



13 March 2020

“Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus”

School Theme 2020

Our Commitment to Child Safety:

“At St Paul the Apostle Catholic Primary School we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel.”

Dear Parents and families,

CORONAVIRUS (COVID19) UPDATE

It's timely to provide you with an update regarding our school's response to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

We are closely following the official advice from the Australian Government Department of Health and the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services to ensure the safety of our children, staff and families who remain our greatest priority.

The Catholic Education Melbourne along with the Health and Education Departments have advised us to remain in what they have termed the 'Preparedness Phase' and that we should go about our normal routines but remain vigilant.

As a precaution, the children and staff will not be exposed to unnecessary risks and therefore school excursions will be placed on hold until further notice. Major events such as **Catholic Education Week (CEW)** scheduled for next week, including the **Annual Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral** for our young leaders across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the **CEW Picnic in the Gardens** and the **Children's Art Exhibition** have been cancelled or postponed.

We have also been proactive in cancelling our attendance at the **Annual National Young Leaders Day** which was to involve our Senior Level (Years Five & Six) to be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre next week.

Below I have listed a number of measures that we have adopted to ensure the safety of all in this challenging time.

- *We are requiring all SPA staff who have a fever or flu-like symptoms to stay home and receive medical clearance to return to work. Should a medical assessment necessitate testing for Coronavirus we will inform you immediately;*
- *We are applying Government directives in relation members of our community who return from overseas and are requiring self-isolation where necessary;*
- *We will remain vigilant in responding to children or staff who present with flu like symptoms, requiring isolation who will then be sent home immediately from school;*
- *Our teachers and staff have been reminding the children about the importance of:*
 - *frequent hand washing after using the toilet and before eating;*
 - *using hand-driers after washing their hands;*
 - *covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue;*
 - *or coughing into your elbow and disposing of the tissue into a bin and then washing your hands afterwards.*

NB: We have classroom supplies of tissues available for the children.

All toilets blocks are routinely cleaned on a daily basis and we have ensured that all toilets have **soap dispensers** for the children and staff to access. NB: I'd like to thank **Rhiannon and Alex Pamout (parents of Mia and Zoe)** who have been able to **source additional soap dispensers and refills** which they will install at **tomorrow's Working Bee**. At this point in time we have a reasonable supply of toilet paper here at SPA but await a further delivery.

Please refer to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fact Sheet from the Australian Government Department of Health.

ANNUAL TWILIGHT SPORTS - POSTPONED

As a further precaution and in anticipation that the pandemic will unfortunately escalate over the coming weeks, it is prudent for us to **postpone our Annual Twilight Sports** scheduled for Wednesday 25 March to later in the year. This will allow all members of our school community to participate and alleviate the need for families to make their own decision as to whether or not to attend this public gathering.

WORKING BEE TOMORROW – OUTDOORS IN THE FRESH AIR

Our first Working Bee for the year will go ahead tomorrow, **Saturday 14 March: 8.30am – 1.00pm** as planned as the majority of tasks will be completed outdoors in the fresh air.



Our main tasks will focus on preparing the surface for the new artificial turf to be laid outside the school office, mowing and whipper snipping, preparing garden beds, landscaping works around the newly established retaining walls adjoining the new Learning Building, maintenance to the Adventure playground, weeding, watering plants, book covering, general clean-up around the boundary and moving furniture and equipment to different areas around the school.

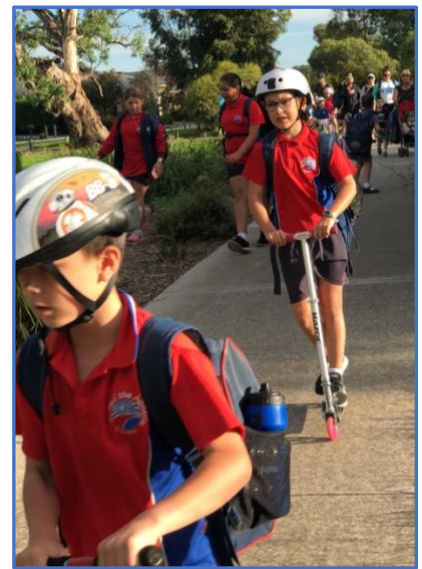
Food, drinks and hospitality will be provided. Morning Tea and a B.B.Q. lunch will be provided. (Donations welcome). Please support the great planning and work of the Maintenance and Development team led by Jeremy Oakey and his team, and lend a hand and enjoy the social occasion. Children are most welcome.

NATIONAL Ride2 SCHOOL DAY

A large number of families and staff celebrated our **NATIONAL Ride2 SCHOOL DAY** this morning, enjoying a healthy and happy start to the day, bathed in beautiful autumn sunshine.

Children and many parents, walked, jogged, cycled and scooted their way along the active travel path and were most appreciative of the NATIONAL Ride2 School Day stickers, the piece of fruit (thank you Coles Mernda) and the morning tea offered to them on their arrival.

We look forward to celebrating a number of Active travel days this year. I thank the Celeste Iemmolo (Active Travel Coordinator), our staff and Sparkle Parents team for their support of this active lifestyle event.



PROJECT COMPASSION

During this Season of Lent, **PROJECT COMPASSION** is promoted throughout the hundreds of parishes across Australia when we are asked to give generously to those needing our support in communities overseas.

Funds raised by Project Compassion will help to End Poverty, Promote Justice & Uphold Dignity. Please support this worthy cause by sending along any spare coins to school with your children.

“As we journey through the season of Lent, may we be more attentive to those we encounter in our ordinary lives and not ask ourselves what to give up, but how to give more.”



SCHOOL PHOTO DAY – NEXT WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH



Our Annual School Photos will be taken on 18 March (a flyer was sent home to families recently) and you are requested to register online beforehand, especially if you require a siblings' (sisters and brothers) photograph to be taken on the day.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY **A SPECIAL REMINDER**

All children will be required to arrive in their full **Summer School Uniform**

SUMMER DRESS for the **GIRLS** with black school shoes/sandals.

BOYS will need to wear their **RED SPORTS TOP** (not their Blue polo) **with black school shoes.**

NB: Fleecy jackets are not required. Runners, sports shorts or skorts – NOT PERMITTED.

eSafety Parent Information Evening – 23 March @ SPA

As part of our **Family Schools Partnership Program** involving St Mary's Whittlesea, St Joseph's Mernda, St Peter's Epping And St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Epping North we are pleased to announce that our first

Family Welfare Information Evening will be an

eSafety presentation through the **eSafety Commission.**

eSafety presentations can help parents and carers, and other youth-focused groups in the community, **to better understand online safety issues and their impact on young people.**



This presentation explores the latest research into online safety, technology trends and the benefits and risks of social media. It includes case studies and targeted advice on helping young people to have safe, enjoyable online experiences.

The presentation is one to two hours long including question time, and is delivered by online safety experts from eSafety. **Please keep 7.00 - 8:30 pm free on the 23 March for eSafety Parent Information Night** presented by Greg Gerbhart from the eSafety Commissioner's OutreachGroup.

Please click on the link below to register your interest:
<https://forms.gle/i7t8NCDVLTpj9W46>



ENROLMENT INFORMATION NIGHT 2021



FOR NEW PROSPECTIVE PARENTS
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH

Senior Learning Building
7.00pm – 8.15pm (Baby-sitting available)

FYI: A repeat session of this night will be held on Wednesday 29 April

Child-Parent-Teacher Learning Conversations

Our school has been alive over the past few nights to the happy sounds of our children, parents and staff who joined together to learn about their child's learning goals for this Semester. Several parents commented that they were impressed with how articulate their children were in articulating their learning goals and their confidence in expressing their thoughts.

The Child-Parent-Teacher Learning Conversations were another visible opportunity to nurture the family school partnerships and I thank the teachers and parents for their efforts and insights given to support our young learners during these valuable meeting times.

EARTH WORKS UPDATE

Works to our **Hardstand and driveway** (which lead to the new learning building), entering from Eminence Blvd, are on track to be completed after the school holidays as last fortnight's wet weather hindered the progress and access to the work site. We will then be able to commence compacting works to the area for the artificial turf before we lay the **long-awaited courts** next month.

Warm regards,



Phil Doherty (Principal)



What's On In Term One?

Important Term One Dates



Saturday 14 March

Saturday 14 March

Sunday 15 March

Sunday 15 March

Wednesday 18 March

Wednesday 18 March

Friday 20 March

Wednesday 25 March

Wednesday 25 March

Friday 27 March

Friday 27 March

Friday 27 March

Friday 10 April

Sunday 12 April

School Working Bee: 8.30am – 1.00pm

Confirmation Presentation of Creed 5.30pm @ Mernda

Confirmation Presentation of Creed 10.00am St Mary's Whittlesea & 8.00am & 10.30am St Joseph's Mernda

Catholic Education Week commences

Whole School Photo day

2021 SPA Enrolment Information Night No: 1 (7.00pm-8.15pm)

Interschool Sport Year Four – Six: 9.00am – 11.00am

eSafety Presentation for Parents of Family Schools Partnerships Schools @ SPA: 7.00pm - 8.30pm - All Parents Welcome

Harmony Day "Everyone Belongs"

Interschool Sport Year Four – Six: 9.00am – 11.00am

SPARKLE Parents Team - DONUT DAY @ Recess

Term One Concludes – 1.30pm (No Lunch Required)

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

TERM TWO

Tuesday 14 April

Wednesday 15 April

Wednesday 15 April

Friday 17 April

Saturday 18 April

Term Two commences - 8.55am

Year Six Confirmation Retreat Day @ St Joseph's Mernda

Confirmation Family Faith Night: 7.00pm @ St Joseph's Mernda

Sacrament of Confirmation: 7.30pm @ St Mary's Whittlesea

Sacrament of Confirmation: 2.00pm & 4.00pm @ Whittlesea