

Semper Fidelis



Issue 4 March 20 2020
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We acknowledge and pay respect to the peoples of the Yorta Yorta Nation, including the eight clan groups, as the traditional and ongoing custodians of the land on which we gather today and we recognise that it continues to be sacred to them. We Hail them:

As guardians of the earth and of all things that grow and breed in the soil;

As trustees of the waters – the seas, the streams and rivers, the ponds and the lakes and the rich variety of life in those waters.

Commitment to Child Safety

Sacred Heart College Yarrowonga is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all students at the College. As a Catholic school, we are entrusted with the holistic education of the child, in partnership with parents, guardians and caregivers who are the primary educators of their children. Sacred Heart College will implement the Child Safe Standards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students at the College and promote an organisational culture that manages the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Child Safe Standards

All schools in Australia are mandated to comply with the eight Child Safe Standards. The standards are in place to keep your children safe. In order for us at Sacred Heart College to comply, it is imperative that we know who is on site between 8.30am and 3:30pm, the reason for their visit and how long they will be on site for. As such, any visitor to our school (including parents, volunteers and trades people), must enter via the front Administration Office and cannot simply enter any of the learning areas before doing so. Please do not be offended if a staff member asks you the reason for your visit or if you have signed in. This is for the safety of all children. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact the College.

Catholic Identity

Prayer for our Time

Loving and healing God, we the community of Sacred Heart College, turn to you in prayer, confident that you are with us and all people in every moment. We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety in our hearts.

Generous God, fill us with your compassion and concern for others, young and old, that we may look after each other in the challenging days ahead. Bring healing to those who are sick and bring comfort and care to their families and friends. Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick and all who work in the health sector.

Give wisdom to leaders that they make the right decisions for the well being of all people.

We pray with gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all.

Project Compassion Lenten Prayer

God of all peoples and nations, As you accompany us on our Lenten journey, may our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity, our almsgiving be an act of justice, and our prayers anchor us in love and compassion. Awaken our hearts and minds that we may be one human family as we all go further together.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

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

From the Principal

Challenging Times

I thank parents and families for their support during these challenging and uncertain times. The College has been proactive in taking measures that are in the best interests of the health and safety of our students and staff. The College is receiving daily briefings from the State's Chief Medical Officers and will inform parents if the situation changes. Please find below the most recent communication to parents.

Our first priority at Sacred Heart College is the health and safety of our school community. With this in mind, the College is initiating measures to be proactive in attempting to minimize the chance of any member contracting COVID-19. From today, and at least the remainder of the term, the following constraints will be in place:

- The Parent Teacher Interviews scheduled for this week, Monday March 16th and Thursday March 19th, have been postponed to a date to be confirmed. The most recent feedback on your children's assessment is available on the SIMON Everywhere App. Parents are invited to contact the College to organise a suitable time to have a phone conversation with your child's teachers.
- All offsite activities, including interschool sport and excursions, have been cancelled.

We are being provided the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the Covid-19 outbreak.

Any incidents that arise will be addressed in accordance with our Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan. We will also have access to resources and support from Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Health and Human Services.

I am aware of concerns about the disruption to teaching, especially among families of students in Year 12. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which is responsible for the VCE, is aware of the situation and has advised that it will work with schools to ensure continuity of learning for all students.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Exercise good judgement by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

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 at <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>.

This is an evolving situation, but we will keep you updated as things change. Please ensure you have downloaded the SIMON Everywhere App, as this will be our primary method of communication. Thank you for your support as we work to keep our students safe.

Yours sincerely,
Lew Nagle

Governance

During 2020, the Sandhurst Diocese will be moving to a new model of governance which is being developed during the year. This process will involve consulting with all stakeholders during the year. Please find the information flyer outlining this process attached to this edition of the newsletter.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Year 11 student Baxter Droop who has been selected in the Victorian Schoolboy's Golf team and also the Golf Victoria Junior State Team. This is a great achievement for Baxter who continues to go from strength to strength in the sport of golf.

Year 8 Camp

Last week our Year 8 students and staff participated in a three day camp involving bike riding, abseiling and bushwalking. Thanks to Ms.Caitlin McNamara for her excellent organisation and for the great team of staff who made this camp possible. The students were fortunate to take in part of the Katy Perry concert from a distance and a large number of students slept outdoors in swags which added to this great experience.



Parents & Friends AGM

The Sacred Heart Parents & Friends Association held their Annual General Meeting at Club Mulwala on Monday night. President, Jill Mullaly, outlined another very successful year in her annual report. The P&F also agreed to a \$20,000 distribution to both schools to assist with the completion of identified projects. A Powerpoint presentation was played at the meeting illustrating the many wonderful projects that the P&F have made possible through their excellent work over many years.

Wellbeing

INSPIRATION Sadio Mane, the Liverpool soccer star from Senegal (earning approximately 10.2 million dollars annually), has given the world a lesson in modesty after some fans spotted him carrying a cracked Iphone. This was his response: "Why would I want ten Ferraris, 20 diamond watches and two jet planes? What would that do for the world? I starved, I worked in the fields, I played barefoot, and I didn't go to school. Now I can help people. I prefer to build schools and give poor people food or clothing. I have built schools [and] a stadium; we provide clothes, shoes, and food for people in extreme poverty. In addition, I give 70 euros per month to all people from a very poor Senegalese region in order to contribute to their family economy. I do not need to display luxury cars, luxury homes, trips, and even planes. I prefer that my people receive a little of what life has given me."

During this time of Lent, maybe we could all manage to show a little bit more care and concern for others. In the words of Mercy, "Don't let a need go by without doing something about it".

Please find attached a link to the website of beyond blue which may assist parents dealing with their children in relation to concerns regarding the coronavirus outbreak.

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Marg McKay

Hygiene and Social Distancing

Students are reminded to ensure they are following the elevated hygiene and social distancing measures that have been in place to help keep our community safe.

In particular ensure that you are:

- Washing your hands regularly and thoroughly (at least 20 seconds)
- Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow
- Use and dispose of tissues appropriately
- Maintain a distance of at least 1.5m from each other

Above all, if you are feeling unwell please stay at home.

Your teachers will remind you each day regarding these measures which are in place to help keep our community as safe as possible.

Sport

Congratulations to ND Cole who recently competed in the Paddle Victoria School Championships, held on the 15th of March, at Nagambie. ND competed under the Yarrawonga Mulwala and Districts School banner, organised by coach Tim Roadley. ND competed in four events, the first being the TK2 Marathon, next, the TK1 Marathon. ND was fantastic completing the event in 24:16.8 with the next competitor coming in at 25:00.7. After a short break the Sprint events began. First off were ND in the TK2 where they managed to be piped at the line, coming in a respectable 3rd. Then the individual sprints which ND won convincingly by multiple boat lengths. Well done ND!

Paddle Victoria

On Friday 6th of March, Year 7 and 8 students were treated to a paddling session facilitated by Paddle Victoria.

The students developed skills and water safety awareness during these sessions, while also having a ball participating in a range of initiative games and activities.

Thank you to Paddle Victoria for this opportunity, and for the students' participation and enthusiasm.

Cameron Sudholz
Sports Coordinator

Yr 10 Stem Sustainable Housing

Sacred Heart College Science Department has just received eight Sustainable Housing kits.

This exciting addition to the Stem program was made possible through the donation of a class set of STELR Sustainable Housing equipment by the Percy Baxter Foundation. We were fortunate to receive one of the eight statewide kits valued at \$4000. These kits will be utilised in Year 10 Stem classes to scientifically investigate housing construction and the efficiency of materials used. Each kit contains housing frames, blue tooth heat sensors and a variety of construction materials used in the heating and insulation of housing. This program not only utilises 21st century technology, but provides real world applications in the construction industry.

Michael Falkiner

Science Domain Leader

Courage to Care

On Friday 13th March, all of our Year 10 students travelled to Wodonga to take part in the Courage to Care exhibition. It was a moving exhibition that focussed on The Holocaust, and used an exploration of how the Holocaust developed to challenge people to be upstanders, not bystanders, when people are being discriminated against.

Students heard from a man whose parents survived the Holocaust in Poland and their amazing escape story, and then were lead around the exhibition by volunteers who told them inspirational stories about people who stood up for their beliefs and challenged the Nazis. They spoke in small groups about the challenges they face and see in the world around them, and how they can stand up for others.

It was a wonderful day, and we would like to thank the Courage to Care foundation for their important work.

Tess Macrae



Term Dates

Term 1 ends on Friday 27th March

Term 2 begins on Tuesday 14th April

Daylight Savings ends on Sunday 5th April



Paddle Victoria Schools Championships



Paddle Victoria, Year 7 and 8 day held at the Yarrowonga Pool





20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The rapid evolution of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak continues to be a challenge for everyone in education. I am aware that it has caused concerns for parents, staff and students.

Because the health and safety of our school communities is our highest priority, the school's decision to stay open is based on advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers. At the present time the advice from Dr Brett Sutton, Victorian Chief Health Officer, is that 'pre-emptive school closures are not likely to be proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time'.

We continue to actively monitor developments and are working closely with Catholic Education Sandhurst. The Diocese and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria are partnering with the Victorian Department of Education and Training and Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to ensure our practices reflect current advice and support the needs of our school community.

In the event of a school closure Sacred Heart College is well placed to provide online learning for our students. We are currently surveying students to identify any limitations or challenges with home connectivity to the internet and will have contingencies such as hardcopies of learning guides should they be required.

Understandably, the current environment can lead to heightened levels of anxiety amongst our children. As parents and care givers, it is important for us to reassure our children, dispel any myths or untruths, and help them feel informed, allowing them to focus more on positive messages. The following websites may be helpful resources for families during these challenging times:

[BeyondBlue - looking after your mental health during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

[Headspace - How to cope with stress related to Novel Coronavirus](#)

We appreciate families continuing to emphasise and model good hand and respiratory hygiene including:

- Washing hands frequently with soap and water
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover coughs and sneezes in the crook of your elbow and dispose of tissues appropriately
- Avoid contact with others (more than 1.5m).

Yours sincerely,

Lew Nagle
Principal

Governance *update*

for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Sandhurst



School Governance
Working Party
Diocese of Sandhurst

BULLETIN ONE

MONDAY 2 MARCH 2020

Welcome to the first of a series of Governance Bulletins that will be circulated to you from the School Governance Working Party throughout 2020. As you are aware, Bishop Shane Mackinlay established a working party in December last year to advise him on the most appropriate model of *'Incorporated School Governance'* to suit the unique needs and aspirations of the Diocese of Sandhurst.

Progress to Date:

The Working Party has now conducted three formal meetings since it was commissioned. In this first phase of operations the focus has been primarily upon the investigation and discernment of the most appropriate new governance model for Catholic schools across the diocese. To this end the Working Party has:

- i. Developed a project plan and implementation timeline to guide the project;
- ii. Initiated a process that will identify the major *'Guiding Principles'* that should underpin *'Good Governance'* within the context of a Catholic community;
- iii. Researched nine different models of incorporation that have been implemented in other diocesan and Catholic education systems;
- iv. Initiated productive discussions with relevant agencies and advisers in the areas of industrial relations, legislative requirements and legal and canonical requirements which will remain an ongoing focus through Phases 2 and 3 of the process in the second half of this year.

Listening Assemblies:

The first of the Listening Assembly consultations for priests, principals and school board representatives will be held on March 17 and 18 in Shepparton. These will focus on five key objectives:

- i. Understanding the rationale as to **why** incorporation is occurring in our schools and how, if done well, it can be of great strategic benefit to our children's education into the future;
- ii. Recognising valuable dimensions of our current governance processes at the local parish level that should be captured and inform future models of governance;
- iii. Discerning the key *'Guiding Principles'* with respect to governance structures and processes that should underpin the decision-making process for a new model of Governance;
- iv. Identifying some of the major priorities and challenges facing Catholic education in the diocese in the coming decade and beyond; and
- v. Briefing participants on the further stages of the Working Party's project plan.

Where to Next:

Following the first round of Listening Assemblies a further Bulletin will be circulated providing a summary of the key understandings that have arisen from this consultation. The Working Party will subsequently begin investigating and developing potential incorporation models for the diocese, with a view to proposing a possible incorporated model that will be critiqued by our key stakeholders at the second series of Listening Assemblies on the 26th and 27th May.

As the consultation process unfolds any comments or questions you wish to direct to the Working Party can be made by utilising the dedicated School Governance Working Party email address: sgwp@ceosand.catholic.edu.au