

Term 2 Issue 8

Tuesday 9th June 2020

Dear Families,

In what can only be explained as a truly extraordinary time for our whole planet, in a time where we have dealt with so many unknown and so many unusual questions...one thing we can be absolutely sure of here at St Mary's Primary School in Dandenong is that we have missed having your kids here at school with us! If you watched any of the videos coming out of the Office, you will have noticed that a recurring theme was how empty and awful schools are without kids. So, as you'll see in this Newsletter, we are happy to have the school filled again!

A Few Changes Brought About by Lockdown...

Lock down brought with it it's challenges, and there were some things that we found really challenging! As I said in one of the videos, what made it easier for us as a School Community was the extraordinary way in which we are all connected together through our work with Family Engagement - something of which we are very proud! Our capacity to communicate with you through Class Dojos has proven to be a major success, so we will use this more often. That being said...

Online Newsletter

Due to the fact that our Communication through class dojo was so successful, we are looking to go completely online for our Newsletter. We do this for a number of reasons, but the major one is consideration of the environment. As a school, we are particularly paper heavy, and of course this means that we have an impact on the environment. With almost 200 copies of a four page Newsletter every week, we can make a difference to our paper purchasing and reduce our carbon-footprint by using the photocopier less. Hopefully this will be a small but important difference to our environmental sustainability. That means we will be sending the Newsletter through on Class Dojo and also uploading it to our School Website.

Drop Off and Pick Up

For the foreseeable future, we aren't allowed to have parents gathering on school grounds, and that is why we have altered our drop off and pick up routines. They have run really smoothly so far and have proven to be a good way to say a quick hello to each family everyday, which is really nice. Hopefully the staggered pick up of A-J at 3:10pm and K-Z at 3:20pm is enough to make the pick up smooth as well. If not, we will have to go back to the drawing board! We thank you in advance for your patience with this process.

Looking to the Future...

Because so much of the remote online learning was successful, we are looking to see how we can incorporate that into our everyday practices. There were elements of remote learning that we will hopefully be able to use to improve what we are doing and make contemporary teaching a better practice for both our teachers and our learners. This will no doubt feature in a few surveys as we move forward!

And Finally - A simple but HUUUUUUUGE THANK YOU!

For all you have done for your children during this time of lockdown. Whatever they have missed academically, we will work our hardest to catch them up. Its time to just get back to feeling good about the world around us and being with friends again. Hope you have a peaceful and health-filled week as we return to some sense of normalcy. God Bless,

Terry

Mr Gardiner's Rib Ticklers...

Mr Gardiner: You know what Mrs Walsh and Mr Handasyde? Mr Handasyde: No, I don't know what...you'll have to tell us... Mrs Walsh: Yeah, go on Mr Gardiner...tell us... Mr Gardiner: No Joke...its just good to be back!



Welcome back to all our students and families!









Lessons we have learned from remote learning:

We have the most supportive families in the community

Our students and staff have become technology wizards

Our students are resilient, creative learners and self-managers

Our staff are the most dedicated and committed to their teaching

We have all witnessed such resourcefulness, compassion and kindness

Our community had strengthened knowing that we are all in this together

Even though we enjoyed seeing the students on Google Meets,

NOTHING is better than seeing our students in person!





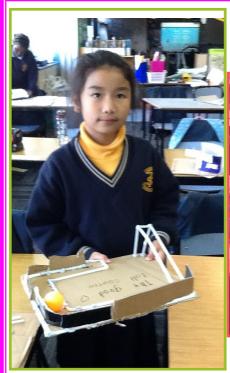


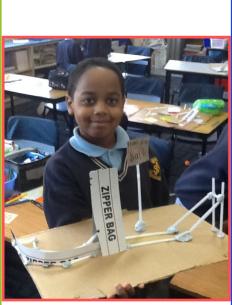


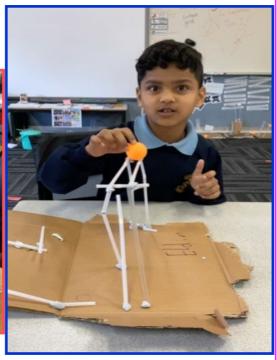








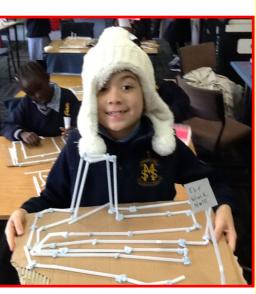




Year Two's Dream About Having Fun

In our inquiry unit this term the Year Two's have been focussing on the design process, that is- planning to make something, creating it and evaluating the finished product. As we all have been doing things differently, the children both remotely and at school, designed a roller coaster that they would love to go on. They created some very interesting and scary ones!







June

Thurs 11th 8.30am - 10am

Uniform Shop open.
You can also print the form from the website and your order will be filled and sent home with your child on Thursday.

Mon 15th 9am - 11am

Playgroup

Wed 17th 7.30pm
Parish Council Meeting

Thurs 18th 8.30am - 10am

Uniform Shop open

Thurs 18th 9am - 10.30am St John's virtual tour

Thurs 25th

Last Day for Term 1 School finishes at 1.30pm

Fri 26th

Staff Planning Day School Closed

July

Mon 13th @ 8.45am Term 2 begins

Uniform Shop News

You will soon be able to order and pay online and we will send your purchases home with your child.

We will let you know when it is up and running.

Birthdays - Over the next week

9th Nadeen

11th Sukhmani

13th Devindi

14th Lucas

15th Shania



Enrolments 2021

If you, or someone you know, has a child turning 5 by 30th April 2021, they may be eligible for enrolment into Prep next year at St Mary's. Please give us a call or come in to the Office.

Fees

All fees are due by 4th September. You can pay by Credit Card by completing the details on the bottom of your statement and returning it to school.

If you would like to pay by Direct Debit please call the office for a form.

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