

# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

**NEWSLETTER Term 1 Week 11 6– 9 April 2020**

## ACTING PRINCIPAL—Miss Kirsty Thorpe

As we have finished off the term for students, I wanted to send out a final newsletter for Term 1. We had a break in our newsletters as our daily Compass communications were more important for parents to keep track of. I wanted to take this opportunity to once again say a few words of thanks and to wish you all a very Happy, Holy and Healthy Easter.

***Please note: Students first day of Term 2 is Tuesday 28th April***

### THANK YOU!

I must first acknowledge the staff at Our Lady of Dolours. I can not find the words to express my gratitude, appreciation and sense of awe I have in them. Over the past few weeks they have shown such a passion for their vocation; talents that we never knew we had; and a sense of risk taking, perseverance, creativity and collaboration that has seen us become established as a Home Based Learning school within a week.

I wish to thank the parents and carers at OLD who have given us the space and time to redesign what teaching looks like and to plan how we can evolve and innovate in the future. Thank you for your patience when there were technical difficulties, when mistakes were made, when new learning was occurring for your classroom teacher, for me as a leader and the school as a whole. Thank you for giving us and your children the space to have a transition period to Home Based Learning, without the pressure to have to excel in a time of drastic change, upheaval and stress - when our bodies and minds need rest, fun and love. Thank you also, for the ongoing support you have shown myself and the teachers through your encouragement, kind words and your positive feedback.

And I MUST thank our students. Throughout the past few weeks we have really seen your resilience, your adaptability and flexibility, your willingness to give anything a go and teach each other. We are so proud of each and everyone of you. We thank you for brightening up our days when we see you on Zoom. Now more than ever, we realise how precious our job as a teacher is and how much our students are embedded in our lives and our hearts. We miss you all terribly but we look forward to seeing you online after the holidays.

## COMING EVENTS

APRIL

***Mon 27 Staff Development Day  
Pupil Free Day***

***Tues 28 Students return for Term2***

***KEEP CHECKING THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE  
UNDER 'CALENDAR - FOR POSSIBLE  
CHANGES TO DATES***

***[www.olddb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olddb.catholic.edu.au)***

***Our Lady of Dolours***

## ACTING PRINCIPAL—Miss Kirsty Thorpe

### Home Based Learning

The teachers have spent three days this week and will spend Monday 27th April planning for what **Home Based Learning** will look like in Term 2. As we don't know what is happening in the future, we are planning for a continuation, yet improvement of and evolution of, what HBL has looked like in the past week.

On **Monday 27th April (Pupil Free Day)**, we will be sending out information to parents about weekly and daily schedules for classes. Timetables of what subjects should be covered at home each day and when live lessons (at this point in time on Zoom) will be held. At the end of two weeks we will gather feedback from parents, students and teachers and reassess and evaluate what is working and what needs tweaking. HBL will continue to change and be innovated throughout the time we are in isolation to make it the best learning experience for our students.

At this point in time we have a school plan for the first two weeks:

- Every class will start the term with a compulsory Zoom session in the morning and an optional zoom in the afternoon for question time or to show the teacher their work (times will be communicated on Monday 27th April)
- Five compulsory tasks will be put up each day - Reading, Writing, Maths, Religion and one more subject each day. These will be a balance of offline and online tasks and will vary in length (eg 15 minute tasks for infants to 45 minute tasks for older grades)
- We will be having Wellbeing Wednesday (which will continue to grow and development but this is the idea at the moment): English and Maths lessons will occur as scheduled but we will also endeavour to have a school assembly on zoom (starting Week 2 - with virtual awards and maybe a dress up theme...funny hat / hair / funky socks etc), we will have PBL and wellbeing groups/lessons (Positive Behaviour for Learning), it may also be the day where buddies have time together, guest speakers come to Zoom or art or sport lessons may occur.
- Premier's Reading Challenge will be continuing and more information will be sent to parents soon.

Our primary classes (Year 3-6) will also be starting their weekly **Coding** lessons with Code4fun the very first week back at school. This timetable will also be communicated to families, so all children can attend this session each week. Infants will have their coding lessons when physical schooling returns.

Please remember, teachers will not be accessing or replying to any messages (emails or on any online platforms) over the holidays as this is a really important time for the OLD staff to recuperate from what has been a very stressful and exhausting time for all.

I sincerely hope and pray you are able to stay safe and healthy over the holiday period; that you are able to remain hopeful and joyful in the spirit of Easter and the resurrection of Christ; that you are able to stay connected to family, friends and the school community; that you are able to use this time to rest, relax and have some fun.

I will communicate with families again closer to the start of Term 2 with any updates that have occurred over the holiday period.

Kind regards,

Kirsty Thorpe

Acting Principal