



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 3
Week 4
6th August 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

The staff of St Francis thank you for your support, your appreciation messages and the great work you are doing with your children while they are learning from home.

Parents you are doing a wonderful job of helping your children with their learning. We know that every family is doing their very best to juggle work commitments, home learning and quality family time. Just do what is manageable and be kind to yourselves. We fully understand it is a very difficult time and we all know that if we had a definite end date it would be easier.

St Francis staff is available to help if you have questions about the apps and platforms your child /children are using, what to do if you have technology problems, and how you can support classroom routines at home.

Finally, keep in mind that you are an important member of this caring St Francis community. Don't hesitate to ask for help from school either by calling 88869600 or sending an email to stfrancis@parra.catholic.edu.au

It is in partnership we can do great things for the children in our care.

Jenny Bellenger
Principal

TIPS FOR PARENTS TO SUPPORT LEARNING FROM HOME

While children have to transition from "home mode" to "school mode," parents and caregivers need to transition from "parent mode" to "learning coach mode." This means helping your child develop good learning habits and helping remove any barriers to effective learning. It doesn't mean solving all their problems or doing their work for them.

Much of the school experience for your children will be shaped by your example and attitude. If children hear negative comments about the online learning experience, it may turn a positive learning experience into a negative one.

Here are some tips for being a supportive learning coach:

- Use a visual checklist or stickers to keep children focused on completing tasks
- Help children stay on track by having them write down their goals for the day
- Talk to older children about eliminating distractions like social media during school time
- Urge children to research answers to their own questions
- At the end of the learning day, ask questions like: What did you accomplish today that you hoped to? What did you discover? What do you need to do today so tomorrow will be a success?

Sourced from Richard Culatta - International Society for Technology in Education

IMPORTANT COVID REMINDER

As you know, the current Lockdown has been extended until 11:59pm on Saturday 28th August. During this time, schools will continue to facilitate online learning as well as onsite supervision for students who need to be at school (children of essential workers, vulnerable students, or students who have no other supervision options).

Symptoms and testing

- Students should not attend school if they are unwell, even with mild [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Any child with any COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and should not return until they have received a negative test result and are symptom-free. In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurring symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.
- Anyone who is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms is strongly encouraged to get tested immediately and self-isolate until a negative result is received. Locations of testing clinics are available here <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/health-and-wellbeing/clinics>
- Please continue to monitor the [NSW government COVID-19 News and updates webpage](#) for locations where there may have been exposure to COVID-19 and adhere to the advice as appropriate.

As Covid-19 is a serious health risk, we ask you to put you and your children's safety and health first. If you have an option, please keep your children home with you.

The NSW Government announced that the lockdown will be [extended for a further 4 weeks until 28 August 2021](#). Part of this extended lockdown also means people in the Parramatta, Campbelltown and Georges River Local Government Areas (LGA) are **unable to leave their LGA for work unless they are included in the [authorised workers list](#)**. This is in addition to the current restrictions in place for Fairfield, Liverpool, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland and Blacktown LGAs.

If you live in the 8 LGAs outlined by the government, you can only move within a 5km radius of your home. This will include shopping, exercising and visiting for the singles bubble, the **maximum distance you can travel is a 5km radius**. The exemption for authorised workers still applies.

FEELING COVID TIRED? OUR CHILDREN ARE FEELING IT TOO!

Are you feeling a bit COVID tired? I am. Our children are feeling it, too. Right now, the world is collectively grieving. Everyone is experiencing some kind of loss. Access this article in the link below.

<https://cathfamily.org/feeling-covid-tired-our-children-are-feeling-too/>

A MESSAGE FROM OZ FASHIONS

Dear Parents

There will be no uniform deliveries during the lockdown or until further notice.

If you are an essential worker and your child is attending school we have added a home delivery option of \$15 on the QKR app.

Please choose carefully as there are no refunds, however, Oz Fashions are happy to provide an exchange.

For all concerns please email elle@ozfashions.com.au

Stay safe.

Kind regards

Elle

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM CEDP REGARDING SCHOOL FEES

Dear Parents and Carers,

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the personal circumstances of many families in a sudden and unprecedented way. Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta is committed to supporting our families during this difficult time. Our long standing principle remains that no child will be disadvantaged because of a family's financial circumstances.

As always, if your family requires some additional support due to financial hardship, please contact your child's school to discuss your options for fee support or deferment at madl-khstfees@parra.catholic.edu.au

To ensure that this process is fair and aimed at those most in need, you may be required to provide supporting documentation about your circumstances.

If you still have questions or concerns following initial discussions with your school, please contact the Community Liaison team at cl@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Thanks so much for your support of your local Catholic school.

Kind regards,

Sarah Alder
Director Capital Resourcing



Whether you're in lockdown, adapting to restrictions or simply staying home more, this is a challenging time for parents and carers around the country.

eSafety can support you with [free webinars and advice for parents and carers](#) and help keep your children safe while learning and socialising online.

Book in for [eSafety's parent guide to popular apps](#). The FREE, live webinar is for parents and carers of young people aged 8-13, and looks at popular apps like TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/aypj5hy8>

The feast of
**ST MARY
OF THE CROSS
MACKILLOP**

8 AUGUST 2020



On Sunday, we celebrate the feast day of St Mary Mackillop, Australia's first saint.

On this day we are reminded of the wonderful example she is to each of us. Throughout her life, she never failed to care for those around her. One of her sayings "Never see a need without doing something about it" shows us that we are all responsible for caring for each other. She continually demonstrated this care particularly towards the poor. So great was her example that she drew many women to her cause and the order of the "Josephites" was born.

St Mary Mackillop saw that educating children was of the utmost importance and spent her life establishing schools across Australia and New Zealand. Her legacy of Catholic Education is a gift to each member of today's Catholic community.

One of her most outstanding qualities was her perseverance. Even when faced with great hurdles she continued to pray and believe in herself.

Let us commit to following Mary MacKillop's example of humility, simplicity of life, and service to others.

*Dear Father in heaven,
We thank you for our school, our families, our friends and our environment.
Help us make our school a better place, by being more like St Mary MacKillop,
who found happiness by making others happy.
Who loved, helped, cared and led by example.
Thank you for all the people who love and guide us.
Bless us all today and every day.
We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen*

Mary MacKillop



Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them bravely, remembering Whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life. God will reward you as only He can.