



HOLY EUCHARIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

1a Oleander Drive, St Albans South VIC 3021.

(Entrance via Chedgely Drive)

Phone 8312 0900

www.hestalbanssth.catholic.edu.au



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – SPECIAL EDITION (1)

Friday 1st May 2020

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Good Shepherd Sunday occurs on the fourth Sunday in the Easter Season. The name derives from the gospel reading for the day, which is taken from John's Gospel.

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, Amen.



Principal's Message:

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

This term has provided some very big challenges as the Coronavirus continues to permeate our society. At Holy Eucharist School we are working in partnership with you to provide the best education possible as we continue remote, on-line learning. In these very difficult times, life has been challenging for teachers, children and parents as we try our best to engage and educate all our students. The teachers have done an amazing job to provide suitable material, both on-line and through homework packs, so that our children can continue their education. I would like to thank all involved, teachers, children and parents, who have worked together in partnership to make sure our children do not fall behind.

There have been many other staff members who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the school continues to function and that all children are learning. The Leadership Team, Administration staff and our Learning Support Officers have worked extremely hard and because of their commitment and dedication, the school continues to function.

If you have any questions or need support in any way, please contact the school, as we are always willing to help.

We are in a very unusual situation and no one is sure when this will all end. All we can do is follow the advice of our Premier, Daniel Andrews and put our faith in the leaders of our country and state.

God Bless.

Mr Jeffrey Parker

Principal

Jeffrey.Parker@hestalbanssth.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal's Message:

ONLINE LEARNING

First of all, I would like to say a big thank you to all our staff who have worked so hard, in making sure that our students and parents are supported with the school's remote learning program. I would also like to sincerely thank our families for their patience and perseverance during these challenging times. As we become more familiar with the successes and challenges of flexible and remote learning, the school's learning program will continue to evolve. Please remember to visit our school website to access student work and to keep up to date with important information in regards to COVID-19 as well as remote learning. Please do not forget that you can access Learning Packs for each year level from our school website in the "COVID-19" folder. Please visit www.hestalbanssth.catholic.edu.au

Student Learning packs will be available every Friday from 8:45am to 3:30pm from School Hall, for those students who cannot access the online activities. Please remember to return your child's completed work for the week when you visit the hall, so that it can be corrected by the class teacher. If you or your child need assistance in accessing Class Dojo or with the online learning, please contact the office on 8312 0900.

ONLINE SAFETY

It has come to our attention that there are many students accessing Google Classroom and participating in remote learning activities outside school hours. Students should be accessing online activities such as Google Classroom and Class Dojo during school hours. This means that students particularly in Years 3-6 need to log on by 8:50am and should log off by 3:30pm at the latest. Teachers have been asked to notify parents/guardians if their child is accessing online material outside school hours. We are concerned that many students are spending an excessive amount of time in front of a screen and need to have a break. Students accessing material outside school hours may also be at risk of accessing inappropriate material online without adult supervision. Thank you for your cooperation.

COMMUNICATION

Please note, that our Teaching Staff may not be able to respond to emails or telephone calls immediately. The school accepts **that a response within 2 working days is acceptable**. Our Parent Code of Conduct Policy stipulates that responses **will not be made outside of working hours or during school holidays, with the exception of an emergency**.

CYBERSAFETY

With most of our students accessing technology more frequently at home whilst engaging with remote learning, it is important for us to consider online safety. Unfortunately in our technology rich world today, our children have more knowledge about technology than we do and it is sometimes difficult to monitor what they are accessing. While Cybersafety is continually addressed at school, it is essential that parents are aware of how their children are using the Internet at home. The Federal Government's Cybersmart website (www.esafety.gov.au) is a fantastic resource for parents and children regarding appropriate use of technology and staying safe online.

Below are some tips that may assist in keeping your children safe online:

- Get devices out of your child's bedroom!
- Always supervise children when they are using devices that connect to the internet. Parents need to be proactive in ensuring that their children are not exposed to unfiltered and inappropriate content that can be freely accessed over the internet. Investigate protection that can be downloaded onto personal computers and devices. Some features of these protection programs include the ability to block certain websites and they can also be used to set time restrictions on web browsing.

Encourage communication with your children!

Parents need to be approachable about technology use, as your children need to be able to tell you what they are doing while online. Frequently monitor their use and the apps they may be using while using devices and talk to them about the things that you notice. Please be aware that if things go wrong, banning them from using devices or banning certain apps rarely works, as children will find other ways to get online. Instead, talk to them about the issue and your concerns.

SCHOOL NURSE PROGRAM 2020

In March this year, the school nurse visited our school to see our students in Grade Prep. The nurse has advised that all assessment reports have been sent to the prep parents/guardians in the mail. Please let the school know if you have not received your child's nurse report in the post as soon as possible.

NAPLAN 2020

On Friday 20th March, education ministers decided that NAPLAN would not proceed for 2020. The decision was made in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The wellbeing of students is of primary concern, with the decision to not proceed with NAPLAN in 2020. This will enable school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education.

In response to this event, ACARA have put together a number of FAQs which can be found by visiting <https://nap.edu.au/information/faqs/naplan2020>

Please take care and stay safe,

Mr Michael Bonnici

Deputy Principal/Learning and Teaching Leader

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