



HOLY EUCHARIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

1a Oleander Drive, St Albans South VIC 3021.

(Entrance via Chedghey Drive)

Phone 8312 0900

www.hestalbanssth.catholic.edu.au



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – SPECIAL MID-TERM EDITION (1)

Friday 5th March 2021

Year of St Joseph

On December 8, 2020 Pope Francis published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde (With a Father's Heart)*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The Feast of St Joseph is on the 19th March.



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son;

in you Mary placed her trust;

with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,

show yourself a father

and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,

and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Principal's Message

Dear Families and Friends,

Please find below, some very important information in regards to what is happening in and around the school in the coming weeks.

STUDENTS ARRIVING LATE EACH DAY

We have had a number of students who are coming to school very late in the morning. Last Wednesday we had over 30 students who arrived after 9:15am!

Please remember that the whole school has a literacy block in the morning where students participate in intensive reading and writing activities. Students who are arriving late are missing out on instructions for given tasks and as a result, teachers are finding that they have to go through instructions again which in turn, is taking them away from teaching the rest of the class.

We have also come to realise that many of our students are going to bed very late at night. As a result, they struggle to get out of bed in the morning and come to school feeling tired. Please remember....if your child is tired then they may find it difficult to learn!

PARKING

I am deeply concerned about the way in which cars are being double parked around the school and outside the church. In the past 2 weeks, 3 parents have had their cars damaged in separate incidents when picking up their children through the church driveway. Please remember that we have young children who enter and leave the school from the gate next to the church (Gate 2). Cars should not be parked on the zebra crossing or left unattended in the church driveway. When this happens, it blocks the people behind you and as a result, the cars in Oleander Drive are at a standstill. **Unfortunately, if this continues to happen we will have close the driveway next to the church. The safety of our students and families comes first.**

Also, the Brimbank City Council have placed new signage around the school (i.e. Chedghey Drive, Oleander Drive, Hibiscus Ave and O'Brien Drive). Please be vigilant when parking around the school premises. I urge you to take note of the parking restrictions, as there have been many complaints from parents and carers who are receiving fines. **The school is unable to pay the fines for you so please obey the parking signs** in the area to avoid infringements. The parking situation around the school is not ideal and we are working closely with the Brimbank City Council to improve the drop off and pick up areas around the school. I thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

PARKING SIGNS

No Parking Signs

If there is a 'no parking' sign, you can stop for **2 minutes** in that area if:

- You are picking up or dropping off passengers or goods
- You stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.

If you stop in, or partly in an area showing a no parking sign and you are not picking up or dropping off passengers or goods, **you are considered to be parked and can be fined.** This is the case **even if you stay in your vehicle.**



No Stopping Signs

If there is a 'no stopping' sign, you are not allowed to stop or park your car in, or partly in, that area for any reason. Dropping off or picking up passengers or goods in a 'no stopping' area is not permitted.



PARENTS AND CARERS PERMITTED ONSITE

As you aware, some of the restrictions in Victoria have eased and so far, we have had no new Coronavirus cases. Therefore, as of next week we will be allowing parents/carers to come into the school yard to drop off and pick up their children from school. However, parents/carers will still need to remember the following:

- Parents/carers will only have 10 minutes to be on the school grounds, otherwise we will be required to keep a register with names and phone numbers for the Department of Health.
- Parents/carers and students will need to enter and leave the school from the allocated gates (i.e. **Gate 1:** Gr Prep and Gr 3, **Gate 2:** Gr 1 and Gr 4, **Gate 3:** Gr 6 and **Gate 4:** Gr 2 and Gr 5).
- Parents/carers can drop off Grade Prep, Grade One and Grade 2 students to their classroom
- Grade Prep, Grade One and Grade 2 students **must be picked up at their classroom door** by a parent/carer or older sibling who is in Grade 3-6
- Gates will open at 8:30am in the morning and at 3:10pm in the afternoon.
- Gates will close at 9:00am in the morning and at 3:45pm in the afternoon.
- The Adventure Playground will be closed before and after school.

PARENT/TEACHER CHATS

Our annual Parent/Teacher Chats will be held at school on **Wednesday 10th March 2021** from 12:10pm until 6:00pm. Please note that **students will be finishing school at 12pm on this day.** The Parent/Teacher Chats will be held on the proviso that parents/carers adhere to the current DHHS restrictions that are in place, particularly around the wearing of masks.

The Parent /Teacher Chats will be approximately **10 minutes in length.** During this meeting, your child's teacher will be asking questions which will provide them with important information. The information gathered will assist the class teachers when planning lessons teaching your child. *eg: your child's birthplace, date of arrival in Australia, first language/s spoken, etc.*

Please remember that our school has COVID safety protocols in place to keep everyone safe. The Adventure Playground and the carpark gates on the school grounds will remain closed during the Parent/Teacher chats. Access to the school will only be via Gates 1, 2 and 3. **During the Parent/Teacher Chats, all parents/carers and staff must:**

- Wear a facemask at all times,
- Practice social distancing of 1.5 metres
- Keep to the density limits (i.e. 1 person per 2 square metres).

CANTEEN ON WEDNESDAY 10th MARCH

Please remember that students will be finishing school at 12pm on Wednesday 10th March. Therefore, the students from Prep to Grade 6 will be having recess at 11am until 11:30am. The canteen will be open at recess. However, they will **not be taking lunch orders on this day.** Students who are attending afterschool care will need to remember to bring their lunch from home

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON MONDAY 8th MARCH

Please remember that **there is no school on Monday 8th March.** It is the Labour Day Public Holiday.

Wishing you a peaceful, long weekend.

God Bless,

Mr Michael Bonnici

Principal

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