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6th May, 2020.

NEWSLETTER

Term 2 ~ Week2

I would just like to say how proud I am of all the students and families for the way they have embraced home learning. Every day the teachers are talking about the work students are doing and the effort we are seeing. There are videos, images, creations, work completed, and the list goes on. These put a smile on our face as we truly do miss seeing everybody. It's marvellous how we can see God at work in the little things during this time.

Mother's Day

This year, Mother's Day is going to be very different. I know I look forward to our whole school liturgy, a school made gift and a carefully selected item from the Mother's Day stall. However, this year is going to be different and that is okay. I am sure on Mother's Day, there will be many moments that you will hold dear to your heart.

I would like to wish all the mothers, grandmothers and people who are like mother's a very happy Mother's Day on Sunday.

Happy Mother's Day

My mother kept a garden, a garden of the heart. She planted all the good things that gave my life its start. She turned me to the sunshine and encouraged me to dream, fostering and nurturing the seeds of self-esteem. And when the winds and rains came she protected me enough, but not too much because she knew I needed to grow strong and tough. Her constant good example always taught me right from wrong. Markers for my pathway that will last a lifetime long. I am my mother's garden. I am her legacy and I hope today she feels the love reflected back from me.



During the month of May, the Church honours with special love Mary the Mother of God.
May is the month of Mary.

On your special prayer space that you have created as a family, give Mary a special spot. If you don't have a statue, then somebody in your house could draw a picture of her. In your drawing, you could make a real tribute to her beauty and virtue by giving her a crown. The meaning is far more important than the action.

Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.

Sending blessings to you all
Christine Hibbard (REC)

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Dear Parents

Welcome back to term 2. Who would have thought a term ago school would have looked like it does now? Things can change so quickly! Its how we accept and adapt to these challenges that makes us better people. I certainly have seen the goodness in this community. The commitment, support, and flexibility of staff has been amazing and the many messages and emails from parents has been appreciated.

Two terms from 6 weeks ago, I had not heard of were 'social distancing' and 'Zoom'. Terms that really are complete opposite. Social distancing is about staying apart and Zoom is about connecting. They have become so important in our school lives. I remember hearing the words social distancing for the first time in February and having to contact NSW Health for an explanation. Zoom, at the moment, is what is keeping many of us connected at school and with family and friends. I thank you all for your support in these two areas as we continue to keep our community safe as well as connected. We are always learning!

Over the school holidays, we were all isolated. Initially I was apprehensive, as the holiday time is a great time to get out, visit friends and family and to enjoy the outdoor activities we love. I was concerned I would not be able to relax after a very hectic last few weeks of term. Instead, I discovered new things and found the opportunity to finish all those jobs that Mrs Devlin seems to find! Also, I found time to continue learning to play guitar, I did my first oil change on the ride-on mower thanks to the help of google, I discovered new recipes and experimented with our dinner. By the end of the first week I felt I had achieved so much. This I felt would not have happened as I would have been too busy doing other things. I found that I actually enjoyed the isolation.

I guess my message here to you and your families are things are different and while children may not be learning Maths and English the usual way, these times provide

an opportunity to learn so many more important life skills.

I've included a short article with an important message.

What if instead of "behind" this group of kids is advanced because of this? Let's talk about helping our kids during social distancing. (www.altogethermostly.com)

Hear me out.

What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves, they love to read, they love to express themselves in writing.

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own backyard and sitting near a window in the quiet.

What if they notice the birds and the dates the different flowers emerge, and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

What if this generation is the ones to learn to cook, organize their space, do their laundry, and keep a well-run home?

Helping Our Kids During Social Distancing

What if they learn to stretch a dollar and to live with less? What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home.

What if they learn the difference between want and need?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday?

What if they are the ones to place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential support workers like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, custodians, logistics, and health care workers and their supporting staff, just to name a few of the millions taking care of us right now while we are sheltered in place?



“What if instead of ‘behind’ this group of kids is advanced because of this?”



www.altogethermostly.com

What if among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and a simpler life. What is he or she truly learn what really matters in this life? Let’s talk about helping our kids during social distancing.

What if they are ahead?

Yes, that is Beau and Ryan in the photo making a difference!



Mother’s Day

Our Mother’s day celebration will be a little different but special this year. On Friday, Mums and Nans will be receiving their traditional scones and cream and a small gift as a thank you for the wonderful job you do. Just pull up outside the front of the school and wait for your treat to be delivered to your car. I hope you have put in your order! Chill’d Café are also offering coffee for just \$2 which you can phone in and pick up on the drive thru. Please support this new business. Following this, I suggest you go home, watch my special story and message with your children and enjoy your Morning Tea.

ANZAC Day (Article copied from MNNews)

Leaders from St John Vianney Primary School, Morisset, kept alive the tradition of visiting Cooranbong Cemetery to honour returned service men and women who have

now passed. On Anzac morning, the leaders and their families visited three gravesites and placed a flag, said a prayer and reflected on the sacrifice made many years ago. The flag was left flying high for the day so passers-by could also remember and honour the fallen.

St John Vianney Principal, Simon Devlin, says part of the school’s mission is to continue to grow and develop community. “Staying connected with the community is important during this time, commemorating Anzac Day allows us to do this whilst also showing respect to the returned serviceman who have passed on,” he said.

Thank you to Maja, Evie, Kale and their families for your support.



Weeks 3 to 5

Beginning the 11th May, Week 3, Children are being encouraged to return to school as we head to 'normal' classes once again. School from Week 3 to Week 5 (3 weeks) will look the same.

Infants (Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2) are encouraged to attend school on **Monday and Tuesday** for face-to-face teaching with their regular classroom teacher. It is preferable for siblings in primary grades to stay at home if possible. If they come to school they will be supervised/taught the same as week 2.

Primary classes (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6) are encouraged to attend school on **Wednesday and Thursday** for face-to-face teaching with their regular classroom teacher. It is preferable for siblings in infant grades to stay at home if possible. If they come to school they will be supervised/taught the same as week 2.

Friday: School will be open only for vulnerable children and children of parents who have to work and cannot supervise. Staff will be on a roster the same as the first 2 weeks.

This is in line with the recommended information for parents and carers sent home to you this week on 29th April, from the Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Pick ups and Drop offs

Beginning week 3, to support social distancing, parents who are picking up their children in the afternoon are requested to **enter the school via the front of the church entry** and to wait at the front of the church, whilst maintaining social distancing. Children who are being picked up, will be supervised and walked around to you. This will ease the congestion at the front gate.

On their day, Kinder, Year 3 and Year 4 will finish at 2:45pm for an early pick up.

Parents are reminded to practice social distancing while picking children up and should not hang around. Please collect your child/children and leave the school/Church.

Managing Face-To-Face, Home & Independent Learning (K-6) Weeks 3-5 at SJV

As students transition back to face-to-face learning at school, it is important to emphasise that teachers are not expected to manage both face-to-face learning and home learning simultaneously. On designated **face-to-face learning days** teachers are asked to focus on classroom based instruction.

Home learning days following this face-to-face learning will enable students to practise, further explore and apply this new learning. Teachers will be available on these days to contact students and support the home learning and/or provide feedback.

Teachers will still continue to develop a home learning plan for the next 3 weeks. This will be taught explicitly by their own teachers on the 2 days the children are at school. Children will then take the Learning Plans home to complete at home either independently or with adult support. The K-2 Home Learning Plan will be introduced to the children on Monday and completed by Friday. The 3-6 Plan will be introduced on the Wednesday and completed by the following Tuesday. Both Learning Plans will be available on the Home Learning Website.

Teachers have tried to support families by teaching similar content in Maths eg Measurement and Number and Journal Writing in English for Yrs 2-6. Practicing writing a sentence a day is a focus for K-1.

Teachers on their teaching face-to-face day are not available to support any home learning. However they will support, provide feedback on the days they are not teaching Face to Face. Teachers will provide one Zoom session a week so children not coming to school can stay connected and ask questions about their work.

The designated non-contact home learning day, **Friday**, should follow a gradual release of responsibility model and enable students to work more independently on ongoing practice, creative or research activities.

Teacher contact is not expected on this day. **Most children will be Learning From home this day and should not be sent to school unless they cannot be supervised/taught at home.** These are the vulnerable children or children of essential workers.

If parents choose not to send their child/ren on their nominated face-to-face learning days they will need to notify the school. They should access the learning Plan via the Home Learning Website.

Hygiene & Cleaning Arrangements

Much has changed in regard hygiene and cleaning at SJV over the past 6 weeks. Here is a list of the things, which are now in place to keep our school community safe.

- Every classroom has hand sanitizer, soap, surface spray and paper towels.
- Children are reminded to wash hands regularly or bring their own sanitizer
- Classroom surfaces, doorknobs, laptops, and handrails are wiped down and cleaned every day
- The admin area is wiped down every day.
- Library books are being quarantined and wiped down before going out.
- Children are sanitizing before and after using the playground.
- Restricted use of class spaces.

Children and staff are often reminded of these practices and I ask you at home to do the same.

If your child is showing signs of the slightest respiratory illness (eg. runny nose, cough, temperature, itchy throat), please keep them at home. If your child arrives at school with any of these signs, you will be contacted to take them home.

Staffing Update

Please keep in your prayers Mrs Pether and her family who have taken leave this week to visit her sick mother in Coffs Harbour.

From the end of this month, Mrs Stephens will be taking leave each Friday fortnight. Mrs Jane Sullivan will be replacing her on this day.

Uniforms

As school looks towards returning to normal classes children can start wearing their winter uniform if they wish. All children must be in their full winter uniform by Monday, May 25th.

Years 3-6 may wear their sports uniform each Thursday during weeks 3 to 5.

Please do not wear half and half. Wear either the summer or winter uniform for the next 2 weeks. Please make sure you label all uniform items.

Reaching Out... From A Distance



These incredible, almost surreal times have hit us all in some way, whether it's not being able to see our friends and family, contacting people via zoom or skype, quick walks in the park without stopping or missing out on that packet of toilet paper in the supermarket. We've all had to suffer in some way, however, some have been hit harder than others.

I know I am still relatively new to the SJV community, but I have seen and do know of the incredible way in which you rally together to help a family in need. It is beautiful and heart-warming to watch and be a part of. Right now there are families in our community who need our help. Parents are out of work and do not qualify for job seeker or job keeper. They are getting very little assistance and are struggling.

There will be a basket in the foyer of our office for the next few days. If you can spare a few essential items from your pantry please drop them in as soon as possible. Perhaps you can purchase a petrol voucher or a gift card for Woollies or Coles? Anything will help. These items are urgent and I would like to deliver items this weekend.

If you or you know of other families in our community who are struggling, please contact me at school.

Thank you in anticipation.

Nicki Graham

2021 Kinder Enrolments

Spaces are filling quickly and are limited for Kinder 2021. If you or you know of someone interested in attending SJV in 2021, please contact the school and collect an enrolment package.

Due to restrictions of COVID-19, interviews will be held later in the year and you will be contacted shortly about this.

School Fees

I understand many families are struggling financially during these difficult times. The school recognises this and would like to support you during these times. Last term a note went home from the Catholic Schools office, via Compass, asking you to complete a form if you require either a concession or a deferment of payment. Families requiring the concession will be contacted shortly to discuss this option. If you feel you are struggling with fees please consider filling in the Fee Adjustment forms.

Canteen

The School Canteen will be closed until further notice.

From the Learning Hub

This is a reminder to continue reading at home for the Premiers Reading Challenge - the SORA website has lots of PRC titles available. If you are in Years 3-6, you can email me for your password, if you have not already received it.

I hope you are all enjoying the activities in your home learning. It has been lovely hearing from so many of you via email and OneNote. Years 3-6 have access to their coding tasks for this term - if you are ready to start, check your OneNote for more details.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.
Keep reading

Kasey Gibbs
Teacher Librarian

BOOK CLUB

Book Club for Term 2 is going VIRTUAL!!! The link below will take you to the online catalogue

https://issuu.com/scholastic_australia/docs/aus_iss ue_3?fr=sMTQ2ZTEwOTgzNjE

You will need to order via **LOOP** (Scholastic's online payment platform). If this is your first time you will have to register before you can order. See link below

<https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/Login.aspx>

No cash orders will be accepted during Term 2. Orders will need to be placed before **9.00am Monday, May18**. All orders will be delivered to school and you will be advised when you will be able to pick up your order from the office (at least one week later). If you have any questions re ordering please see/ring/email Mrs Nankivell in the library on Mondays.

LIBRARY BORROWING

During weeks 3 -5, classes **Kinder – year 2** will be borrowing as normal with Mrs Nankivell on a Monday. Kinder – Year 2 please remember to return your library books and home readers from Term 1.

Years 3 – 6 will be at school on Wednesdays and Thursdays, so they can either borrow with their teachers on those days **OR** the children can log into **OLIVER** from home or school and reserve the items they would like to borrow. Mrs Nankivell will check for reserved items on a Monday and will have them ready for student collection on Wednesdays – Thursday.

SORA online ebooks & audio books are also available through **OLIVER OR** through the **SORA** app.

To get into **OLIVER** click on the link below:
<https://mncatholicprimary.softlinkhosting.com.au/oliver/OpacLogin?corporation=mnmorissetsjv>

Username: student's first name.last name
Password: sjv (lowercase)

When first logging on students may have to override their usernames. If you have any problems, please email Mrs Nankivell on maureen.nankivell@mn.catholic.edu.au

Maureen Nankivell
School Library Officer

Weekend Worship

Mass will be live streamed this Sunday, at 9.30am, from Sacred Heart Cathedral. Share the link with family and friends, and let's gather online to pray as a community in these challenging times. This will continue each week while the COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>

Pastoral Care

If you would like to like to speak with or see a priest please contact the parish office and leave your details for Fr Kevin to contact you.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Gary Pinto has Outstanding Talent and a Heart to Match

On Saturday, May 9, at 4pm AEST, Gary will be hosting a free online concert for Project Compassion, bringing Australian and International music stars directly from their lounge room, to yours!

<https://www.livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/>

HOME DELIVERY INFORMATION

DARA IS PROVIDING, FREE MEAL HOME DELIVERY AROUND NEWCASTLE, PORT STEPHENS, MAITLAND AND LAKE MACQUARIE AREAS.

DARA DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY, BRIDGE OF WARE AND NEWCASTLE supporting people

All who require food support are welcome to receive a weekly meal delivery. Visit dara.org.au/home-delivery or call 4979 1339 (during office hours) to register your details.

[@DARAPROGRAMS](https://www.facebook.com/DARAPROGRAMS) **DARA.ORG.AU**

Good for Kids good for life

KEEP CRUNCHING

Most NSW primary schools have incorporated *Crunch & Sip*® (often called Fruit Break) as a regular part of the school day.

Crunch & Sip® helps kids meet their recommended vegetable and fruit intake, as well as help introduce new vegetables and fruit.

The benefits of *Crunch & Sip*® can happen at home as well as at school. Keep kids eating healthy snacks of vegetables and fruit no matter the day.



NSW Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

HINELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>

WayAhead
Mental Health Association NSW



For the first time ever, our *Small Steps* seminars, developed to help parents and teachers identify and address anxiety disorders in children, will now be available online for free.

[BOOK YOUR FREE SESSION](#)

Exclusively delivered in schools, WayAhead's *Small Steps* webinars will now be available to parents, caregivers and teachers around NSW and beyond, for free, to help them support the primary school-aged children in their lives.

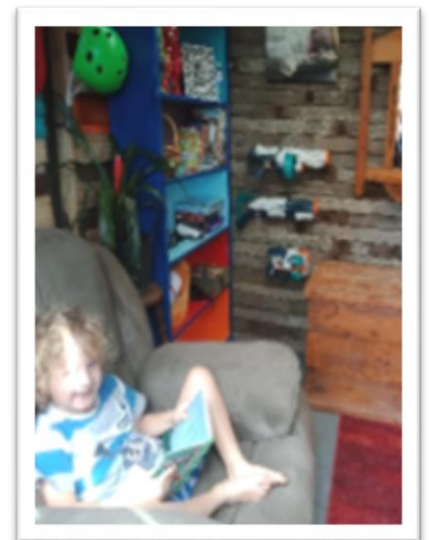
The *Small Steps* webinar covers signs, symptoms, types and treatments for anxiety disorders in children, as well as touch on how to approach stressful current events, like the recent bushfires and the COVID-19 outbreak.

Sessions run for 1.5 hours, including a 30-minute Q&A. Although attendance is free, bookings are essential with each webinar capped at 30 participants.

Currently, the workshops are available on Tuesday evening, Wednesday lunchtime and Thursday morning, between the 5th and 14th of May.

[BOOK YOUR FREE SESSION](#)

Home Learning Snapshots



Children's University News

Everyone has their passports. Here are some of the photos that I have received.



Rhya did a celery experiment.



Eva's new house Lego creation.



Sophia and Isabella are creating a garden.



Emma Cook's Lego creation.



Freddie's new house Lego creation.

Aboriginal Education News

Thank you to all the students that have been having a go at some Aboriginal nature art.



Aniela - Year 1



Flynn - Kinder



Byron - Year 1

Mrs Jennifer Merrick



Calling all inspired

ART STUDENTS!

This year's **ASPIRE** production is called *The Pecking Order* and some of the main characters are birds.

In honour of our feathered friends, we would like to invite students, of any age, from our diocesan schools to create a model bird that will be displayed in the foyer during production week. Our aim is to create a wonderful art exhibition at the Civic Theatre for the duration of the production to showcase the work of our talented Visual Arts students.

The bird sculpture can be as realistic or as imaginary as you desire. Our only stipulation is that it be made from found objects e.g. recyclable and/or natural materials. Create your own special bird or work together as a class to create one large bird! Teachers might like to make it a class project.

A team from the ASPIRE committee will select the winners. There will be two categories:

- **Individual student sculpture**
- **Class/group sculpture**

The winner in the class category will receive free transport and tickets to the Friday matinee of *The Pecking Order* and the individual student will receive a double pass to the Friday night performance plus an exclusive look behind the scenes at the Civic Theatre.

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE
BY MONDAY 13TH JULY 2020**