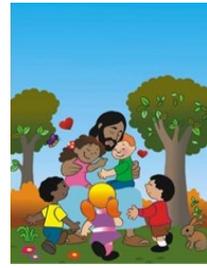




ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

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Sinite
Parvulos
Let the
Little
Children

Principal's Notes

Learning and Engagement from Home

This week has been a week like no other in our vocation as educators. A school without students, a school that has been quiet and a school without play. On the flip side, we have had a week where staff and students have problem solved, been creative, been engaged, developed individual technology skills, and continued to foster a positive relationship and partnership between school and home.

All parents and carer are doing an amazing job of adjusting to the different mode of educating and learning. All staff are adjusting to the different mode of delivering education. All students are adjusting to the different mode of learning. We are all in this together and we welcome the opportunity to walk alongside each of you, learning with you and from you.

If you are having any problems accessing SeeSaw, Class Dojo or Teams, please contact your child's teacher and they will be able to provide the required support through an email or over the phone.

Week Ten

Next week, the staff of St John's School will be involved in four days of professional development. The majority of this learning will centre on revising our experiences of Week Nine, what worked well, what we need to refine and what we need to completely revise. During this week, learning will not be provided to you as it has been this week. It is a week to cook, garden, play board games, play in the backyard, work on arts and crafts, read or simply just be a kid. As always, we will continue to keep families up to date with how education will be delivered to the students at St John's School once the holidays are completed.

Thank You, St John's School Staff

I cannot truly express the thanks that I have for the Staff of St John's School. The staff did not choose education to facilitate learning from a device. Their calling was answered to enact their desire to help children belong, become and be a child modelled in the image and likeness of God. All staff members have risen to the challenge, working to provide the best education, the best pastoral care, the best sense of community and the best opportunities for faith development in a classroom that goes beyond the walls of St John's School. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything.

P&F Easter Raffle

The winners will be drawn tomorrow and contacted. Results, where possible, will be posted on the St John's School Facebook page.

Good News Story

This week, the shout out goes to the staff of St John's School who, in the middle of delivering a positive and enriching learning experience for the students of St John's School, are collecting donations of food for Foodbank. Thank you for your selfless giving to those in need.

Holy Week

Next week is Holy Week, commencing with Palm Sunday this Sunday. Holy Week is a very sacred time in the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church. We commemorate and remember the last week of Jesus' life on earth. Whilst our churches may be closed, I encourage you to reflect on the time of Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem, his last meal with his disciples, his arrest, his dying on the cross and his resurrection. May we always remember the great sacrifice Jesus made for us.

In the midst of life challenges, may we find the joy in the way we respond.

Melissa Marquis
Principal



Term 1 Week 9
2nd April 2020

Dates to Remember

FRIDAY 3rd April

**Easter Raffle Draw
Winners notified by phone**

**MONDAY 6th -
THURSDAY 9th APRIL**

**Professional Development
Days - Staff**

FRIDAY 10th April

**PUBLIC HOLIDAY
GOOD FRIDAY**

SUNDAY 12th April

EASTER SUNDAY



Religious Education News

Temporary Suspension of the Public Celebration of the Mass & Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

All public Masses and Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at all churches and chapels across the Diocese of Geraldton will be suspended. This temporary suspension of public Masses within the Diocese of Geraldton is in place for an indefinite period. Subsequent revisions and advice will be given in relation to this temporary suspension.

Project Compassion - Caritas Australia - Go Further Together

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Every week, through the season of Lent, I will highlight a Lenten story. These stories will hopefully put a face to who receives some of the donations. This week we hear the story of Dominic:

Dominic, 47 is a father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with Caritas Australia's partner, Centre of Hope, who runs safe house and family anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around.

Now a community trainer, he works with other men to help them to change their behaviour and build more harmonious family lives.

Domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and limited employment opportunities mean that many in PNG struggle to meet their basic family needs. Forty percent of its population lives below the poverty line.

In 2016, Caritas Australia and its PNG partner, Centre of Hope, invited Dominic to join its Safe House program. It provides Gender-Based-Violence prevention training, counselling services and safe accommodation for women and children survivors of violence. It also provides support for income-generating projects and life skills for young people.

"After entering the Caritas program, I have actually changed some of my bad attitudes. It has really opened my mind and heart to see where my weaknesses are and I'm trying to improve," Dominic says.

Please help support the Safe House project and help bring greater harmony to families in Papua New Guinea. A brighter future for men, women and their families can start today. Let's Go Further, Together.



Brett Love - Assistant Principal Religious Education

Administration News

Student Support

Being out of school for what is currently an undetermined amount of time, is understandably difficult for our students to understand. Here is a list of steps to help manage this difficult period and to help alleviate the isolation:

- Friendships are key to maintaining resilience for children, so help them to maintain these relationships through phone calls, online communication, and writing letters.
- Having a routine and structure helps children to feel secure in uncertain times.
- Restrict access to rolling news coverage.
- Play is fundamental to the wellbeing and development of children of all ages, and a great way to reduce stress in adults.

Remember that increased stress and anxiety is a normal response when faced with unpredictable and uncertain circumstances. Validate your child/ren's concerns but also try to keep a positive outlook for the future ahead.

Feedback

As teachers come towards the end of their first week of delivering learning to students in a completely new format, we would like to encourage parents to provide respectful and constructive feedback to their child/ren's classroom teachers. Please let us know what worked well for your family and where you feel the delivery of learning could be changed or improved. This has been an incredible learning curve for teachers, students and parents alike and, in partnership, we can ensure that we are meeting each students' needs in the best possible way.

Contact Details

If you have not yet had contact either through SeeSaw, Dojo, Teams or email from your child/ren's classroom teacher, can you please contact the School Office to update your details or to get support on how to access these platforms. This will ensure that teachers are able to communicate to you about your child/ren's learning as we enact our Educational Delivery Plan.

Headspace Geraldton

Headspace Geraldton would like to confirm that they are continuing their service delivery. Any young person or parent/carer can be directed to their phone number (9943 8111) with no referral necessary. A doorbell service can also be accessed for 'walk-ins'. Please take a look at the Headspace Geraldton Facebook page for ideas that will be posted of activities that families can do at home during the school holidays.

Emma Pollard - Assistant Principal Administration