



St Andrew's Parish

CORPUS CHRISTI PRIMARY SCHOOL

29 RUSSELL STREET, WERRIBEE VIC. 3030

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NEWSLETTER 3 Thursday 26th March 2020 WEEK 9, TERM 1

Available on our School App, Website, CC Parent Portal. Paper copies available in the Office

For **STUDENT ABSENCES** ccschooloffice@ccwerribee.catholic.edu.au OR 9741 8440 by 9:30am

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end this term in the most unusual way I would like to reflect on the fact that, before the impact of COVID-19, we had a great start to Term One with so many people contributing so generously to the life of Corpus Christi School.

The commitment of our wonderful staff and the presence of our most supportive families was evident in so many ways, through relationships being strengthened, friendships being made, engagement in rich learning & teaching experiences, participation in liturgies – all contributing positively to every child's learning and wellbeing growth. We are thankful for the contribution of so many and the commitment of each of you to each other.

At this stage we expect that Term 2 will begin on Thursday 16th April as per our school calendar, however, advice from the premier of Victoria, Mr Daniel Andrews and the Chief Medical Officer will determine whether this learning occurs at school or from home.

Communication during this time of uncertainty is crucial. Please ensure you are connected to our school via the CC App and that you are a member of your child's Remind community. Please refer to a notice that went home last week from Mrs Anne Walton (Digital Technologies Leader). Anne can be contacted at: annew@ccwerribee.catholic.edu.au, if you have any questions regarding communication and staying connected at Corpus Christi.

Childcare and Supervision

A reminder that Quantin Binnah (QB) is still providing child care for those that may need to use their service during the holiday period. You can contact QB for up-to-date information and bookings on 9742 5040. Please know that Corpus Christi will support parents who are employed in the essential service industries with financial costs incurred in the supervision of their children at QB.

Confirmation Celebration Update

The Bishops of Victoria have issued new guidelines regarding the celebration of liturgies and sacraments. Public liturgies, celebrations of Mass, and other gatherings such as funerals, weddings and baptisms have had specific restrictions placed on them. Clergy have been encouraged to celebrate Mass privately and the Bishops encourage us all to participate spiritually. All Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice.

Therefore our Confirmation celebration scheduled for Friday 15th May has been cancelled. We will inform all families of any further directives or instructions from the Bishops as they come to hand.

Holiday learning

Please know that, "Holiday Learning" can be accessed online through each units Team Drive. Please refer to the letter forwarded to all families during the week with instructions on how to access these learning links. ***This learning is optional for all children and is monitored by families.***

Remote and Flexible Home Learning Plans

Teachers have been working hard on developing 'Remote Home Learning Plans' that will have clear processes and protocols for supporting home learning for your child should this be necessary in Term 2. **These will be shared with families in the event that Remote Home Learning is enacted.** Staff have also considered ways to support families where access to digital technology may be a challenge, again, in the event it is announced that we are required to work remotely.

Support and Information for Families re COVID-19

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

You can also find information about Catholic education's response to COVID-19 at www.ccecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents.

Easter

The most important feast in the church's year, Easter, will be celebrated at the end of the school holidays. It is a time when we rejoice in the new life Christ gave us through His death and resurrection. I wish you all a peaceful, safe, healthy and Holy Easter with your family and look forward to seeing you refreshed and renewed.

We pray for God's love and mercy as we move through these challenging times and that together we are the face of Jesus in our world – showing kindness and compassion to all!!

Take care one and all and may God's blessings be upon you!

***With kind regards,
Linda***



Foundation Unit News

The children have transitioned well into routines at school and continue to explore their roles and responsibilities as community members in Foundation as well as students at Corpus Christi.



As our term draws to a close we reflect on our learning and experiences this exciting Term. For our **Education in Faith** unit we explored the journey to the happy celebration of Easter. We have been looking at the Church season of Lent and the days leading up to Easter- Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday.

Literacy: We continue to explore letter names and their sounds and we are now learning how to orally create and then attempt to write sentences to describe a picture. Listening for the initial or dominant sounds and writing the letter/s that we think makes that sound helps us do this. Our reading / speaking and listening focus has been identifying the Who, in our stories, and the concepts about print.

We continue our cursive script practice by tracing letters at their correct starting and exit points, and completing prewriting exercises and activities to build the fine motor skills needed for handwriting.



Can you find the letter that the name of people in your family begins with? What is its sound? Practice it....

In Numeracy we are counting to 10 (and beyond sometimes) and showing the matching amounts to the numerals. We have also been learning how to form numbers correctly as well as exploring shapes in our world.

In our Inquiry unit we continue to think about what belonging to the Corpus Christi School Community looks like.

- ⇒ We have expectations/rules and to keep us and everyone safe.
- ⇒ We can make friends and play fairly with others.
- ⇒ We all belong to a family.
- ⇒ We can care for ourselves, others and the environment

We thank our families for their ongoing support with ensuring your child arrives and is settled into our community **by 8.40am** to allow for a smooth transition into our morning routine.

We wish you all a Happy and Holy Easter and wish you a safe holiday.

Stay up to date with the happenings in Foundation on the Remind App

Foundation 2020 @jungle2020

Yours in partnership, The Foundation Team.

Junior Unit News

The Junior Unit has been investigating how to stay safe and healthy. We practised walking safely and remembering to “Stop, Look, Listen and Think” before we cross the roads. When we arrived at Woolworths we explored all of the different fruits and vegetables, how the deli and the bakery works and we even got to eat some fresh fruit in the tea room! The staff at Woolworths taught us about healthy foods to fuel Prue bodies and minds. Thank you to all of our parent helpers for your support!!

Back at school we have continued to learn about the important organs in our bodies and how they work to keep us healthy. We even became Word Detectives about the word Safe and discovered lots of words from the same word family!

We began learning about Lent and focussed on the Lord's Prayer. We have also made Lenten Promise. In the coming weeks we will be learning more about the Bible stories leading up to Easter Sunday.

Middle Unit News

It's been a very busy term in the Middle Unit. Students have been working extremely hard in the various areas of the curriculum. Our grade 3 students celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Andrews Church on Wednesday the 11th of March. It was wonderful to celebrate with the various families and the evening was so special as our students could experience forgiveness and healing through the sacrament.

In Inquiry this term, the students have been learning about physical activity and the effects it has on the human body. We explored the fact that fitness is not just important for sports people but is a part of everyone's individual health and wellbeing. We also looked at healthy eating habits and the effects it has on the human body. Students were involved in various activities like designing a weekly activity planner and grouping foods into the five food groups.

The Middle Team - *Helen Drezga, Naomi Meilak, Eugene Volkwyn, Stephanie Mobilio, Mark Warren, Karen Pacifici & Jenai Harrington*



Senior Unit News

This term in Mathematics, students have been learning about Place Value. Students looked at reading and writing large numbers as well as decimal numbers. Students also investigated Data Representation and Interpretation where they looked at around of different graphs to look at which graphs were successful and which graphs were not. Using this new found knowledge, students then created their own graphs using data collected.

In Inquiry this term, students have been exploring our Inquiry through line on 'the Self'. This unit students have investigated different learning styles including kinesthetic, auditory, visual, personal and logical. With this new information, students participated in workshops where they researched different parts of the brain and began creating a lesson using the different learning styles.

This term, students began participating in Book Clubs. Students were able to select a book of their choice, where they joined each week in a conversation with a teacher and a small group to discuss the text, ask and answer questions they might have about the text.

With the unfortunate event of camp being cancelled, students attended 'Camp on Campus' at school. During these three days students worked in small and large groups do participate in trivia, scattergories, an obstacle course, initiatives, learnt new songs and dances and participated in many games and activities. Students embraced the dress up theme and came in a spectacular view of cowboys / cowgirls in our western themed dance.

We would like to wish all of our families the very best, and have a safe and healthy holiday. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

The Senior Team



Learning and Teaching

Thank you to all the parents who have been asking how they can assist their child's learning in Numeracy during this difficult time. Over the holiday break teachers have made links to fun and engaging ways kids can explore different topics of learning, including Numeracy. You can find these activities and websites on the student desktop, linked to our Corpus Christi school webpage.

Please continue to promote and use the language of 'Growth Mindset' with your child. If you hear your child say, "I'm just not good at this," encourage them to think and say, "I need to try another strategy" Always encourage your child to use the most efficient strategy that works for them. If you hear your child get upset because they made a mistake, encourage them to think and say, "That's ok, mistakes help me learn better."

We will continue to work with and support families after the holiday break, whether this takes the form of Remote Home Learning or a return to Corpus Christi at the start of next term.

Mr Mark Warren, Learning and Teaching Leader - Numeracy

At Corpus Christi we acknowledge that this has been a very unusual time for us all and we need to take all the precautions we can to be safe and well over the holiday break and beyond. A letter was sent to all families this week explaining ways that our students can be engaged in varied ways while at home. It was also sent out on the School App for the families who were not at school during this week.

Please read this letter and follow the instructions for students to access the Student Desktop. All staff members have been working hard to update the student desktop with ideas and links to fun learning at home for the holidays.

If we are unable to return to school after the allocated holidays Corpus Christi will then send out other information to guide you through the possibility of students Learning at home.

Please have a safe Easter!

Ms Peta Cesarec, Learning and Teaching Leader - Literacy



Digital Technologies News (ICT)

Could all students please check their google student desktop.

Thank you

Anne Walton, Digital Technologies Leader

Education in Faith

A FAITH RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19

The coronavirus outbreak is stirring up anxiety, confusion, and major inconveniences. It is a situation in which we can easily overreact or underreact. How can our faith tradition guide and comfort us through this troubling time? A good starting point is to remember that the most repeated phrase in Scripture is “Do not be afraid!” or “Have no fear!” God probably sends us this message so frequently because fear is such a big part of human nature. Fear can alert us to dangers in our lives to keep us safe, but fear can also lead us astray, toward selfish responses. From GPBS (Gather Proclaim Break Send, 2020).

What You Can Do

Stop the spread.

Even if you are not particularly concerned about the risk to yourself or your own family, these tactics will protect others who may be more vulnerable. Many of us will carry the virus before having any symptoms (and may never develop any).

- Wash your hands well for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Sing the refrain to Michael Joncas' beautiful song *“On Eagle's Wings”* (*“And he will raise you up...”*) while you wash.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.
- Follow the guidance of local officials.
- Stay home if you become ill.

Don't take what you don't need.

Hoarding worsens the situation, and can lead to more infections and more impacts for the most vulnerable.

- Leave the masks to others. Masks only make sense for health care workers and those who are infected. They are not guaranteed to prevent transmission anyway.
- Do not overbuy supplies. Retailers are being wiped out of disinfectants and other supplies, leaving some who most need them without. Be prepared, but be thoughtful and reasonable.

Advocate for the vulnerable and targeted.

- Have compassion for those most at risk. Stand up for those who need the most help and make sure they are being cared for, without judgment.
- Fight racism. Discrimination against those with Asian background only hurts the situation.

Proactively love your neighbour!

- Check in on isolated or vulnerable neighbours and offer to help with specific tasks such as shopping, child or pet care, cleaning, etc.
- If you are in a position of power, use that power for the good of all. Allow workers to work from home or take time off, limit large gatherings, follow government guidance, etc.
- Thank those on the front lines who are protecting us, such as health care workers, police, firefighters. Be gentle and kind with them.

Pray for
all those
affected
by the
crisis.

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CONGRATULATIONS to our **Reconciliation Candidates** who celebrated the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation on the 11th March at St. Andrew's Church. As one community we acknowledged that sometimes we turn away and we need to say sorry and return to Jesus. Jesus never stops loving us. He seeks us out and rejoices when we come back.

We thank our families who joined us in this very special celebration.

OUR LENTEN TIME: continues as we journey to Easter. During our Lenten journey we are invited to reflect upon and renew our own faith. Journeying with each other, encouraging each other to be the best person we can be. Traditionally it is a time where we strengthen our prayer life, practise fasting and almsgiving. Let us continue to remain close to Jesus during this time of reflection.

Project Compassion

We encourage you to make a small donation for our project compassion boxes. They can be found in our learning communities and the office. The theme for Project Compassion 2020 is “Go Further Together”. As a family, view the Caritas website on how you can get involved and view the amazing stories of people involved in Caritas. <https://lent.caritas.org.au/>

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Miss Richelle Mendoza, Religious Education Leader

Prayer for Holy Week

Gracious God, you have heard the cries of your suffering people. You have sent Jesus to us to be our Redeemer and brother. Open our eyes to see the immensity of your love for us and the wonder of what you have done for us. Give us the courage to be your hands and heart for those who are in pain. Give us the wisdom to speak out for justice and righteousness. May your will be done in us today and always.

Amen.



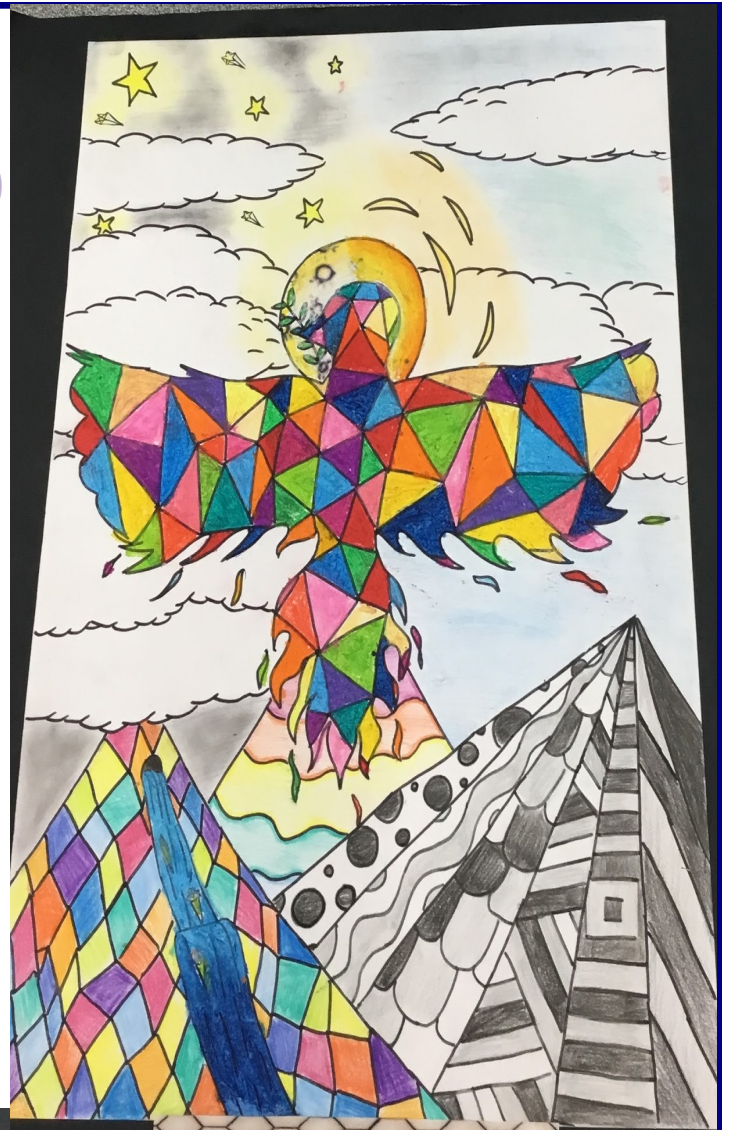
Visual Arts

I am very excited to announce that we have four students whose artwork has been selected to be exhibited in the 2020 Visual Arts Exhibition as part of the celebrations for Catholic Education Week.

Unfortunately, the Exhibition was not open to the public but it was a great achievement for these students to be selected.

Congratulations to Tahlia Liangos, Grace Golmay-er and Kristen Estrellado - Spirit Dolls and Zoe Dhanorkar - Holy Spirit.

Mrs Maria Chetcuti—Arts Teacher



Leading the way for children during the COVID-19 pandemic

Build on what your children know

POSITIVE PARENTING by Michael Grose



If you're like me, the news of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has your head spinning and your heart pumping. That's only natural as life as we know has taken a seismic shift in recent days. International travel bans, cancellation of sporting and cultural events, shopping frenzies and talk of school closures continue to dominate the airwaves. Terms such as social distancing, self-isolation and social lockdowns have entered our vocabularies and may soon become part of our daily lives.

Coronavirus is having an unprecedented impact on our daily lives, and will probably do so for some time. While keeping ourselves and children healthy and safe is our main concern, it's also essential to address the anxieties of children and young people during these changing times. Here are some ideas to help inform, reassure and keep children and young people safe. Children and young people have already been exposed to a great deal of information about corona virus through media, digital means and direct social contact. Their understanding will vary depending on their age and also the quality of their information sources so you probably will need to help kids process what they already know.

Casual conversations with teenagers and older children can be useful ways to glean their understanding. You could ask questions like "What are you hearing about Coronavirus? Is there anything you're not sure about?" Younger primary age children may need a more direct approach with parents addressing their specific concerns without giving too much information that can overwhelm them.

Check your own thoughts and feelings Check your own frame of mind and emotions about COVID-19 before talking to kids. Most children are astute mood detectives and they'll gauge their safety by the way you communicate with them. If you tell a child, "You've got to wash your hands or you'll get infected," you are communicating your own anxieties, making it difficult for them to maintain a healthy state of mind. Have a think about how you can frame your instructions and their importance in a way that doesn't heighten your child's anxieties.

Stay informed It's difficult to work out fact from fiction, correct from incorrect, information from exaggeration when the news is changing so fast. However you need to educate yourself about the virus itself, including how it's transmitted and how to stay safe. Get information from trustworthy sources such as The Australian Government Health Department website and the current federal government corona virus information media campaign.

Answer questions truthfully It's important that parents and teachers answer children's questions honestly in age-appropriate ways and within context of what is happening at the given time. If their sport or hobby has been temporarily cancelled empathise with their concerns, while helping them maintain a sense of perspective.

Initiate positive action One way to reduce anxiety and allay children's fears is to involve them in planning and preparation for their personal and group safety. Positive activities such as maintenance of personal hygiene, greeting people with an elbow tap and getting plenty of sleep can help restore a sense of control, that is so important for their wellbeing.

Find refuge in rituals Regular rituals such as mealtimes, bedtime stories and regular one-on-one time provide both an anchor to normality and a sense of connection for kids at times of change. Consider reconstituting favoured family rituals at this time if they have lapsed due to lack of time, or lifestyle frenzy.

Look outwards In difficult times there is a tendency to look inwards, which is a natural protective strategy. The alternative is to establish a sense of connection and community spirit by focusing on generosity and togetherness. Help children see past their own needs and look for ways to assist others whether it's shopping for an elderly neighbour, helping a younger sibling occupy themselves, or planning an indoor movie night for the whole family.

The Coronavirus presents many practical challenges to parents and other important adults in the lives of kids. Staying calm, keeping informed, and adjusting our own habits are just some of the challenges we face. However a significant challenge is one of personal leadership. That is, during these difficult times we need to be civil to each other, look out for each other and be mindful of the common good in everything we do. In this, we can all take a significant lead.

