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# St John Vianney Primary School Morisset

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12<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.

NEWSLETTER

Term 3 ~ Week 4

## Thank you

This week in Making Jesus Real we are concentrating on how we greet, treat and speak to one another. In regards to speak, it is always wonderful to hear the word **THANK YOU**. The magic word! It is quite a small word but a very important one that seems to be forgotten at times not only by our students, but by us as adults as well. Try and be very aware of using this word yourself and always encourage it from the children. We all like to be thanked for the things we do for others.

Another term that aligns with thank you is gratitude. We have so much to be thankful for and naming these can help us to appreciate the small things in our lives.



## St John Vianney Feast Day

It was a busy day last Tuesday, when we had school photos and then came together to remember our school's patron saint St John Vianney. The students did so well in the afternoon, after having such a busy day. We came together as a school and remembered who St John Vianney was.

The students had time to reflect on the life of St John Vianney and how he was chosen to protect and guide the people in our school. Just like St John Vianney we sometimes struggle and know that we can turn to him for guidance. After our special prayer service, the students participated in a range of fun activities.



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## The Feast of the Assumption of the blessed Virgin Mary

The 15<sup>th</sup> of August is the Feast of the Assumption. This day is a solemnity, meaning, it is a Holy Day of Obligation, a religious day, and one where we go to mass.

On this day, we remember when Mary was taken (“assumed”) into heaven, body and soul, after she died. This story is not found in the Bible. However, a tradition handed down from the earliest days of the Church says that Mary died in Jerusalem and was buried in a tomb. However, when the apostles opened the tomb again, her body was gone.

We could ask “Why would God take Mary’s body and soul into heaven?” Mary is special to God: she said “yes” to Gabriel which changed the course of human history, as she became the mother of Jesus. But God also wanted to show us that one day, all of us will share in the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Mary shows us a way of being that is enduring, loving and capable.



Enjoy your week

**Christine Hibbard**  
**REC**

Dear Parents

As part of our Making Jesus Real Program we have at school, we have been talking about how we meet and greet each other. It makes me very happy each morning when children just greet me with a “hello” or “how are you today?” One of the highlights of my day is doing morning duty and greeting the children as they arrive, saying hello and checking to see how they are each day. It’s nice to get a response from them and to see the way they greet each other. Greeting each other in such a positive way can impact on how we are for the rest of the day. Please take the time to model and encourage the children to greet each other, their teachers and parents in a positive way. This supports developing a culture of welcome in our community.

Last week we celebrated St John Vianney Feast day. We gathered for a short prayer then an afternoon of fun activities. I spoke to the children briefly about St John Vianney and some of the qualities that made him a saint. I discussed these qualities and challenged them to live their lives like St John Vianney. **Listen to others**, St John Vianney listened to thousands of people as they confessed their sins. **Do your Best**, St John Vianney struggled at school but always did his best. **Help the poor**, St John Vianney was an advocate for the poor people in France and was there to help them. These are 3 qualities you can talk to your children about. I hope the children remember our discussion. Thank you to the staff who organised the day.

Over the past week we have begun Parent/Teacher interviews. These are being conducted via the phone and information about this went home last week. If you have missed your interview or forgot your time please email your child’s teacher and arrange a suitable time.

Our school canteen remains closed. Unfortunately, we have been unable to open due to the lack of volunteers. If you are considering helping out in the canteen, please call Kim on 0418 237 923. There is

also a volunteer note included in this newsletter. It would be wonderful to reopen in term 4.

### COVID Update

Parents/carers are reminded not to come onto the school site. If you do need to come onto the school site eg. early pick up, payments etc. you must present to the office. Parents invited onto the site for an assembly

or meeting must sign in and fill in the forms at reception. I will be at the gate most mornings to assist you and answer any questions. Children should be dropped at the front gate and encouraged to walk in on their own.

Currently all gatherings of parents are not allowed at school. Children are limited to gathering for no more than 15 minutes as a whole school. Father’s Day Liturgy/Celebration, school dance/disco extravaganza have been cancelled. We are currently investigating ways to have celebrations at school with the children adhering to COVID protocols.

I sent home a letter to parents yesterday from the CSO regarding school gatherings. I am waiting for information from Gerard Mowbray and CSO regarding school camps/excursions.

Please ensure your school contact details are up to date. If you are not sure, please contact the office. In the event of a COVID evacuation, a family/carer needs to be available to collect your child/ren.

### Facebook/School Website

Over the past two weeks, the school has updated our school website and introduced a Facebook page. I encourage you to have a look around the school website

<https://www.morisset.catholic.edu.au/>

and to follow our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnvianneyprimaryschoolmorisset/>

This is a wonderful opportunity to promote and share the great things happening at SJV.



### Staff Development Day

The last day of Term 3, the 25<sup>th</sup> September, is a pupil free day. Teachers will be having a Staff Development Day focusing on our School Mission & Vision Statement.

Hunter Kids will be on site to provide care for children with working parents.

### Assemblies

The school will have award assemblies each Thursday fortnight during the morning assembly (8.55am). These will be just for the children and last no longer than 15 minutes. Parents of children receiving a significant award will be invited to attend. They will need to sign in and follow hygiene protocols.

### School Fees

I have begun contacting parents who are behind on school fees. I encourage you to make payments or contact me if you are having problems. Due to COVID many families have fallen behind on payments therefore, we have extended time for payments till mid term 4.

Please remember fees are necessary for the effective running of our school and our bills need to be paid. Your fees include not only tuition but also the extra curricula activities the children have already been involved in eg. Dance Fever, SMASH tennis, as well as technology and class materials.

### SJV Award

Congratulations to Freddie Whalley (Yr 5) our SJV award winner for the past month. Freddie has been identified by his teacher and the staff as someone who regularly follows our schools values. He comes to school every day with a smile on his face and a positive attitude. He regularly says hello to all staff. He has a great sense of humour and gets on well with his peers. He is recognised by his teacher as someone who always does his best. He is kind and a good friend to everyone. Congratulations Freddie.

### THANKS MR DEVLIN!

Last Friday was Australian Primary Principal's Day. We took some time to thank Mr Devlin for all the work that he does to lead our school. The care that he shows to students, staff, parents and the wider community is exemplary and I am certain that you would join me in saying that SJV is a fantastic school thanks to the leadership of Simon!

Evie and Ethan represented the school on Friday in thanking Mr Devlin and congratulating him on being a great principal.

a great  
**Principal**  
BUILDS CHARACTER  
inspires dreams  
ENCOURAGES CREATIVITY  
BUILDS CONFIDENCE  
INSTILLS ALOT OF LEARNING  
Touches Our ❤️ Hearts  
& CHANGES OUR LIVES FOREVER



### Groceries

At the beginning of the year, when COVID hit our shores, I asked for your help in assisting a family who was experiencing hardship. We were overwhelmed with generosity and once again may I take this opportunity to thank you.

We still have groceries!

If you would like to take some (or you know of a family that might like some) please come to the school and fill up a few bags. Some of the items may go out of date soon, so please do not hesitate to collect a few groceries.

Kind regards,

**Nicki Graham**  
Assistant Principal

## Assembly Awards Term 3 Week 2

Class	Maths	Being A Good Listener	Being A Good Friend	Class
K	Dustan Lucas Skylar Pateman	Logan Schwager Georgie Lucas	Kochna Sunarya	Tatum Isaacs
Yr 1	Rubi-Leigh Borgas	Evelyn Castro	Aila Cairns	-
Yr 2	Olivia Croft	Isabella McKenzie	Bella Hardy	Taymin Vaschetty
Yr 3	Immogen Anderson-Lenton	Seth Cougan	Connor Vrhskov	Joel Lawrence
Yr 4	Amber Forbes	Max Shields	Zayd King	Lucas Harcourt
Yr 5	Charlotte Rayner-Watson	Emma Cook	Anna-Rose Rattray	Kai Souz
Yr 6	Blake Hodges	Rhys Ferguson	Medow Donohoe	Bryson Palmer

## From the Learning Hub

### Library Borrowing

Library borrowing continues in Term 3. All books and readers are being wiped down and quarantined for several days after they are returned to the library before being borrowed out again. As you can imagine this is a big job but ensuring the safety of students and staff. Any concerns please contact Mrs Nankivell.



Our school canteen is run completely with volunteers and we **need help!** Currently we are unable to open due to volunteer numbers. If you feel you are able to help, please fill out the form attached or phone Kim O'Toole on 0418 237 923. Thank you.

## Important Dates

### August

13<sup>th</sup> Awards Assembly  
27<sup>th</sup> Awards Assembly

### September

10<sup>th</sup> Awards Assembly  
17<sup>th</sup> Science Fair  
24<sup>th</sup> Awards Assembly  
25<sup>th</sup> Pupil Free Day  
Term 3 Ends

## Good for Kids good for life

### KEEPING ACTIVE IN WINTER

It can be tempting to let kids spend more time on screens during the winter months, with cooler temperatures and less daylight hours. But keeping active for **at least one hour each day** is still important, and also helps to keep warm!

Try some these activities that can also be done indoors:

- Make up a dance
- Hula hooping or skipping
- Pretend to move like different animals - scuttle side-to-side like a crab or hop like a kangaroo
- Start a family fitness challenge - who can do the most push-ups, squats, sit ups
- Use a pair of socks or balloon to play indoor volley ball, tennis, soccer or football

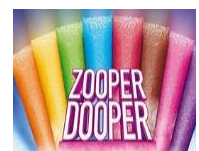


Health  
Hunter New England  
Local Health District

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

### Yr 6 Fundraising

Year 6 will be selling Zooper Doopers for \$1 during lunch on Fridays. Please support them to raise funds for their graduation.



### We Accept



**'FRIDAY "FISH AND CHIP" NIGHT  
the fish and the bread'**

In the 60's, 70's and 80's Friday night dinner around the country was most likely "fish and chips" night. This was something people did. Many probably didn't realise, it was a centuries old part of a penance - not eating red meat on Friday, the day that Jesus died.

Looking back, Friday night was for my family - then about 6 siblings - a real informal family-night. Not much fuss. Mum did not have to do any cooking and Friday night was "pay night." The 'working man (mostly men then) got their weekly pay packet Fridays. With money available, it was down to "Seagulls" fish and chip shop at 5.30 pm. Always a crowd inside waiting to order. I would get a thrill to put my order in (on behalf of the family), and order "10 Bob's worth of chips, please"- which is a bit like ordering \$20 + worth of chips today. The other customers were amazed.

My dad would often buy fresh caught mullet from the local fisherman up at Fern Bay. He would clean them in the backyard. They would be fried, and then dinner would be had. Mullet and chips, and 8-9 family seated around the table. There was always a plate with sliced bread on the table!

Almost every Friday meal, someone would get a fishbone-caught in their throat. They would gag, go a bit red in the face, and look with horror at my mother who would order "quick! Give him some bread; quick eat that piece of bread." He or she would swallow the dry bread down and the bone would be dislodged... and we would get on with the dinner. Occasionally, we would hit the jackpot and have two near choking experiences on the one Friday!

In retrospect, I would easily pay \$1,000 to have a video of one of those Friday evening family meals! The very gift of family; of togetherness; of being provided for and cared for... the sharing

of life together. When we think about it, this is not just special, not just precious; the gift of life and of loved shared is something sacred.

I think that this sense of the gift of togetherness must have touched the many people that day who sat on the hillside and shared the meal which Jesus provided. We can imagine that many there that day would have felt welcomed, cared for, and loved. They had already gathered around him and had their hearts warmed and their hopes renewed by being in Jesus' presence and listening to his words. In response to their need, he then provided all of them with food! They must have felt very thankful. The New Testament- first written largely in Greek- has the word 'Eucharist' which means 'to give thanks.' This is our original word for the Mass- the Eucharist.

I doubt if my mum and dad would have thought all those years ago, that providing the family togetherness times of meals was in fact teaching us about the Eucharist. They gave us food, but their real gift was their love, and the giving of their lives to work to provide for our food and our needs. And the Gospel today has the author shaping this favourite story of Jesus' love and kindness to point to that Last Supper, where Jesus did actually give the gift of his very Self in the form of food. Do you notice that in the loaves and fishes story, Jesus '**took**' '**blest**' '**broke**' and' '**gave**'- the very words used at the Last Supper? And, he said for us to continue to '**do this.**' Every Mass we celebrate then is Jesus continuing to be with us in love, giving his own self to us in the form of food. It is a wonderful thing then to understand that the Eucharist is Jesus giving the key message of love. That He is with us always, always. In this very needy moment in human history, we pray every day for humanity to receive the helps needed, and to be reassured of the 'loving kindness of the heart of our God'.

*Fr Kevin*



### Resignation of Daphne Petersen From the Parish Leadership Team

It is with deep regret that we, the Parish Leadership Team, acknowledge the resignation of Daphne from our Team. Daphne has been a part of our Team since the beginning and has weathered many storms and changes with us. Her contribution, especially in the Foundation of Prayer and Worship, and Formation, has been enormous. We thank her for her work and commitment and acknowledge that her life now has other priorities. We wish Daphne the very best in all her future endeavours.

### Videos Of Our Community Masses & Liturgies

We will be recording our parish Masses and uploading them to the parish website generally the day after i.e. Sunday Mass will be uploaded on Monday. They can be viewed

at <https://www.vianneymorriset.org/mass-videos>

and

<https://www.vianneymorriset.org/liturgy-videos>

### COVID Safe Conditions of Entry For Our Churches and Callinan

As part of the Government requirements for our churches and buildings to open we need to have conditions of entry that meet the COVID-19 Safety Plan for places of worship. Please find below the conditions of entry for our churches and Callinan Centre.

- You have Registered with the Parish Office
- You will Confirm your Name and Contact Details upon entry
- You are well and have not been in contact with anyone who is unwell
- You will need to sanitise your hands upon Entry, Exit and when instructed to
- Comply with social distancing measures and maintain a distance of 1.5m between you and another person
- You will not sing or chant

It is also recommended that all visitors, parishioners and volunteers download the COVID Safe App.

### A Message from Lake Macquarie City Council

#### We need your help to keep our kids safe

Lake Macquarie City Council Rangers have been patrolling schools during term 2.

Due to social distancing restrictions limiting capacity on our public transport system, we have noticed more parents are relying on their vehicles for school drop-off and pick-up.

The safety of all children is our number one priority and we would like your help to communicate to parents the correct parking rules including the following:

**No stopping** – you cannot stop here unless there is a medical or other emergency

**Bus zone** – you cannot stop here unless you are driving a bus

**No parking** – you can stop here for two minutes only to drop-off or pick-up and the driver must stay within three metres of your vehicle

**Pedestrian crossings** – you cannot stop within 20 metres before or 10 metres after a pedestrian crossing unless there is a control sign permitting parking

**Double parking** – you cannot stop on the road alongside other vehicles at any time to drop-off or pick-up.

Lake Mac Rangers will be increasing patrols around our local schools during term 3 to monitor illegal parking and safety issues. Rangers will be issuing infringements to drivers not following the rules.

We are asking for your help to communicate this message to all parents to ensure the safety of all your students.

For more information, please contact our customer service team on (02) 4921 0333 or email [council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au)

#### Ranger Parking Compliance



[lakemac.com.au](http://lakemac.com.au)





# CANTEEN 2020

*Hello from SJV School Canteen committee.*

Our school canteen is run completely with volunteers, including the committee members. We are an approved health canteen.

The canteen provides hot food, sandwiches, and salads. We also sell drinks, cakes, chips, snacks and ice creams. Lunch orders are placed in the morning and the children may purchase other items at Recess (11am to 11.30am) and Lunch Breaks (1pm to 1.45pm).

The canteen opens on a **Wednesday**. Some changes have recently been made to the running of the canteen which now makes the job much easier to carry out.

Our volunteers are required to be at the canteen by 8.45am and are finished by approximately 2pm. Children are not allowed in the canteen.

We are always in great need of canteen volunteers. We realise that parents are very busy and any help or support is very much appreciated.

If you think that you may be available to help out in the canteen please complete and return this form to the office

*Name:* .....

*Contact Number:* .....

*Child's Name and class:* .....

*Email Address:* .....

Please circle when and how often you are available  
(You may change your availability at any time with the roster coordinator)

**Wednesday:** once a week / once a fortnight / once a month / once a term

Extra info:.....

.....



# ASPIRE

MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

## INFORMATION SHEET 2021



### // ABOUT ASPIRE

ASPIRE is the Maitland/Newcastle Catholic Schools Office Creative and Performing Arts Program. With an emphasis on fostering creativity, ASPIRE has a large number of programs on offer including in school workshops and production support, professional development for staff as well as special projects in areas such as songwriting, scriptwriting, devising theatre and choreography. ASPIRE also produces an original theatrical performance annually where students audition to be part of either the design, drama, vocal, dance, instrumental and production ensembles.

### // HOW TO AUDITION FOR ASPIRE 2021

The ASPIRE Audition Application Process is now online

The following instructions will direct you to the online audition form.

- 1/ Go to the ASPIRE website – [aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au](http://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au)
- 2/ Click on JOIN US
- 3/ Click on 2021 AUDITIONS
- 4/ Then click on the link: [CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE FOR ASPIRE 2021](#)

Please contact Anne Atkins if you have any queries regarding auditions by email: [anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au) or by phone 02 4979 1331

Please note: Registration for Audition need to be completed and submitted by no later than Friday 25 September 2020

### // AUDITION DATES

NEWCASTLE EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE (WESTS NEWCASTLE) SITE OF THE OLD NEWCASTLE WORKERS CLUB

<b>DANCE, STAGE INSTRUMENTAL</b>	<b>JUNIOR DRAMA</b>	<b>JUNIOR DRAMA AND SENIOR DRAMA</b>	<b>VOCAL</b>
Monday 26 October 2020	Tuesday 27 October 2020	Wednesday 28 October 2020	Thursday 29 October 2020

### // SAVE THE DATE 2021

#### ASPIRE @ THE CIVIC THEATRE

Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 11.00 am

Thursday 22 July 2021 at 11.00 am

Friday 23 July 2021 at 11.00 am

Friday 23 July 2021 at 7.00 pm

Saturday 24 July 2021 at 11.00 am

Saturday 24 July 2021 at 7.00 pm

#### \$12.50 PER STUDENT

Accompanying teachers free.

Tickets through Ticketek in Term 2, 2021

[aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au](http://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au)

Please refer to the ASPIRE website for all ASPIRE Information, forms, updates, photos and the newsletter.

# ASPIRE



**DID YOU KNOW THAT WORK BEING DONE TO  
SUPPORT GIFTED EDUCATION  
IN OUR SCHOOLS  
SUPPORTS ALL OUR STUDENTS?**

**JOIN US FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME TO LISTEN TO SALLY BROCK -  
EDUCATION OFFICER - GIFTED EDUCATION TO HEAR ABOUT THE  
EXCITING WORK BEING DONE TO SUPPORT  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR SCHOOLS.**

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2020**

**TIME: 7.00 - 8.00PM**

**VIA ZOOM**

**RSVP TO [CATH.GARRETT-JONES@MN.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU](mailto:CATH.GARRETT-JONES@MN.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU)  
BY COB 25 AUGUST TO RECEIVE YOUR ZOOM INVITATION BY EMAIL.**



### From the President



Dear Families,

With Term 3 commencing, I have been reflecting over the past term and considering the unique changes and adaptations never before seen in our schools and homes. When I think about my experiences as a mother of children at school starting back in 1991 and now with a grandchild at school – the vast changes in the way children and young people are learning, the tools they are using, and the speed at which they have learned to “Zoom” into each other’s learning spaces has been incredible to observe.

It goes without saying, enormous thanks are owed to all schools and families who together, have reached out and supported one another and ensured our children and young people have continued to engage in learning. I am sure there have been bumps along the road, however, these can be great opportunities to learn, adapt and grow, knowing there is always the support, encouragement and assistance of willing teachers and school staff to help out.

As we plan our path forward, the Federation of P & F Associations is also looking at ways to adapt and better support families in the Catholic education of their children.

#### In this edition ...

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A survey has been developed to seek feedback for parents and carers to help inform our work. Your help in completing this short survey is gratefully appreciated.

The link to the survey can be found in this newsletter as well as by going to our newly created Facebook page. The link for the Facebook page is to be found in this newsletter too.

As we look ahead, I offer my hopes and prayers for a fulfilling and positive Term 3 for you and your family, particularly those entering their last term at our Catholic schools before HSC written exams commence on 20 October.

With my best wishes,

**CHERYL MURPHY**  
PRESIDENT  
FEDERATION OF P & F ASSOCIATIONS – DIOCESE  
OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE



### Federation Online

#### FINDING FEDERATION ON FACEBOOK

The Federation of P&F Associations has launched a Facebook page.

This page is a great place for families to learn about opportunities and find information that can support them in their parenting/caring roles.

Click on the link below and join us!

<https://mncso.news/federationfacebook>

#### WE NEED TO ASK YOU A BIG FAVOUR!

The Federation would love to hear your ideas and views so we can better support parents and carers across our diocese.

We would be *very grateful* if you could spare a couple of minutes to answer a few questions – it isn't necessary to write anything, just click on the link below and rate or select an option.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FederationJuly2020>

#### HANDY LINKS

##### Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP)

This is the peak representative body for parents and carers who have children enrolled in Catholic schools in NSW.

<http://www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/cathschoolparents/>

##### Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW)

<https://www.csnsw.catholic.edu.au/>

##### Intentional Learning

The following link to an article about intentional teaching from Noella Mackenzie's blog might be useful for parents.

<https://noellamackenzie.com/2020/07/07/parents-are-good-at-intentional-teaching/>

*Thank you so much...  
this will really help us out!*





### Maitland-Newcastle Virtual Art Gallery

This gallery is a showcase for the artistic talent of our students. They were encouraged to reflect on the people who mean the most to them and the experiences that have shaped their lives.

Many students responded to the opportunities provided in the visual arts project resources that were shared on the Continuity of Learning site.

Through their art, students shared their thoughts and feelings through a variety of techniques and styles, with many of the works reflecting the beauty and fragility of the natural world.

Many thanks to the school staff who encouraged the students and provided them with this opportunity.

Please take the time to explore the Virtual Art Gallery. It is a rich, creative outlet for our students and provides an insight into their lives, and perhaps encourages us to reflect on ours. Hopefully, it will brighten your day.

To access the gallery, [click here](#).

SALLY BROCK

CSO Education Officer (Gifted Education)





### CatholicCare News

CatholicCare is the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Social Services agency. They provide access to a range of services including counselling support, community kitchens and behaviour support throughout the diocese from Lake Macquarie in the south to the Manning region in the north.

#### REACHING OUT TO BUSHFIRE-IMPACTED FAMILIES

Travelling along the highway through the Manning Valley recently, I was struck by the emerging branches and leaves on blackened trees. It was heartening to see new growth; however, the damage and scars to the landscape were still obvious.

It made her think about the impact of these fires on our families in the Manning area and whilst the immediate threat of the disaster has passed, the impact is still palpable.

CatholicCare is eager to help.

Primary Health Network Hunter New England and Central Coast is partnering with CatholicCare Clinical Services to deliver counselling services for bushfire victims. This includes anyone who has been impacted in any way and lives in the region.

The service can provide up to 10 sessions of free counselling that focus on goals you set. The sessions can be delivered face to face or via telehealth (phone or video call).

For enquiries about accessing this new service, please contact the CatholicCare head office on 02 49791120 for booking information.



#### KELLY PAVAN

Kelly Pavan is Manager Counselling and Clinical Services at CatholicCare and a champion for delivering accessible mental health services for communities



### ASSISTANCE FOR COVID-19 IMPACTED FAMILIES

Clinical Services at CatholicCare received funding recently through a partnership with Newcastle City Council to deliver mental health support for issues related to or prompted by COVID-19.

If you or someone in your family needs to access some counselling support, no referral necessary, contact CatholicCare on 02 4979 1120 for free assistance.

### CATHOLICCARE WINTER APPEAL

12 degrees and it is only 5pm

Tonight across the Hunter-Manning there are individuals sleeping rough, experiencing homelessness, and families who cannot afford to pay for heating or food for the table.

Winter coupled with the impact of COVID-19 means people need help and they need it now. To help, be it \$2, \$5 or \$50 tax deductible donation, head to the CatholicCare website.

Click on the link to learn more

<https://bit.ly/3j9qjZi>

We thank you for your  
generosity



Federation  
of Parents & Friends  
Associations  
DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

# Parent News

Term 3 – 2020



St Nicholas Early Education

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND - NEWCASTLE

## First Look at St Nicholas Early Education in Medowie



A few years ago, the [Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#) undertook a major study into the future provision of education across the Hunter region, which encouraged engagement from every family, student and staff member in the diocese.

The results showed an abundance of support for additional educational opportunities in the Port Stephens area.

Medowie in particular has experienced steady growth in recent years and is expected to welcome an additional 7000 residents within the next decade.

With this in mind, the diocese announced plans for a high school ([Catherine McAuley Catholic College, opening 2021](#)), primary school and early education centre, all conveniently located on one campus to offer parents of children attending two or more of these services a simple one-stop drop-off and pick-up.

The aim was to create a unique educational community and pathway for children aged 8 weeks old, all the way through to year 12.

Set to open its doors early 2021, [St Nicholas Early Education Medowie](#) will be a 104-place early education and care centre for children aged 0-5 years.





### SOME UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE MEDOWIE CENTRE

The St Nick's Meadowie centre will feature a range of purposefully designed indoor and outdoor spaces, all intended to excite and engage children's natural curiosities.

Inside the centre, large open-plan rooms with huge windows will provide plenty of natural light to allow for a warm and inviting environment, supporting children's sense of welcome and belonging.

Medowie's shared outdoor play spaces can be accessed from every room in the centre, complete with plenty of natural elements to allow children to experience, explore, examine, discover, take risks, derive meaning and solve problems.

With plans for a Catholic primary school to be built alongside the centre, St Nicholas will be offering its highly regarded Transition to School program for preschool children.

As part of this program, preschool children are given the opportunity to go on excursions to the

centre's neighbouring primary school, with a chance to check out the school's canteen, library, kindergarten rooms and playground. This allows preschoolers to see, hear, feel and experience what the primary school environment is all about prior to starting 'big school'.

Our Transition to School Program ensures that by the time children are ready to transition to kindergarten they have grown into confident and capable young learners and have a sense of belonging to the primary school environment.

Being co-located with the school will also provide a one-stop drop-off and pick-up for parents with children attending both places.

Note: Images are artist's impressions only

To learn more about St Nicholas Early Education Medowie, including information on how to enrol your child, [click here](#).



### New HSC Disability Provisions Guide



## New HSC Disability Provisions Guide for teachers & parents

**DO YOU HAVE A CHILD WITH DIVERSE LEARNING NEEDS?  
THIS IS A MUST-READ!**

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE NEW GUIDE](#)

### Survey for Parents/Carers of Children with Diverse Learning Needs

Positive Partnerships are seeking to consult with parents and carers of children with diverse learning needs to inform their understanding of the Australian Disability Standards for Education (DSE) (2005). They are requesting support from education and community agencies to assist with this consultation through sharing a survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DQLTP9B>

On behalf of the Australian Government, Positive Partnerships will then develop online content about the DSE, particularly for:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- multicultural communities
- those who have experienced disadvantage
- people who prefer (or find it helpful) to access information using Easy English.

This content may include translation of the DSE Summary and Fact Sheets into Easy English and multiple other languages, including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander languages.

Positive Partnerships will be developing these resources based on consultation and feedback that we receive from community members and their advocates through the survey responses.



### Beyond the Gates

#### GREAT NEWS FOR THE UPPER HUNTER AND MANNING REGION

The **Beyond the Gates** project is a program that has been running at St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead since 2017. It is a collaboration between CatholicCare Social Services and the Catholic Schools Office Maitland-Newcastle.

The project aims to support the students that fall through the gaps of regular supports offered by schools. We case manage students and their families, extending our supports beyond the school gates in the hopes of improving wellbeing.

Most recently the program has undergone expansion to the Upper Hunter and Manning regions, supporting students at St Claire's at

Taree and St Josephs at Aberdeen, the expansion also includes supporting Years 5 and 6 of the feeder primaries of all 3 high schools in the hopes of providing early intervention to family struggles, mental ill health and school drop-out.

The data that has been collected on the program has been incredibly positive, seeing fantastic improvements in school attendance and student wellbeing. Parents/carers have also reported being overwhelmingly satisfied with the program and its high level of effectiveness.



*Beyond the Gates Leader - Lucy and her much loved companion Ollie*



### Alternative Dispute Resolution

#### A NEW APPROACH TO RESOLVING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a set of processes which enable those involved with a concern to resolve the issues between them without the need for a formal inquiry. ADR at the Office of Safeguarding (OOSG) is designed to assist participants to resolve safeguarding concerns that involve or adversely impact upon children or vulnerable adults engaged with the Diocese.

There is a certain class of safeguarding concern that will not be eligible for resolution by ADR (criminal conduct, Risk of Serious Harm - ROSH and notifiable reportable conduct). To be eligible for ADR a concern must involve a diocesan worker (including an authorised carer), adversely impact upon a child and relate to a service being conducted by the Diocese.

Participation in ADR is voluntary. The written consent of each participant to a concern is required for ADR to be applied. The discussions in the ADR process are confidential and each participant will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement. The only exceptions are the report to participants provided on completion, and as required by law or diocesan safeguarding policy.

Before a joint ADR conference is held the ADR practitioner will meet with each participant separately at the preliminary conference. The preliminary conference is an opportunity for the ADR practitioner to individually listen to the experience of each person and better understand what they would like to achieve at the joint ADR conference.

After the preliminary conferences the joint ADR conference may be held. This is an opportunity for the participants, with the assistance of the ADR practitioner, to identify the issues for resolution, develop options, consider alternatives and work towards an agreement which is in the best interests of the child or vulnerable adult involved.

To learn more, click on the link below:

<https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/adr/>





### From the Family Engagement Officer...

Well, that's about it for this edition of Parent News.

It's been a busy start of the term with plenty of new initiatives and exciting projects happening around the diocese that can benefit our children, young people and families.

Make sure you take advantage of the opportunities CatholicCare are offering if you're in need in the Manning area and look out for the Beyond the Gate project too.

The Virtual Art Gallery will warm your heart too so take time to check this out as well.

I would also be so very grateful if you could take some time to complete the **Federation of P&F Associations survey**. It will only take 3 minutes – I promise – and will really help to shape the work of Federation moving forward.

Finally, as we get busy with Term 3 – I want to offer my very best wishes and prayers for all students and their families who are preparing for HSC exams.

It has certainly been a year unlike any other!

If you would like to make contact, don't hesitate to call or email – my details are listed below.

With my very best wishes for the term ahead.

*Cath*

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