



# School Newsletter

Term 1 Issue 10

April 8 2020

## St Mary Star of the Sea School Board

Fr Mariusz Adamczyk  
Steve O'Halloran  
Jim Andreoli  
Warren Schmidt  
Kym Redden

Ex-Officio  
Ex-Officio  
Chairperson  
Vice Chair  
P&F Rep

David Kearney  
Sue Jordan  
Val Shrubbs  
Susana Svilicich

Member  
Secretary  
Member  
Treasurer

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### Week 10, 2020

Monday 6th—Thursday 9th  
Friday 10th April

School open for Essential Service Workers' children  
Good Friday

### Term 2, 2020

Monday 27th April  
Tuesday 28th April

ANZAC Day Holiday  
First day for Essential Service Workers' Children or Required  
to Maintain Employment Workers children

## Prayer

*We thank you Lord, for this term. For the challenges, the successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt. Be with us as we spend our time with our family in isolation. Give us strength and courage to do what is right: to be witnesses of our faith. Help us to be a practical Christian these holidays, to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others. To be peacemakers in our family. Keep us safe in our activities; give us good rest and good fun. Bring us back refreshed and ready for a term of new types of learning and relating to one another. We thank you for our classmates, teachers, parents and a community that cares for us.*

*May we always be conscious of you in our lives.*

*Amen*



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents, Teachers and Friends,

I'm hoping you are enjoying what is likely to be a different kind of Easter holiday than what we have been used to. The world has changed so much in the course of a month it is hard to manage and consolidate these changes as they occur daily.

We need to remind ourselves that this is the most important time in our church year, and we are in the midst of Holy Week presently. Palm Sunday, which is a significant event in our Lenten season, has come and gone and I can't remember a time when we didn't celebrate Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

This Friday, we remember the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for all of us, his death on the cross to atone our sins.

Sunday is the most glorious day in our church year as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, and the promise of eternal life that this represents.

Even though we may not be able to come together for mass this year for Easter Sunday, we can still take time out from the unwrapping of Easter eggs to remember Jesus, and the opportunities and the life-giving fulfillment that his death and resurrection gives us.

### REMOTE LEARNING

Thanks to those parents who completed the questionnaire that was sent out on Monday. This valuable feedback has enabled our teachers to reflect upon their online delivery of lessons and prepare for our first full day online on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. There will be further surveys for JLC, Primary and Secondary grades next term as we refine our learning platforms.

Parents of students who are not able to access remote learning lessons via the internet should contact the school so a solution can be arranged as soon as possible.

### SCHOOL PROCEDURES TERM 2

Please find attached to this newsletter a letter regarding arrangements for educational delivery in Term 2.

### THANKS TO ST MARY'S STAFF

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the St Mary's staff that have worked collaboratively and innovatively to come up with solutions for all grades from Kindergarten to Year 12 to ensure quality learning programmes will be delivered to all students. To undertake this task in a non-critical time would take somewhere between 6 – 12 months, with a lot of PD involved to ensure it was successful.

St Mary's doesn't have a dedicated IT team to sort this out for us and our closest regional office for support is 500 kms away.

Well done team!

God Bless



Mr Steve O'Halloran  
Principal



Holy Week  
& Easter

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As school staff this week finalise teaching and learning plans for Term Two – albeit under very unusual circumstances – we have been pleased to receive advice from Catholic Education Western Australia that Term Two will commence as scheduled for schools in Western Australia.

For all Catholic schools, St Mary Star of the Sea included, learning will be delivered remotely and all parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep their children home.

Parents and caregivers who are engaged in essential services or are required to maintain employment may choose to send their children to school if they are unable to care for them at home.

Our staff will continue to work through Term Two to ensure we can best support our students' learning from home, as well as those students who may be at school. Some staff may be working from home, or from the school, as appropriate.

As parents, you are playing an important hands-on role, assisting your children in engaging in learning at this time, as well as supporting them through any anxiety or worry they may be feeling. I would like to stress that parents are by no means expected to take the place of teachers, and we will be doing our very best to support you and your child, delivering the curriculum and providing pastoral care in the most engaging way possible remotely.

As we continue to partner to support your child's ongoing learning, we acknowledge that it will be important to maintain regular contact between the school and parents and caregivers. Ahead of Term Two commencing, you will receive further details of our plans in this regard.

These plans have been well considered, and while we are initially planning for remote delivery of learning for the first four weeks of Term Two, we are also considering the potential for this to be extended as required.

We remain committed to the care and wellbeing of our school and broader community, especially those most vulnerable who must remain our first priority. One aspect of this is considering the social and financial impact of this situation on many families.

As communicated last week, I wish to reassure every parent and caregiver that the ongoing enrolment of every child in our school is guaranteed, regardless of a parent's financial circumstances.

If parents or caregivers have concerns in this regard, I encourage you to contact me directly to confidentially discuss financial support arrangements. The following options are immediately available to all families with children in Catholic schools:

- The Centrelink Health Care Card Discount Scheme provides an automatic fee concession to the holders of eligible means-tested family concession cards. **This discount applies to all year levels from Kindergarten to Year 12.** Additional financial considerations are also available depending on each family's circumstance.
- For parents who do not qualify for the Health Care Card discount, but who are experiencing financial difficulties, arrangements can be made to provide immediate support to assist you with tuition costs.

Our school staff are grateful for the support and appreciation that so many parents and caregivers have shared as we journey together through this challenging time.

I will keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available.

Yours sincerely

Mr Steve O'Halloran  
Principal

## Procedures for Remote Learning

Dear Parents, Teachers and Friends,

Please find below procedures that will be used throughout the school for remote learning in Term 2. Because of the age, ICT capacity of the students and access to different learning platforms, how the learning looks in the Junior Learning, Primary and Secondary grades is different.

If parents require further clarification, please contact:

Head of Secondary, Mrs Narelle Holtham  
Head of Primary, Mrs Trudy Cox  
Head of Junior Learning, Mrs Alison O'Halloran

Narelle.Holtham@cewa.edu.au  
Trudy.Cox@cewa.edu.au  
Alison.Ohalloran@cewa.edu.au

Kind regards,

Steve O'Halloran  
Principal

### Procedures for Remote Learning in Secondary Grades

**Attendance-** Students will be required to meet with their teacher on teams (either in a Team Meeting or by registering through Team posts) between 8.15 and 8.25am each morning. Students who do not make contact will be considered absent or late (depending on time). A written note (absentee note) will still be required from a parent if a child does not inform their teacher for the full day.

**SMS -** If you receive a message alerting you to your child either not meeting during homeroom time, please reply with the name of your child included.

**Location of Learning** – Students can find their lessons on either SEQTA LEARN or MICROSOFT TEAMS. Their Homeroom will be located on TEAMS.

**Contacting Teachers** – Teachers can be contacted by students through their TEAMS page or they have been provided with their email addresses: first name. Surname@cewa.edu.au. The most effective method for parents wanting to contact parents is through email as well.

**Learning Experience** (Years 7 – 10) – Students will be asked to complete lessons for their 5 core areas; Religious Education, Mathematics, English, Science and Humanities. Each teacher will design lessons to be completed in 30 – 40 minutes. They will only occur on the days in which their normal school timetables read. Non-Core areas will display activities however they are optional only. This will limit student time on their devices to a more reasonable timeframe of 3.5 - 3 hours per day.

(Year 11 and 12) - Students will be expected to continue with their course work as per normal. Teachers will maintain their course work (where possible) as per their normal timetable. It is an expectation that all students will attend TEAM calls, when set by the teacher.

**Tracking Your Child** – each teacher will be monitoring the completion of your child's work completion and progress. You will be contacted by email if they are behind or consistently failing to attend lessons. If there is not improvement, then the Head of Secondary will call parents directly.

**Team Calls** – Teachers will be holding TEAM calls with their teachers at least once a week. Students will be required to attend these meetings. Students will need to be aware when they are using their cameras of what is occurring in the background and to make sure they are dressed appropriately (does not need to be school uniform). A schedule of their meetings will be uploaded in their homeroom Teams pages if you would like a copy. There will be some flexibility as some teachers will need to speak to them more regularly depending on the concepts they are developing at the time.

Cont .....

### **Procedures for Remote Learning in Primary Grades**

All students are expected to attend remote learning each day. To show that you are in attendance like the daily Class Dojo post indicating your intention to complete remote learning on that day. If you are unable to participate in remote learning (due to a valid reason such as illness) an email must be sent to the school to explain your absence as per the usual school procedures.

Students will be expected to participate in English, Math and Religious Education on a daily basis. Humanities and Science lessons will be once a week. All other subjects will be provided as ideas for activities only. Your child is expected to do approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours of schoolwork per day plus reading.

Please ensure you are checking Class Dojo, Teams or Google Classroom on a daily basis as this will be a main point of contact. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance and Mrs Trudy Cox if you require further support.

Please note that teaching staff will respond to your questions within the confines of a school day. Messages sent outside of a school day may not be responded to until the following day.

### **Procedures for Remote Learning Pre-Primary to Year 2**

Welcome to the world of digital learning, we are on this journey together.

Every morning you will need to log in to class dojo between 8.15 – 8.25 to record your child's attendance by giving the thumbs up to show that they will be doing the remote learning that the teachers have planned for them on that day. Even if you plan to do the activities during the day or in the afternoon that is OK however, you still need to record their attendance on class dojo every morning.

If your child is sick or will not be doing the daily remote learning package can you please send a message via class dojo.

Your child will be sent daily English, Math & Religious Education lessons via email. We will also send some other creative ideas for your child to do if time permits. They will also be sent a weekly Humanities and Science lesson.

Please check your dojo and email messages at regular intervals during the day. As this is new to all of us, we understand that it may be difficult to manage at times. Please only do what is manageable for your child and family.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the JLC staff.



*From the REC ...*



First of all, thank you to all the students, staff and parents who have checked in on me whilst I have been working from home during the past week or so. As many of you know, my daughter is one amongst many who are most at risk and vulnerable in our society and from speaking to many people in the last week, I know it has been tough with children's birthdays being celebrated without grandparents, cousins or other children present. Weddings have had to be postponed and family holidays cancelled. My heart goes out to all families separated by regions, borders and travel restrictions. My own family is in a similar situation but please continue to observe our strict social distancing rules as I am sure we would all prefer to meet up in 6 months' time or longer, as opposed to never again.

Secondly, thank you to all classes and families who have supported our Lenten Appeal this term. I will be sending the monies raised for Project Compassion to Caritas at the start of next term and would encourage you all to please make a contribution if you haven't already done so. All donations no matter how small, goes a long way. Well done to some of the classes who conducted separate activities to raise money for Project Compassion. I know that other classes also wanted to do similar activities but were unable to do so when we were all forced to observe social distancing rules. Hats off to the teachers and student leaders who took on those challenges in a very creative fashion.

Thirdly, well done to all students who seem to have coped remarkably well with the trialling of our remote learning programs. It is important to remember that not every student, parent or teacher will get it right at first. We are adapting every day and fine-tuning a different way to deliver our best for your child and we appreciate all of your hard and consistent efforts. Please remember that we are here to help your child succeed next term so please remain in touch with the school on all matters as usual – curriculum-wise and pastorally. Above all, be patient and gentle with yourselves as many of you are now juggling working full-time AND helping your child with their remote learning lessons as well. It's all about re-setting our realities in this new era of Coronavirus.

I found this article today about the many frustrations and stresses that parents are now experiencing with the temporary closure of schools. I found it had some really good tips on how to educate and entertain your child at home, whilst easing all the other burdens in the household, such as chores and paid work. Dave Anderson, a clinical psychologist and the senior director of national programs and outreach at the Child Mind Institute stresses that "The first thing we're talking to parents about is undermining their own sense of perfectionism and being exceedingly and radically realistic with themselves" (2020). In other words, go easy on yourself. You're essentially being asked to perform two full-time jobs. Anderson also recommends setting a maximum of five goals for the day: one or two things you really need to accomplish at work, one or two things you want your children to accomplish, and one family or partner activity, even if it's crashing on the couch to watch TV for 30 minutes. Don't expect to or try to do more, because you'll get frustrated and even more stressed out.

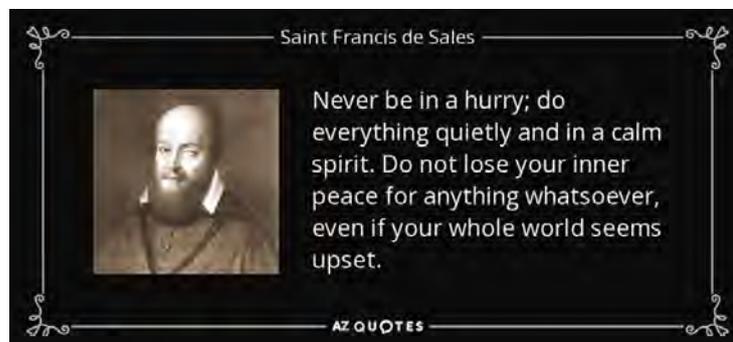
Lastly, please don't neglect your interior life: your spirituality requires equal nourishment just as you would look after your physical and mental health on a daily basis. For many of our students (and even parents), they will be left with a lot of time on their hands. It is a great opportunity to work on self-pursuits during this time. All of a sudden, they have more time to devote to help and care programs. Practicing the art of mindfulness may be a good place to start for those struggling with inner peace; also, one might even pick up or perfect a new skill or talent throughout this period of isolation. By changing our perspectives on what we have been given and are going through, many more opportunities and blessings may be revealed. If we remain closed off to any lessons (or truths) that humanity may learn as a result of this pandemic, then we may have missed the whole point of this experience. Only then perhaps, we may learn what it is to be fully human, just as Jesus was fully human.

*Cont ....*

I wish you all a safe and illuminating time with your families during this Easter period and pray that it will not be too long until we can all be together again. Take good care and enjoy your holiday break.

God Bless

*Sam Da Luz*



## **SECONDARY NEWS**

A huge thank you goes out to all of our parents and guardians for your patience and understanding over the past few weeks! Significant changes have occurred as a result of COVID –19 and as a consequence teachers, students and parents have had to adjust to the new style of schooling.

Today, a letter is being sent to parents outlining how we intend to run as a secondary school in Term 2. Please take the time to read and if you have any unanswered questions, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

Thank you too, for taking the time to answer the school survey. This has provided us with beneficial information on how we can best aid you and your child with their continued learning through remote schooling.

As a result of the survey, Class Notepad (OneNote through Teams) seems to be a platform some students are experiencing difficulties. Below is a link from another school explaining how students can use the Class Notepad. Please take the time to have a look.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gc93iCeENoQ>

Other sources of information (i.e Teams) are provided through the Microsoft website. Your teachers are also available to assist if you require further information.

Next term, your child's homeroom teachers will be making a weekly call to engage with you and 'check in' to see how they are coping with remote learning and any other concerns you or your child may have. If you would prefer an email, they will also be able to do so. The teachers will be in contact this week to find your preferred method of contact.

Homeroom teachers will also be putting a timetable of the weekly Team meetings for students on their homeroom Team pages. Your child will be able to print off a hard copy if they choose.

From all the teachers in Secondary, we wish you all a wonderful Easter filled with rest, love and new activities. We are very much missing our students and hope to see them as soon as possible in Term 2.

Best wishes

*Narelle Holtham*

## Yr3-6 Mental Fitness Habits

Last week saw our first combined mental health activity afternoon. All students from Yr3-6 were split into their factions and completed team building games that required them to practice the skills of cooperation, resilience and patience. The students had a great time and many of the groups I saw succeeded in the task after multiple attempt—it was great to see the persistence!

This week I would like to discuss effective ways to manage our Mental Fitness. There are 5 key drivers to wellbeing and focus:

**Sleep:** we need quality sleep, switch off devices an hour before bed and keep a notebook to list of concerns and achievements.

**Movement:** Make sure you are moving regularly outdoor play is essential for children.

**Relationships:** friendships provide us with support and an opportunity to practice empathy and understanding.

**Nutrition:** Make sure your child's lunch box is stocked with fruits and vegetables rather than quick fix carbohydrates.

**Mindset:** Develop a positive, purposeful and curious mindset.

Regards

*Trudy Cox*  
A/Head of Primary (3-6)



St Mary Star of the Sea  
Catholic School  
@smsc6701

St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School

Keep up to date with what's happening around school  
Please follow and like our page on Face Book