



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

"Educating for Life Since 1912"



Term 1 Issue 7

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Families,

We are seeing unprecedented days at the moment - this global pandemic is causing great concern and panic and understandably people are worried. We are seeing panic buying in the shops to the point where our supermarkets have to have dedicated times for the elderly. It is a bit of a sad reflection of society when we can be so giving and understanding with the bushfires earlier in the year, but so short-sighted and panicked when it comes to issues that may effect us personally. Don't get me wrong, I understand people doing it - with four children at home myself, our cupboards are pretty bare and I don't know when the best time to shop is either, I don't know when my cupboards will be filled again! The panic and the fear sets in when we are constantly watching the news, constantly updating our news feeds, constantly updating our social media pages to read about the latest - it really does make for a nervous society.

I guess what I'm really saying is that we are all in the same boat. We don't know what is going to happen in the short term or the long term. We do know that we are in for a long period of time with no real answers which makes us uncomfortable, and dealing with discomfort is not something that people do particularly well. Given that we are in the Season of Lent which is a time of waiting...of reflecting, I am going to do my best to remain as calm as possible and not give in to the fear of not having all of the answers. When I am at the shops, I will do my best to remain calm. I will only buy what my family needs and hope that this can set a good example for those around me to do the same. It is not a time to judge others for the decisions they make in haste and out of fear. It is a time to be role models to our children...to talk calmly with them about what is going on in the world and to teach them that it is ok to not have all of the answers.

I was thinking about it this morning and I thought that there are a great deal of things that I don't actually do with my children that I really would like to, and it generally comes down to time, or lack thereof. With all of our sports and training sessions shut down, with all of our practices and rehearsals shut down, with all of the time we may soon have free on our hands...I am going to choose to make the most of it. We run the risk of delving deeper into screentime and further fracturing our family relationships if we are encouraged to socially isolate. One thing my kids DO NOT need is more screen time! I think I am going to choose to spend more time WITH my kids over the coming months, rather than running them here, there and everywhere while not actually being with them.

Time is a gift, and perhaps that can be the silver lining to this insidious cloud - we may all get the gift of time.

I think I'm going to encourage my kids to be outside in the garden, playing board games, being creative. I'm always trying to encourage my children to write stories and songs but never actually sitting down with them to do it...maybe now is the time.

My brothers and sisters...in this time of uncertainty, take care of each other. Look after each others' needs and be there for each other. Ask your neighbours, "Do you have what you need to get by?" Check on your elderly relatives and neighbours. Make sure they aren't missing out or going without the basics. But most of all...don't give in to fear and panic. Enjoy any time you may get with your family and make the most of our current situation. Hope you have a peaceful and health-filled week,

Terry

Mr Gardiner's Rib Ticklers...
What do you give a pig with an itch?
I don't know...what do you give a pig with an itch?
OINK-MENT!!!

February

Thurs 19th 8.30 - 10am

Uniform Shop open

Fri 20th

Harmony Day Postponed

School will begin at normal time

Mon 23rd 9 - 11am

Playgroup in the

Auditorium

Thurs 26th

Last Day for Term 1

School finishes at 1.30pm

Fri 27th

Staff Learning Day School Closed



Third Week of Lent

Project Compassion, Week 3, brings you the story of Barry, a Gamilaroi man originally from western NSW. Barry is a father of four and he embodies resilience and strength. Growing up in a tough environment, he had to look inside himself to make the right choices for himself and his family.

Barry, and others like him, were able to take part in a cultural healing program called Red Dust Healing. This program encourages participants to examine their own personal hurt and allows them to heal from within, addressing family and personal relationships and what may have been life-long patterns of violence, abuse and neglect.

Your support of Project compassion can help build a brighter future for people like Barry through the Red Dust Healing program.

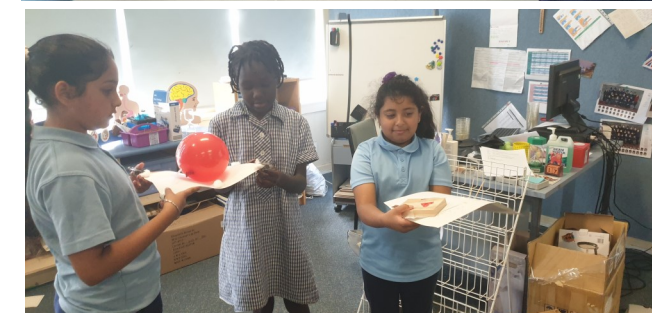
Let's Go Further, Together! lent.caritas.org.au



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Fun in Science

The 3/4's have engaged in a lot learning and discovery in science this term. We predicted what would happen during a crystal experiment, created models to represent the rules of the science classroom and are currently creating our own games based around scientific themes.



In 3/4 SP, 9 children made their Sacrament of **Reconciliation** last weekend.



Nyayeah - Making my first Reconciliation was very interesting because after I told Father my sins, it made all my feelings, my anger go away. I felt happy afterwards.

Aliyana - I enjoyed Reconciliation because I got to tell Father my sins. I felt excited because it was a special day.

Joshua - Reconciliation means telling your sins and receiving forgiveness from God. It made me feel calm, happy, proud and confident.

Lavenia - Reconciliation means we are telling God the bad things we have done and then we are going to have a new life. I felt scared at first but then I felt happy.

Gloria - Reconciliation means you tell Father your sins and then you are forgiven. I felt nervous and excited. I was nervous because I wasn't sure if I was going to say the right thing. I was excited because it was my first Reconciliation.

Kasali - Reconciliation means God is forgiving you. It means you are coming out of the Church fresh. You are peaceful. It depends on your sins but I felt fresh a couple of days later because I was still feeling the forgiveness coming through. I felt fabulous.

Jada - Reconciliation means talking about sins. Father says prayers and God forgives you. I felt happy and proud.



St John's

REGIONAL COLLEGE



Open Morning 2020

Open tours running from 9.15am until 10.30am
take part in student- led tours, see the college in action and view
our 2020 Masterplan of new facilities including a Sports Precinct!

Thursday 19 March 9.15am

Thursday 14 May 9.15am

Thursday 25 June 6pm

visit www.trybooking.com/BALBU to book tickets

Transforming students from learners to leaders

Located at 5-11 Caroline Street, Dandenong
for further information please visit www.sjrc.vic.edu.au or call 8793 2000

Do you want to be a ninja warrior?

Come and learn Launchpad Gymnastics. It is an exciting combination of gymnastics, obstacle training and freestyle movement.

Sporting Schools programs are provided **FREE** to children and their families.

Starts **Mon 20th April** and then every Monday for Term 2

Where: **Auditorium**

Time: **3.30 - 4.30pm**

Birthdays

17th Irene

18th Eldin



Fees

Term 1 fees were due on 13th March unless you are paying by direct debit.

School Contacts

Principal: **Mr Terry Gardiner** Deputy Principal: **Mr Bryan Handasyde**

Family Engagement Leader: **Mrs Yvette Silva**

School Secretaries: **Ms Sandra Higginbotham, Ms Jane Merchant**

School Office Hours: **8.30am - 4.15pm**

Phone: **9791-7650**

Email: principal@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au Website: www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest: **Fr Brendan Lane**

Parish Office: **9791 4611**

Pastoral Associate: **Kathy Gottliebsen**