each day.



Sometimes
heroes
need helping too!

Feeling the pressures of ISO life?

As a parent, keeping you and your family's **mental wellbeing** in check is **important**. We are here to help you through these challenging times.

- Isolation getting too much
- Kids are bored at home
- Learning from home is a struggle
- Tensions are building at home
- Unrealistic expectations of life
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Feelings of loneliness
- Depression or anxiety
- Missing distant family members
- Relationship troubles

Centacare CQ offers professional and confidential **counselling** and **psychology** services. Sessions can be conducted over the **phone** or via **video chat**.

Phone
Appointment



&



Video
Chat

To make an appointment, call 1300 523 985
or visit: centacarecq.com/counsellor-booking/

*Psychology appointments can be arranged as Telehealth and Bulk Billed through Medicare.

