

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER Term 2 Week 4 – 18 May 2020

ACTING PRINCIPAL – Miss Kirsty Thorpe

As we prepare for our first full-time week of physically attending school since Week 7 in Term 1, we hope you are all reflecting and celebrating in the successes (and maybe just surviving) our first ever taste of Home Based Learning. The past two months have been such a **very** steep learning curve for our teachers, students and parents and even though there were hurdles and very hard times, we can now all look back on HBL and congratulate ourselves for getting through it - and in some cases thriving.

I sincerely thank you all for supporting your classroom teachers with the Home Based Learning, for your patience when there were technical difficulties and for supporting your children to continue to learn.

I also wish to thank you all for the support you have shown to me. I know it can't have been easy with the constant stream of new procedures and structures being put in place, staggered dismissal arrangements and new communication daily. I have endeavoured to remain transparent to you all and follow the guidelines set by medical professionals and the government to ensure everyone in the OLD community remains safe and healthy.

We don't know what is going to happen with COVID both in the wider world or our own school community, but I will continue to keep families informed when I receive any new information and if new guidelines are put in place.

I know that if we work together in close partnership, we will get through this and maintain a rich learning environment for all our students full of fun, laughter and love.

Welcome Mrs Carmel Healy:

I am very excited to be welcoming Carmel to our school in the position of Acting Assistant Principal for the remainder of Term 2. Carmel has previously been the principal at schools in the Broken Bay Diocese and has most recently been the principal at Sacred Heart Pymble for over 10 years before retiring in 2017. Since then, Carmel has been assisting schools by being the 'Casual Principal' when a school leader needs to take leave. Carmel will be working at OLD on Thursday and Friday until the end of Term 2.



COMING EVENTS

MAY

Every Wednesday School
Assembly via Zoom 8.50am

Monday 25 All students
return to school

Thursday 2 July Last day of
Term 2

Friday 3 July Staff
development day

Monday 20 July Students
return for Term 3

Important information / reminders for Week 5

- **Uniform reminder:** All children are to come to school on Monday wearing full winter uniforms (including their hat). Please see below for a message about sports uniform days and 2nd hand uniform stall.
- **What to bring to school next week:** All workbooks, pencil cases and school borrowed devices (and chargers) to be returned on Monday. Students must continue to use a drink bottle as bubblers are not in use.
- **Lost property:** Before you return to school next week, please ensure all clothing and equipment is labelled with your child's name (*especially hats, jumpers, drink bottles and ties*)
- **Sport uniform days:**
 - Tuesday: KB, 1B, 2B, 2G, 5/6B, 5/6G, 5/6P
 - Wednesday: KG, 1G, 3B, 3G, 4B, 4G
 - Friday: All grades
- **Library borrowing days:**
 - Monday: 5/6G
 - Tuesday: 4G
 - Wednesday: KB, KG, 1G
 - Thursday: 3G
 - Friday: 4B, 2B

If your class is not listed above your teacher will let you know which day library will be.
- **Special student celebration (Friday 29th May):** Next Friday we will have a little celebration to welcome all the children back to school. Every child will get a super-doooper ice-block after lunch and participate in a whole school virtual disco. Children can bring some fun things to add to their uniform for the disco (funky hats, feather bowers, glow sticks, fun ties, fun headbands etc)
- **Parent survey and feedback:** If you haven't had a chance to fill in this short survey about your child's learning through HBL here is the link. This information will really help the teachers ensure all the children have a successful return to school: <https://forms.gle/8nwoNwFsqr4QTt6s9>
- **Emergency orders available for 2nd hand winter uniforms:** As you would be aware parents and carers are currently unable to come onto the school grounds and as such our 2nd hand uniform stall is unable to operate as normal. In light of this if you have an emergency situation and are in need of a 2nd hand uniform if you could please email Michelle Stanley on 2michellestanley@gmail.com by 3pm Friday 22 May with items you are in need of. If these items are available the office will then contact you the week of Monday 25 May advising you of the amount owing for items, you will then pay via Qkr! and then once payment is received items will be sent home with your child. Please only order if it is an emergency and understand we will be unable to accept refunds or exchanges.
- **School assemblies; Wednesday morning 8.50am:** School assemblies will continue to be streamed virtually via Zoom each week as whole school gatherings are not permitted. We invite all parents to join us using the link: <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/97935728434>



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Dismissal times and locations until further notice

NB: Siblings will be dismissed with the youngest child in the family

Grade	Time	Location
Kindy	2.50pm	Front Office
Year 1	2.50pm	Kirk Street Gate
Year 2	3pm	Front office
Year 3	3pm	Kirk Street Gate
Year 4	3pm	Ferguson Lane Gate (near Pius)
Year 5/6	3pm	Stage 3 gate near church

If you would like your child to use Kirk street pick up at 3pm, walking line (leaving school at 3.05pm) or walk home by themselves, can you please email the school. If you have already emailed earlier in the year can you please do so again as things may have changed with COVID-19.

Fee Assistance and relief: I strongly encourage any family who needs financial assistance to visit our website and investigate how the Catholic Schools Office can assist you with fee relief:

<https://www.olddb.catholic.edu.au/>

Alternatively you can contact the Fee Liaison Unit (FLU) at the CSO directly:

FLU phone number 9847 0728

FLU email schoolfees@dbb.org.au

Or visit [Fee Relief during Covid-19](#) on the CSO website

Social media reminders: Throughout the period of Home Based Learning we know that students have been online for longer periods of time for their school work and this may have naturally led to an increase in the use of the internet and social media.

Most social media platforms (including Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, WhatsApp and Instagram) have an age restriction of 13 years, which have been set to protect the privacy of younger children. We have found that when students make mistakes with social media it is because they do not understand the serious implications sharing personal details (of themselves and others), photos and other information can have on their lives now and in the future.

As social media and the use of ICT is going to continue to change and develop as our children get older and move into high school, I believe it is really important to equip our children with the knowledge and skills to ensure they stay as safe as possible online now before they start to use social media platforms.

I strongly encourage every family to read through the safety commissioner website (<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>) as there is a multitude of useful resources for parents and children.

Staff Development Days / Pupil Free Days: The Term 2 staff Development Day scheduled for 9 June has been cancelled. Instead the Catholic Schools Office has scheduled one for 3 July, the last day of Term 2 for all Broken Bay Schools. The last day of Term 2 for students is Thursday 2 July.

Our new amazing learning space

Over the past few weeks we have been busy redesigning our library space which we will be renamed, so it encapsulates the flexible learning space that it now is. The students will be able to use this space with their class when they return next week. Thank you to my wonderful models!



Keeping Our School Safe!



Student hygiene practices



1. Use of non-contact greeting methods
2. Clean hands with soap when entering the school and regularly during the day

3. Do not share personal items (school supplies or toys brought in)

4. Games where students touch each other directly or indirectly (through a ball) will be discouraged.



5. Avoid touching your face and cover your coughs and sneezes - use hand sanitiser after sneezing or coughing.

6. Students will not mix with students in other grades - we will have staggered break times and dismissal times. There are also designated areas of the school for each grade during break time and dismissal times.

7. Students must use drink bottles that can be refilled rather than bubblers.

Whole school practices

1. A hygienist has been employed to be at the school during the day (additional to our regular cleaners) to:

- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, desks, chairs, and railings regularly.
- Clean highly touched surfaces in the toilets after each break time.



2. Increase ventilation in classrooms by opening doors and scheduling outdoor lessons throughout the day



3. There will not be whole school events until further notice (such as assemblies or sporting events) where students from different grades mix.

4. At this point in time the canteen & 2nd hand clothing stall remain closed.

Keeping our parents safe: We must still restrict parents entering the school grounds. Please adhere to social distancing measures at all times, as well as the dismissal arrangements. There are marks on the floor that we recommend you use for social distancing when picking up your children. Please follow the signs on our gates so we can keep everyone as safe as possible.

All students and teachers must stay at home if...



- they have symptoms of COVID-19, a cold or flu (students will be sent home if they exhibit any of these symptoms)
- they have a sick family member at home
- an additional sick bay has been created for students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19
- temperature checks will occur for any child exhibiting illness at school



Take care of your emotional and mental well-being

Outbreaks are a stressful and anxious time for everyone. We're here to support you! Reach out to old@dbb.catholic.edu.au if you need any support.

Please visit our website for information about financial support or fee relief.

We appreciate your support with these health and safety measures.

The Ascension of the Lord

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Jesus told his disciples:

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power.

Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world."

After Jesus had said this and while they were watching,

he was taken up into a cloud.

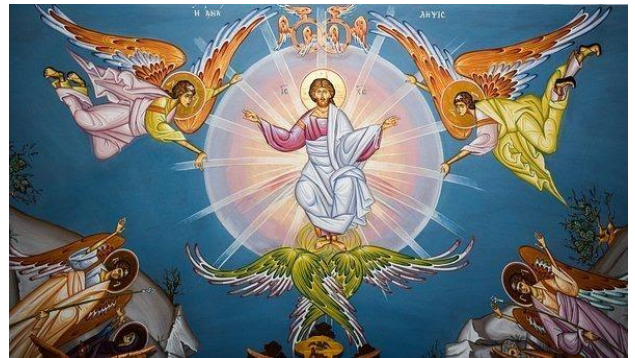
They could not see him, but as he went up, they kept looking up into the sky.

Suddenly two men dressed in white clothes were standing there beside them.

They said, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here and looking up into the sky?

Jesus has been taken to heaven.

But he will come back in the same way that you have seen him go."



On the 40th day of the Easter Season, Jesus' physical body ascended into Heaven. We call this day the **Ascension of the Lord**. On Thursday morning, our students celebrated this day with their class. We reflected that even though Jesus' physical body left earth, we know the **spirit of Jesus is still within us**. Jesus walks with us in our lives; he reminds us how to love our neighbour and walk humbly with God. In these challenging and ever-changing times, we are reminded that Jesus walks the way with us. We may not see him, but the spirit of the Lord is within all of us.

SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE - Invitation to all families



During these challenging times, many charities such as the **Jesuit Refugee Services** are very close to using up all of their financial reserves. On behalf of Our Lady of Dolours Parish, I am writing to ask for your support.

During this pandemic, there are three groups of people who are not eligible for government assistance for a number of reasons. These include people seeking asylum, international students and undocumented workers.

REC – Miss Camilla Brown

One Story - A Family in Mental Health Crisis

Mashar, Nadira and Jubra came to Australia late last year seeking asylum & protection. They contacted charity Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) soon after in severe financial hardship. They were four weeks behind on rent and on the cusp of becoming homeless.

After an assessment, JRS began supporting the family to pay their rent, but they were nonetheless evicted. Mashar found casual work in a factory earlier this year and the family informed the JRS that they no longer needed support. However, in March Mashar lost his job and the family contacted the JRS again. All three family members were hungry, exhausted and experiencing severe mental health issues. The family still do not have any source of income and are getting on by food bank handouts, emergency relief payments and off bits of money donated by neighbors. The family are currently facing an eviction notice that has not been withdrawn. As Asylum seekers, the family cannot access government assistance such as job seeker or Medicare support.

HOW TO HELP

HOUSEHOLD DONATIONS:

We invite our families to donate household items to the JRS.

We are very aware some of you are experiencing financial stress and you may not be able to contribute at this time. We completely understand! If you would like to contribute, please send in the item/s allocated to your child's class for collection. Teachers will have a place to store the items securely and will be sure to follow our hygiene procedures when handling these items.

KINDERGARTEN- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste

YEAR 1 - Deodorant (male & female)

YEAR 2 - Biscuits & Muesli bars

YEAR 3 - Shampoo

YEAR 4 - Basmati Rice & Oates/Cereal

YEAR 5/6 - Tinned tuna, tinned chickpeas & tinned kidney beans

You can also donate directly to the Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS). Phone JRS on 9356388 or go to www.jrs.org.au

\$40 feeds a single adult for one week

\$70 feeds one family for one week

\$350 can pay a week's rent

If you would like to further support the parish and JRS, please contact gail.gill@bb.catholic.edu.au or on 0417692887.

Thank you and God Bless!



positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

FREE WEBINAR RETURNING TO SCHOOL – COPING WITH CHANGE



Be part of an interactive hour where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents/carers, teachers and others who support individuals on the autism spectrum.

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, schools across the country are managing the return of students. For students on the autism spectrum, returning to a school environment that may look, feel and operate very differently, may present challenges and opportunities.

We invite you to join us as we will explore strategies to support young people on the spectrum who have returned or are returning to school.

There are three different session times to choose from.

Tuesday 26 May, 2020 –
7:30pm - 8.30pm AEST

Thursday 28 May, 2020 –
10:00am - 11.00am AEST

Thursday 28 May, 2020 –
7:30pm - 8.30pm AEST

All of our webinars are free and participants that attend receive a certificate following the completion of the webinar.



To register for this webinar and find upcoming ones, visit
positivepartnerships.com.au