



No 12: 22 June 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,

Phew We’ve Made It...Term Two concludes @1.00pm & 1.15pm

As we conclude our term to remember, it’s timely to reflect on the vast array of different learning opportunities unexpectedly placed in our way because of COVID19.

Remote schooling, the staggered return to school life, the use of a multitude of different online learning resources, the use of the digital technologies to enhance learning opportunities with the use of ZOOM, videos, green screens, podcasts, Google Classrooms and Padlets, and most importantly quality time spent with parents at home have enabled our children to grow as resilient young learners.

The children in particular have savoured their time being back together in their familiar learning environment, a place a number regard as their second home. It’s easy for us to become complacent with our unique and inclusive learning environment and with our articulate young thinkers and then to mistakenly assume that it’s commonplace and replicated in other schools. It’s a pity that the restrictions have prevented parents from getting a birds eye view of your child’s resilience and how your children are coping well despite the media saturation to this point of time.

Parents of children in our Prep and Junior Levels in particular, would be surprised at how their children, once so dependent, now arrive at school with bag in hand, confidently engaging with their classmates and teachers, oblivious to the fact that their parents up until COVID19 almost carried them into the classroom and needed them to remain with them. These are noticeable differences.

The children in their learning areas are so calm and focussed and so willing to be engaged in their learning. It’s pleasing to see that some children who arrive at school in the morning reluctant to leave their parents, after gentle coaxing and reassurance quickly settle down into the learning routine once they have entered the school grounds, allowing them to take a break from the pressure cooker outside in the community...a chance to shut out the noise in the outside world.

The combined efforts of our parents and families with support from our teachers, staff, school counsellor, school psychologist and our Leadership team have helped to keep learning normal, providing the children with a sense of safety and hope.

We don't know what will transpire over the coming weeks, but what we do know is that we "know and care for each child" and will continue to provide our children with a safe and stimulating learning environment.

St Paul the Apostle Feast Day – This Friday 26 June

This Friday the children and staff will come together to celebrate the life and work of our patron saint, St Paul the Apostle. As a school, we are guided by his teachings and inspired by his life. St Paul by his words and actions, taught us that everyone should be united in love, not torn apart by differences and he preached the message of Jesus to all the nations.

St Paul was a great leader of the early church who after an encounter with the risen Jesus, became a missionary and travelled the world, speaking to different non - jewish communities, spreading the message of God's love for us and baptising many new believers. As a school community we endeavour to spread the message of God's love through our actions and our care for each other. We know that our message is stronger when we work together.

Throughout this year, we have explored ways in which we can be more like Jesus and St Paul through our school theme, "Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus." On a daily basis, the children encounter any number of opportunities to be more Christ-like and even when they fail to show love and empathy to each other, they are willing to start all over again with renewed hope.

Feast of St Paul the Apostle

Friday 26 June 2020 (Last Day of Term)



Feast Day Prayer Liturgy
CASUAL CLOTHES

Special Treat: A piece of fruit & a lolly bag

BYO Playlunch and drink

A GOLD COIN DONATION

(for the Annual St Vinnie's Winter Appeal)



Term Two ends at 1.00pm & 1.15pm
(NO LUNCH)

1:00pm - Single SPA child in Years Prep, One & Two ONLY

1:10pm - Single SPA child in Years Three – Six ONLY

1:15pm - Multiple SPA children families

Mid-year Student Progress Reports – To Be Sent Home Next Term

To enable our staff to gain a clearer understanding of each child's learning and progress which was interrupted by the restrictions as a result of COVID19, we have decided to send home your child's **Mid-year Report** in **week three of next Term**. (This option was provided to schools by the CECV – Catholic Education Commission of Victoria, earlier this term).

As our school moved to Remote Learning as a result of COVID-19, our usual ways of working and engaging with children looked different in Term Two. Included in this change has been how we assess and report on student learning. Our staff, teachers, children and families have all had to adapt, change and respond to the new landscape – sometimes on a daily basis. There have been countless positive opportunities for new learning, but there have also been challenges and we have each responded as best.

I thank your children for all they have achieved and all they have contributed – they should be proud of their efforts, even in the challenging moments. I also thank each parent/carer and family member for your encouragement, feedback, patience and willingness to engage with us to support your child's ongoing wellbeing and learning.

I would ask you to appreciate that the content on which we report is reduced for this semester, as the usual assessments undertaken in the everyday classroom have not been possible this term.

Your child's report remains an important component of communicating their progress to you. In that context, this report will look different from usual. Following the advice of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), Victorian Department of Education and Training, and Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV), this report will provide:

- a description of the areas of the Victorian Curriculum F–10 taught in Semester One
- a succinct descriptive assessment of student learning achievement, based on the Achievement Standards in the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and, where possible, progress
- a comment on how your child has adjusted to the remote and flexible learning environment, with reference to the 'Personal and Social Capability' curriculum.

The end of year report (December) will provide a more comprehensive view of the year's learning across all usual curriculum areas.

Unlike countless generations of parents before you, parents in 2020 have been given a unique and rare opportunity (through COVID19) to witness your child as a learner and thinker, to gain a deeper insight into their strengths, their challenges, their qualities, their aspirations and their goals, their hopes and dreams. Seldom in their lives and certainly not since their early years have you had such a prolonged time at home with your children and witnessed them as students in their learning journey.

I remain confident that parents will use this opportunity to reflect with their children on their report, discuss their progress to date, celebrate their successes, help clarify their goals and to affirm them in the next stage of their development.

The content of our reports is based on the observations, records and assessment data collated by our teachers throughout the semester. We thank them for their diligence and commitment to knowing each individual child in their care.

Mid-Year Child-Parent-Teacher Video/Phone Interviews Term Three

Having received their child's Mid-year Report in the previous week, parents will then have the opportunity to join their child and teacher for their **mid-year interviews during the week commencing Monday 3 August**. Following on from previous years, parents will be able to select their preferred timeslot from the "School Interviews Online Booking Website" for a 10-15 minute video conference/phone interview due to COVID restrictions. Please stay tuned for further details.

Restrictions for Access to our School site will remain in Term Three

For anyone other than immediate SPA staff and children, they will need to restrain from entering the school site for before and after school drop-off and pick-up times unless there have been separate arrangements made with the school office.

If arrangements cannot be made through phone calls, emails and zoom, parents and visitors will be permitted onsite during school hours for appointments to visit the school office.

These parents and visitors will be screened, temperature taken and need to sign the register on entering the school site to ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of our school community.

NB: If a child/staff member has a high temperature, or is feeling unwell and has COVID19 type symptoms, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice. Thank you to the families who have kept their sick children at home and have been astute in having their children tested and then providing us with the outcome of their COVID tests which remain strictly confidential.

Staggered Drop-off & Pick-up Times Remain for Term Three:

Families are to be thanked for adhering to our Staggered Drop-off & Pick-up times and social distancing to help minimise the risks of COVID19. Based on the uncertainty of the current spike in COVID19 cases over recent days, our Staggered Drop-off & Pick-up times will continue for the beginning of Term Three until further notice.

Before School – From 8.30am

- **8:30am to 8:44am - Single SPA child family ONLY**
- **8:45am to 9.00am - Multiple SPA children families**

After School – From 3.00pm

- **3:00pm - Single SPA child in Years Prep, One & Two ONLY**
- **3:10pm - Single SPA child in Years Three – Six ONLY**
- **3:15pm - Multiple SPA children families**

Adventure Playground and Slides Open for Term Three

From Monday 13 July, our children will be permitted to access the Adventure playground and slides previously prohibited for this term. To support the continued health and wellbeing of all children, the playgrounds will be cleaned daily and children will be required to wash their hands both before and after using the equipment.

It remains parent discretion as to whether you will allow your children to play on the equipment.

Winter School Uniform Update – SPA Uniform Shop Items Only

With the onset of the colder conditions, children are required to be dressed in their full Winter School Uniform. NB: Shorts are not permitted to be worn during terms two and three with the only exception - during a specific Phys Ed or Sports lesson. In that case children must wear their shorts under their tracksuit pants during the day. Children arriving dressed in shorts will be supervised in the school office foyer during recess and lunchtimes.

All uniform items should be the official school uniform (with logo) and clearly named.

Unnamed items of lost property or those with names that are indistinguishable will be located in the in lost property bin outside the school office.

Annual Australian Mathematics Competition – Years Three-Six

As a valuable component of our Mathematics learning and extension program here at SPA Doreen and following on from our previous successes through our participation, our young mathematicians have been given the opportunity to once again participate in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC).

The Australian Mathematics Competition is an internationally recognised competition organised by the Australian Maths Trust (AMT). It is one of the largest of its type in the world with more than 30 countries participating. The competition will be held on Friday 31 July.

The AMC is an engaging competition that demonstrates the importance and relevance of mathematics in children's everyday lives. Australia's leading educators and academics, with a deep understanding of our national curriculum standards, actively design the unique AMC problems each year. There is a strong emphasis on problem solving, a valuable life skill. The competition consists of 30 questions to be completed within a 60-minute time frame here at school and the children will receive a recognition award for their participation.

The competition is accessible to children from Years Three to Year Six. If your child would like to participate in the competition, please remember to complete and return the consent form (sent home last week by Thursday 25 June).

Restrictions to the Use of a Child's Personal Mobile Device at SPA

Please note that the use of a child's personal mobile device in a school setting is restricted and the children must hand in their personal device to the school office for safekeeping and then collecting the device after school.

This is one of the protocols implemented as part of our Child Safety Standards and in particular highlights the conditions of use in regards to children bringing into school grounds, devices that are capable of the following:

- Phone calls
- Text Messages
- Internet access
- Camera/video access
- Access to apps



NB: In most cases the restrictions apply to Smartphones, however as the technology advances, wearable technology such as Apple Watches, Spacetalk Watches and advanced Fitbits and the like are becoming more accessible.

The accessibility and affordability of these devices can make these devices an attractive proposition for both parents and children however in a school setting there are a number of potential issues that we need to consider carefully. First and foremost is the fact that these devices can provide a distraction to learning. Furthermore, the potential of a device that is capable of accessing applications needs to be in a constantly supervised learning environment. We understand that settings can regulate the distraction and accessibility of a device however in a classroom setting this becomes difficult to monitor.

Overall we need to channel all communications to our children via the school office for the safety of your child and the safety of others. School Office contact 03 9216 2000

Therefore, please note that all devices need to be handed in at the school office on arrival at school. They will then be placed in a container and locked away for safekeeping. Children will then need to collect devices on their way out of the school at dismissal time. Children wearing devices and not handing them in will be asked to hand them in at the office.

Frank O Fabri – Digital Technologies Leader/Deputy Principal

Sacrament of Confirmation Retreat Day: Tomorrow Tuesday 23 June

While we are still patiently waiting for an update from the Archbishop as to when the celebration of the Sacraments (Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation) will be able to resume in 2020 (COVID19 dependent), we are continuing to prepare our Year Six children for the Sacrament of Confirmation within our Parish of Christ the Light.

Tomorrow each child in Year Six will be attending a Confirmation Retreat Day in our Multi-purpose building here at SPA Doreen and will be involved in prayer and various preparatory activities. During this time the children will be immersed in different sessions such as Meditation, creating pieces of artwork and taking part in a liturgy to deepen their understanding of this final Sacrament of Initiation. Please keep our Confirmation candidates in your thoughts and prayers.

2021 Prep Enrolments Open – Please Spread the Word

Due to the social gathering restrictions in place resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic, our enrolment process continues to be disrupted. Our Enrolment Information Evenings and all school tours have been postponed which have impacted on families at this very crucial time when families are keen to enrol their children at a school.

Families have the option to arrange for a school tour after school hours and to attend a re-scheduled Enrolment Information Night once the COVID19 restrictions have been eased. However in the meantime, there are a number of current SPA families who have not as yet enrolled the younger sibling. Although a place is reserved for siblings of current SPA children, it's important for families to submit a formal application to secure a place. With the plans to build a Catholic Secondary school on our adjoining site, places for enrolments will be at a premium as families seek to secure a place in Year Seven.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time and we look forward to welcoming back our entire school community when Term Three resumes on Monday 13 July.

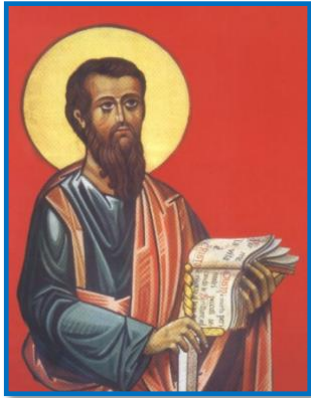
Warm regards,



Phil Doherty (Principal)



St Paul the Apostle



Map of Locations in St Paul's Letters

St Paul the Apostle is often considered to be the **most important person after Jesus in the history of Christianity.**

*Saint Paul is undoubtedly one of the most important figures in the history of the Western world. **St Paul's Letters** have had enormous influence on Christian theology, especially on the relationship between God the Father and Jesus, and our human relationship with God.*

*St Paul wrote some of the most beautiful and important passages in the whole of the Bible and his works are some of the earliest Christian documents that we have, **13 of the 27 books of the bible are written by him**, and he's the hero of another, the **Acts of the Apostles.***

Famously converted on the road to Damascus, he travelled tens of thousands of miles around the Mediterranean spreading the word of Jesus and it was Paul who came up with the doctrine that would turn Christianity from a small sect of Judaism into a worldwide faith that was open to all.

In his letters, we also discover Paul a charismatic leader who writes warmly of his friends, both men and women, the Paul who worries about how the members of his churches are coping without him and who defends their status as true converts in a hostile world 2000 years ago.

Prayer to St Paul the Apostle

**St Paul our own courageous Apostle
Fearless traveller of a new world
Curious seeker of the unknown
Author of new chapters in the story of Jesus
Always encouraging others to live in his way.**

**I pray to be like you St Paul
Endlessly exploring all possibilities
Thinking beyond all imagination
Accepting all challenges
And always living in the way of Jesus.
Amen.**

Teresa Hanley