



No 19: 19 October 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.”

A SMOOTH RETURN FOR OUR YOUNG LEARNERS **An acknowledgement of their resilience & hope.**

Dear Parents and Families,

Please take a well-deserved bow and our thanks for the integral role you played in supporting your children’s learning designed by our teachers and staff, building on our home-school partnership.

Our children returned to onsite schooling after so many weeks of remote and flexible learning and immediately settled back into our school culture without a hitch. On their arrival last Monday, families were greeted by a sea of balloons and happy staff who were amazed by the sight of children, skipping, singing, running, hugging, chatting and smiling as they entered their beloved school, keen to reconnect with their classmates and teachers. The children demonstrated real resilience as did their parents who maintained their social distancing and farewelled their children from their cars or at a distance from the school gate.

Naturally there were a few stragglers (clinging on to their last few moments of freedom) and several more children who were hesitant to return to school but were skilfully released from their loving parents and then gently coaxed through the gates by our caring staff. The children and staff then gathered around their prayer cloths, lit their class prayer candles and commenced the day with a prayer of thanks before embarking on a number of SWELL Day learning activities designed to help them to transition back into school life.

DATES TO REMEMBER: NO SCHOOL

Friday 23 October: Public Holiday in Victoria “Thank You Day” – NO SCHOOL

To celebrate how Victorians have made sacrifices this year through the coronavirus pandemic.

Thursday 29 October: Book Week Dress-up & Parade

Monday 2 November: Staff Planning Day – NO SCHOOL

Tuesday 3 November: Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday – NO SCHOOL



“Curious Creatures – Wild Minds”

Book Week Theme 2020

As you are aware, Book Week commences this week around Australia. However to enable our children to settle calmly back into onsite schooling, we have decided to celebrate **Children’s Book Week 2020 next week from Monday 26 - Friday 30 October**. This will provide families with additional time to imagine a costume to fit in with the theme, no matter how abstract, allowing you to create, borrow or purchase the costumes in time for our Book Week Parade scheduled for later in the week on **Thursday 29 October**.

Our Book Week Team has planned for a number of exciting and fun-filled learning experiences for our children and families to enjoy. Due to the COVID restrictions, activities such as story time and the Book Week Parade will be recorded and available for the children to share with you at home.



Book Week Dress-up & Parade

Thursday 29 October

Families (parents, grandparents, friends) will have the opportunity to view highlights of our highly anticipated Book Parade as they are beamed to your home via our school website, flexi-schools and our seesaw apps.

Families (even grandparents) are invited to dress-up and join in the parade from home and are invited to post photos via: office@spadoreen.catholic.edu.au and cc'd to the classroom teachers.

Annual Scholastic Book Fair... Tuesday 27 - Friday 30 October

In previous years, our dynamic SPARKLE Parents Team have held very successful Annual Scholastic Book Fairs for families however due to the COVID19 restrictions, the school will need to hold the Book Fair in 2020. Children with their teachers and staff will be able to view the books and stationery on display and create a Wish List to negotiate with you at home. Parents (and Grandparents who will sadly miss out on our Annual Grandparents Day coinciding with the Book Parade and Book Fair) will then be able to order any of the items online. (Beware, our children are very skilled in persuasive writing.)

The Book Fair will be here from Tuesday 27 - Friday 30 October.
(A separate flyer to follow).

So, start planning your costume of your favourite story book character linked to our Book Week theme:

“Curious Creatures – Wild Minds”



SCHOOL FEES & LEVIES

Outstanding SCHOOL FEES Now To Be Finalised By FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER.

Taking into consideration the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on families, we believe that payment in full by the end of October may not be achievable for some families. Therefore we have **extended our due date for the payment of school fees until Friday 4 December**. Thank you to the many families who have finalised their 2020 School Fees and Student Levies.

Families are still most welcome to contact our school office to make separate payment arrangements to suit your financial needs (which may continue throughout 2021).

As you are aware, the annual amount invoiced for **Camp** has been reversed from the invoice. We also anticipate refunding or reversing part of the **Excursions/Incursions Levy** later in the year. (**Blue Earth** who worked in our school in Term One and part of Term Two have recommenced their sports/wellbeing lessons this term). We are still unsure whether our school will attend **Funfields** at the end of the year or be permitted to have incursions.

With regards to the annual **Outdoors Levy**, this has been ongoing as we have continued to improve our outdoor learning spaces and the school environment throughout the lockdown. Our thanks are extended to Paul our Maintenance Outdoor Education Officer, Jeremy from our SPARKLE Parents Team and a small band of parents who have supported us throughout the year to date.

SCHOOL FEES & STUDENT LEVIES 2021

Taking into consideration the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on our families and with advice from Fr Martin, our Parish Finance team and our School Accountant, **we have decided to freeze our School Fees and Student Levies at the 2020 level for 2021.**

Farewell Geraldine Crowe who has commenced Parental Leave

The children (in particular children from Prep CC) and staff are looking forward to joining with Geraldine our much loved Prep teacher, Wellbeing leader and Learning Diversity leader and Hayden in welcoming their beautiful baby girl into our world in the next three-four weeks, a baby sister for young Miranda.

Geraldine was farewelled by the children and staff last Friday as she commenced her Parental Leave (under the Victorian Catholic Education Multi-Enterprise Agreement 2018). To ensure continuity of their learning program for our Prep children, Mrs Louise Sims who herself is returning from Parental Leave has been appointed to team-teach with Rebecca Christie within the dynamic Prep Level Team. Louise is an experienced and dynamic classroom teacher, well-versed in our Cultures of Thinking and brings a depth of experience having been a classroom teacher, the Middle Level Team Leader and a member of our School Leadership Team over the past five years.

Please keep Geraldine in your prayers as she with Hayden and Miranda, embark on their new chapter in life's magical journey.

Keep safe and well.



Phil Doherty (Principal)

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.**