

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER Term 2 Week 7 – 8 June 2020

ACTING PRINCIPAL – Miss Kirsty Thorpe

There have been many articles and educational blog posts written about the effect COVID may have had on student learning outcomes but the most interesting article I have read was written by Pasi Sahlberg. Pasi is a Finnish educational leader who works with the positive effects of play on academic development and he is currently working with NSW University to address equity in Australian schools. His article 'Five things not to do when schools reopen' was such an interesting take on the emotional and social needs of students. You can read the whole article with this link but I have also copied a few paragraphs that resonated with me greatly. <https://pasisahlberg.com/five-things-not-to-do-when-schools-re-open/>

Never before in the history have the schools of 1.5 billion children been unexpectedly closed at the same time. As this happened in April, most children continued learning from home using digital platforms or hardcopies provided by teachers, or by relying on their parents or grandparents to be guides and coaches. We don't know yet how these children experienced this disruption, but we do know that it has not been easy for many of them.

Physical separation from their teachers is one thing, but emotional distancing from friends and peers for weeks, and lockdown at home with parents, is quite another. Therefore, when children return to school, don't expect that they will be ready to continue learning where they left off when schools closed. While social distancing is the tool that helps 'flatten the curve,' moving forward students now need three new 'R's' at school: relationships, respect, and responsiveness. Only after that can a renewed 'learning curve' begin. We need to focus not on some generic 'post-pandemic student' but instead concern ourselves with the complexity and diversity of classrooms, while accepting that the pandemic hits the most vulnerable hardest.

Since February Covid-19 has left over 40 million Americans jobless, more than 100,000 people dead, and millions of children hurt in a country where a quarter of children lived in poverty prior to the pandemic. These children will not be ready to learn and thrive unless they feel physically and emotionally safe and protected at school. I agree with colleagues who have called for giving top priority to child and teacher wellbeing in schools before expecting that they will be able to return to business-as-usual in school learning.

COVID Tests Could I please ask every family to let me know if their child needs to have a test for Coronavirus and then the results of the test. This is important for our records in case anything happens in the future with COVID and NSW Health needs to trace close contacts. This information will remain confidential.

Reports

Teachers will be commenting and grading on what each student has demonstrated during face-to-face teaching. Our students were provided with amazing, high quality learning experiences from their teachers during HBL, and we know our students continued to learn during HBL. However, our assessments (which determine our future teaching plans, individual learning goals and our reporting grades) will be conducted during periods of face-to-face teaching.

Teachers use many forms of assessment to determine if a child is working towards, at or beyond the expected grade level. Some forms of assessment include: work samples from class tasks, formal assessments, 1:1 conferences or discussions and participation in class and group discussions. Therefore, to gain a deep understanding of where each child is at with their learning, teachers must use evidence from the classroom where they can interact with the child, ask probing questions and discuss concepts.

COMING EVENTS

JUNE

Every Wednesday School Assembly via Zoom 8.50am

JULY

Thursday 2 July Last day of Term 2

Friday 3 July Staff Development Day

Monday 20 July Students return for Term 3

Keep checking the school website under 'calendar' for possible changes to dates

old@dbb.catholic.edu.au



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Semester 1 Parent / Teacher meetings: These meetings will be offered by teachers in either Week 9 or 10 and will be conducted via a phone call or zoom video conference. On Monday next week, each class will receive information via Compass about how to book their Parent/Teacher meeting and the mode of communication for these meetings. If your classroom teacher is doing their meetings via zoom, you will receive a link closer to the meeting time.

These parent/teacher meetings will be used to set goals for Semester 2. We are excited to have parent input with these goals as you have worked with your children during HBL and have been able to observe work behaviours and academic skills, strengths and areas of improvement. More information about scheduling these interviews will be communicated next week to individual grades via Compass.

Fee Assistance and relief: I strongly encourage any family who requires financial assistance to visit our website and investigate how the Catholic Schools Office can assist you with fee relief: <https://www.olddbb.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

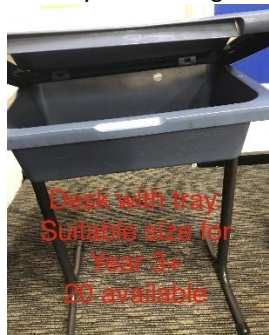
Welcome to OLD: Usually we are able to welcome our new students and their families via the school assembly but we have been unable to do so this term. So I would like to warmly welcome Blake (1B) and siblings Alexelle (KB) and Alexandria (5/6G) to our school. They have had a wonderful first week making new friends and meeting all the teachers. We are so happy they are now part of the OLD family.



Renaming our library space: The school captains are running a school wide competition to rename our library space (closing next Friday). We have redesigned our library space to become an innovative learning environment. So now we need a name to match this space. We want this to be a space that children can go to create, problem solve, imagine. What is a great name for this learning environment that encapsulates the possibilities of this space? There is a poster created by Genevieve and Frankie, our school captains, with all the information included at the end of this newsletter.

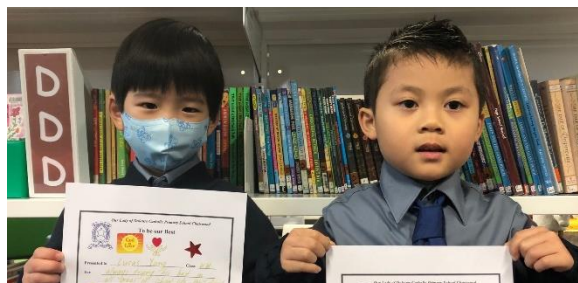
Archer street parking: Please be very aware of the parking signs along Archer street. Many parents have been parking in the bus zone that starts at 2.45pm. This will result in a fine being given or a dangerous situation being created.

School furniture available for parents and friends - free of charge If you would like any of the furniture below for your home or business, please email the school and we will arrange contact-free pick up. Please note some have already been picked up, so numbers may have changed. NB: the larger red chairs and the blue chairs are the right size for the desks.



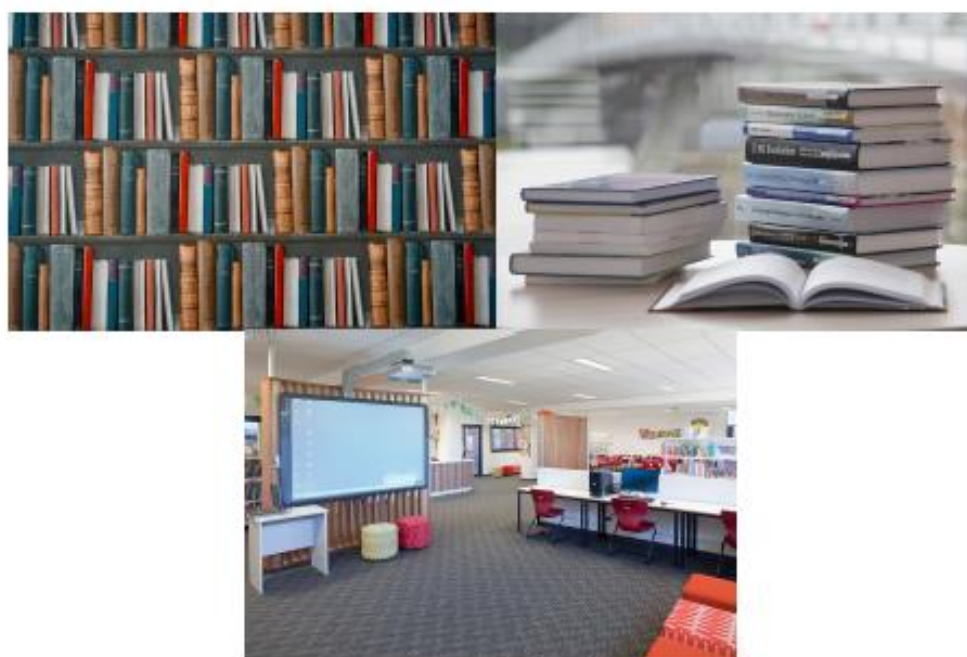
AWARD WINNERS

Week 6



RENAME THE SCHOOL LIBRARY COMPETITION

12TH OF JUNE - 19TH OF JUNE



WE HAVE REDESIGNED OUR LIBRARY SPACE,
NOW WE NEED A NAME TO MATCH THIS SPACE.
WE WANT THIS TO BE A SPACE THAT EVERYONE
CAN GO TO CREATE, PROBLEM SOLVE,
IMAGINE. WHAT IS A GREAT NAME FOR THIS
SPACE, WHAT CAN YOU CREATE?

TO ENTER JUST PLACE YOUR IDEA IN THE SILVER
BOX IN THE FOYER (FORMALLY THE P&F BOX) WITH
YOUR NAME AND CLASS ON IT, BY FRIDAY WEEK 8
(19TH JUNE).

WE HOPE TO ANNOUNCE THE NEW NAME BY
WEEK 9 !

GOOD LUCK AND GET CREATING

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS A GREAT NAME FOR THIS SPACE THAT ENCAPSULATES
THE POSSIBILITIES OF THIS SPACE?

THANKS!
FROM YOUR SCHOOL CAPTAINS
GENEVIEVE AND FRANKIE

COMMUNITY NEWS

Looking for a fun way to get your kids fit after COVID?

Then Chatswood Junior Rugby's GET INTO RUGBY! is for you!

\$50 for 5 one hour, non-contact, COVID-safe activity sessions

Join boys and girls in all age groups training strictly in compliance with COVID safety orders. Professionally facilitated, age-appropriate activity program run by Try Time Rugby – Trytime Rugby Camps

All new members receive a free Training T-shirt and a discounted membership if they choose to join for the competitions in Term 3.

Location:

Beauchamp Park, Chatswood

Dates:

2 program start dates on Wed/Fri 10th/12th June or Wed/Fri 17th/19th June (and then every Wednesday/Friday for 4 more weeks)

Ages:

Wednesday from 5pm for School years 4-6

Friday from 4pm for School years K-3

Register now:

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=630914&>

For more information: Call: Al Walker 0411 032 699 or Email: vpminis@chatswoodjuniorrugby.com.au



Junior
SCIENCE ACADEMY

**BLAST OFF INTO THE WORLD OF
STEM at MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY**

Join our exciting science, technology, engineering and maths programs for Years K- 7 during the July school holidays.

- Class topics include robotics, learning about dinosaurs, astronomy, DNA, and many, many more.
- Our classes are designed to teach concepts through experiments, art, drama, physical activity, craft & other hands-on activities.
- New courses are always added & all-time favourites are rotated each school holidays.
- Procedures for COVID-19 are in place and arrangements made for full refunds in the case of illness so parents don't lose money. Book with confidence.

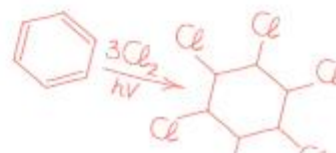
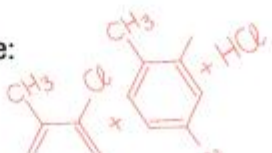


Creative Kids vouchers (value \$100) can be claimed for any robotics or coding class. Apply through ServiceNSW for your child's voucher.



Drop off	8.30am - 9.30am
Activities	9.30am - 4.30pm
Pick-up	4.30pm - 5.30pm
Cost	\$126.50

Want more information? Visit our website:
mq.edu.au/about/holidays





Junior Program

Tennis Lessons at Chatswood Tennis Club are open for enrolments. Lessons are available every weekday afternoon as well as Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Active Kids Vouchers can be used for this program.

A FREE bus service runs on a Monday & Friday afternoon for Our Lady of Dolours students.



**Free bus service on
Mondays & Friday from
Our Lady of Dolours PS**

Please call 9411 1500 for more details or visit

<https://chatswoodtennis.com.au/kids-coaching/hot-shots-coaching/>

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.