

St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 10 April 7th 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

In her book, *"What teachers wish you knew. Parents, pull up a chair: here's how to help your kids do their very best"*, Lisa Collier Cool highlights six points that her research reveals to be important in supporting a child's education, all of which have resonance as we enter an interesting phase of education that will support learning at home. These are:

Don't be a stranger and stay involved.

Communicate with your child's teacher when you feel the need; teachers will be providing synchronous teaching and learning sessions ('live') in addition to asynchronous sessions (recordings or providing feedback at times that are later than the exact moment of student engagement) and will be regularly 'catching-up' with students.

Learning doesn't begin at 8:50am and stop at 2:55pm.

You can help your child's teacher do a better job by encouraging your children to show you something on which they are working, and to then explain how they arrived at an answer - **parents are not expected to be teachers**: a more appropriate description would be parents taking on the role as a teacher-assistant, supporting learning. Every time your child gets a chance to show off what he or she knows, it builds confidence. Give your child confidence to also explain an inability to complete tasks - this, too, is a learning experience if growth occurs through conversation.

Let your child make mistakes.

We all acknowledge students who try hard; accomplishing perfection at all times, however, is unrealistic so help your child develop resilience. Is your child struggling with a task? Encourage your child to take charge by asking the teacher for help after you are satisfied the task really has eluded your child. What matters isn't always the final result; let your child take some responsibility for the task and let be prepared to learn through what can often be a challenging task.

Teachers are on your side — give them the benefit of the doubt.

I urge you to develop a healthy relationship with all school staff who are invested in this new mode of learning - a quick talk can usually provide clarity. Our views at school are tempered by our policies and the context of a duty of care for many, which have different dimensions from your context as a parent of your child or children. Communication protocols are included in this Newsletter and as part of our school Learning at Home model.

Keep your child organised.

Expect your child to approach every school day as a part of a regular routine, with obvious home-based contexts. There will be set times for teacher-student/s conferencing, however, teachers are aware of the challenges many households will face in coordinating these times with home routines. Set up a special place where your child views as their specific learning place - try to keep plenty of supplies on hand; procrastination needs fuel so set-up your child for success.

If a person deserves affirmation, be generous.

Parenting is recognised as a complex, demanding responsibility and teaching isn't easy so it's incredibly uplifting when someone takes the time to say thank you - I know our staff will greatly appreciate and acknowledge your efforts; ensuring your child is always prepared is an important way to demonstrate your support. It shows your children — and the teachers — that you really care about their education.

Regards,

Rod Linhart (principal)

SCHOOL CALENDAR

- **Monday 6th April - Thursday 9th April:** Student-free days/commencement of a three-week holiday period for students.
- **Tuesday 7th 3.30pm:** *St Patrick's Learning at Home model is communicated to parents for a two day trial in readiness for term 2 2020.*
- **Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th April (the final week of the school holidays):** *St Patrick's Learning at Home print-based resource packs will be available for families to pick up from school from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Alternate arrangements for pick-up can be confirmed upon request - please contact Mr Linhart.*

SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2020

Term 2 Mon 27th April - Friday 3rd July
Term 3 *Tues 21st July 2020 - Friday 25th September 2020
(* Monday 20th July: Staff PL Day - Student Free Day)
Term 4 Mon 12th October 2020 - Thursday 17th Dec 2020

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School Fee Assistance - Reminder

Catholic Education Tasmania's Fee Assistance Policy forms the basis of a response to affected families. A condensed Fee assistance application form is now available (via our school website or upon request from the school office) to parents and guardians, allowing them to provide an explanation of their current circumstances and the assistance they feel they need at this time. Mr Linhart and Mrs Leonard will assess each application subject to criteria.

Staff and Class News

It was most unusual at school last week, with student attendance being between 17% and 9%. Students appeared to enjoy the experience of being in combined classes and having the playground to themselves and staff took the opportunity to apply themselves to discussions and workshops that were aimed at developing knowledge, understandings and skills in our approach to supporting learning at home during term 2, beginning Monday 27th April. I can assure parents that most of the staff spent considerable more hours working last week than ever before as we worked collaboratively to help craft a model that we believe will offer students some rich learning experiences using both online and print-based resources, which have feedback elements incorporated as with synchronous (live) or asynchronous opportunities, and with learning and teaching opportunities based on the Australian Curriculum. Thank you to families who donated food items and to Mrs Anthony, Mrs Adams and Mr Garrad for preparing meals and organising for meal storage.



Office of the **eSafety Commissioner**



Online risks ▼ Staying safe ▼ Multimedia reviews ▼ Online safeguards ▼ Get help

Welcome to iParent

Where you can learn about the digital environment and how to help your child have safe and enjoyable online experiences.



Screen Smart Parent Tour

Our 10 minute interactive tour is for parents of pre-teens and young teens (10 to 14 years). It has plenty of tips and practical steps along the way so you can help your child explore safely and manage online issues should they arise. This is especially important at this age as they strive for independence and peer acceptance.

There are no right or wrong answers and you'll get to see how other parents responded to the same questions.

Get started ➔



St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe Learning at Home

All staff have been extremely busy in preparing to support learning for students for term 2. The key point of online entry for classes will be the respective class web pages; the School website will contain important *Learning at Home* links, including class *Learning at Home* websites, which will be located by clicking the *Learning at Home* tab. As per our existing and usual communication protocol, parents are not encouraged to email staff with questions or comments - we have in place other modes of communication, which hopefully supports sound communication between school and home that respects the workload of families and staff.

• **Class Learning at Home websites*** will contain class-specific learning and teaching support:

- Weekly timetables.
- Subject learning opportunities (reflecting the Australian Curriculum.)
- A link to the Parent and student Question and Answer (Q & A) form.
- A link to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) from parents and students.

*Please note that the *Learning at Home* websites are still in development.

• **Print-based Learning at Home** packs will **complement** online learning and teaching plans. These packs will be developed and compiled fortnightly by teachers and will be available to be collected from the school office on the following days: Thursday 23rd April and Friday 24th April (10.00am - 4.00pm); Friday 8th May; Friday 22nd May; Friday 5th June; Friday 19th June (8.00am - 5.00pm).

- Families may wish to post any completed work to school via a postage paid envelope which will be provided by the school upon request, or alternately, return any completed work back to school when picking up *Learning at Home* print-based resources from school each fortnight.

Class Zoom meetings - Taster session tomorrow Wednesday 8th April

Teachers will be hosting Zoom sessions for their respective classes tomorrow. Zoom will be the platform we will be using for synchronous (live) communication during term 2 and tomorrow's sessions will allow staff and students to gain some experience with, and confidence in, this method of communication. To access these Zoom sessions, students will need to:

- Go to the St Patrick's Catholic School website <https://stpatslatrobe.tas.edu.au/>
- Go to the 'Learning at Home' Tab, and click to open their class web page.
- Go to the section of their class web page that has their teacher's Zoom link, and click on this link to open the Zoom session.

Class Zoom sessions are timetabled for:

Prep	10.30am - 10.50am	Mrs Jak
Year 1	9.30am - 9.50am	Mrs Marshall
Year 2	1.00pm - 1.20pm	Mrs Badcock
Year 3	Noon - 12.20pm	Miss Stuart
Year 4	10.00am - 10.20am	Mrs Meech
Year 5	9.00am - 9.20am	Mrs O'Brien
Year 6	11.30am - 11.50am	Mrs Kingshott

Some important etiquette or protocols for Zoom sessions will be discussed during tomorrow's Zoom meetings so all students are strongly encouraged to attend. Just as being on time to class and school is important, there is an expectation that students login to their Zoom session/classroom tomorrow and into the future before the scheduled start time. Teachers will:

- Welcome students into the Zoom sessions.
- Discuss protocols such as the mute and the camera buttons in addition to important aspects relating to privacy that will be required to be considered when the camera and/or audio buttons are activated.
- Discuss the importance of respecting the Zoom session/class protocols that include putting hands up for questions (and being patient), muting the sound button when in class unless asked to speak, not distracting others from learning - a 'waiting room' is an option that teachers may use in the same way as they would use a relocation - parents and Mr Linhart will be informed of any waiting room action.

COMMUNITY NEWS & REMINDERS

Care and Concern

Thank you to the many families who have contacted the school to offer to prepare meals or donate ingredients and items - your offer of support far exceeds our current request for assistance.

A reminder for all families that we have some prepared meals - pasta dishes, lasagne, quiches, soup - that are available this week and into next week until Thursday. Please contact Mr Linhart or the school office staff if you would like a meal put aside for pick up or if you would like a meal delivered.

Please feel welcome to be included in our Care and Concern Volunteer List - thank you to the many school community members who are already on this list and are assisting others: **Always please contact your child's teacher, the office staff or Mr Linhart if you feel we could offer support in any way to anyone in our school community in need.**

TASMANIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL & COLLEGE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TERM 2 A Media Release from Catholic Education Tasmania Executive Director, Dr Gerard Gaskin

Catholic Education Tasmania has announced educational arrangements for Term 2 of the 2020 school year. The arrangements provide certainty for parents, students and teachers. Term 2 will commence on Monday 27 April 2020. During Term 2, all Catholic schools will remain open, and all staff will work to support their students' Learning@Home requirements. Where possible, students will commence Learning@Home in Term 2, recognising that some students may still attend the school site when their learning can't be supported or supervised at home. Catholic Education Tasmania Executive Director, Dr Gerard Gaskin stressed the importance of all schools and colleges remaining open to serve the needs of all students.

"Schools and colleges plan to remain open from the commencement of Term Two, 2020 so that every enrolled student has the opportunity to continue learning either on site or at home," Dr Gaskin said.

"We do not expect parents to be teachers, only to supervise and support their childrens' learning in the home. This amounts to seeing that they are *on task* and *at task* during the times required by their teachers. We know that some parents, for any number of reasons, are unable to support learning at home. For this reason, our schools and colleges are open to any student who attends in person."

Tasmanian Catholic school sites will remain open with adequate staff to supervise and support the learning of any student who presents at a school or college. Wherever possible, all staff are at the school site each Monday to ascertain the need for supervision of students and to plan for on-site and Learning@Home development, delivery and monitoring over the ensuing week of educational service delivery. As part of providing Learning@Home, teachers will provide students with a learning schedule and suitable learning activities, which may be delivered and completed online, offline, paper-based, or a combination of these. The learning schedule will align with the Australian Curriculum, and teachers will be in regular daily contact with their students to provide support for the learning activities provided.

School and college working-from-home arrangements will be reviewed fortnightly to allow adjustments for supervision of students, particularly where it is expected that numbers will rise onsite for supervision the longer the government restrictions remain in place.

Father Mike has provided some tips for the times from some of his readings.

Here are 10 tips for stress busting that you can do in just 10 minutes.

1. Take a walk. Time outdoors refreshes the mind.
2. Listen to soothing music. A huge help in your evening routine.
3. Call a friend. Human connection fills a vital need.
4. Write in a journal. Examine negative thoughts and emotions, and they lessen.
5. Give thanks. Expressing gratitude to others will lift your own spirits.
6. Take a break. Walk away from the laptop periodically.
7. Tell a joke. Humour is great medicine, especially when shared.
8. Drink water. Dehydration makes you feel yucky.
9. Hold hands. When possible, keep the human connection with family members.
10. Turn off the news. Get your update, then get out. Don't obsess over what you can't control.