



Mr Ian Margetts
Principal

1st May 2020

Principal's Report

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2, a very different looking beginning of term to what we are used to!

Happy Easter to you and your families also! I hope this Easter Season brings you all blessings of love, joy and hope. The Easter season is 50 days long with the joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection concluding with the Feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit, marking its end.

On Friday the school acknowledged in person and via technology (available via MSB Facebook) the sacrifice of the ANZAC's. On ANZAC Day it's important for all Australians to have the opportunity to understand and acknowledge the contribution of those who were responsible for the legacy of ANZAC, and their stories of service and sacrifice.

There are similarities that can be drawn between the Easter story that we celebrated over the holidays and that of the ANZAC story. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us. The ANZAC's sacrificed too, they laid down their lives or suffered great hardship to protect Australians' way of life. Both provide foundational themes of sacrifice for others, new hope, and working for freedom and liberty. In both instances we are called to reflect. How do we make sacrifices as the ANZAC's did and as Christ ultimately did, in the hope of bringing new life to ourselves, our neighbours and our world? How do we live one's present life with an attitude that goes beyond thinking of ourselves but thinking of others?

Ironically, we are all doing some sacrificing right now to protect Australian lives – we are doing it in the face of the Coronavirus. The social distance, the fun activities we can't participate in, the friends we can't meet and the learning from home may be considered modern-day sacrifice.

Thank you to families and students for their efforts during the first week of term to continue learning from at home. We recognise and value that this is a very challenging time for families. We pray that everyone stays safe and that soon our College community can be together again in education and friendship.

A Prayer of Solidarity

*For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.
For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.
For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.
For those who are facing financial challenges, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.
For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity.
For public officials and decisionmakers, we pray for wisdom and guidance.
Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.
Grant peace... Grant comfort... Grant healing... Be with us, Lord.
Amen.*

Copyright © 2020, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Ian Margetts - Principal



Deputy Principal - Curriculum & Administration

Greetings MSB Community,

Over the past 2 weeks staff at the college have been actively communicating with students and families to ensure the continuity of learning from home. Although we do have a small selection of students onsite, the majority of our students are working remotely from their home base.

Teachers have been facilitating learning opportunities through an array of mediums, including digital learning environments, video conferencing, email and phone contact. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in learning opportunities provided and to continue to seek feedback and direction from their class teachers.



Mr Matt Brauer

To support online learning, MSB has adopted a Learning Management System (Digital Learning Environment) called Canvas. Although the intention was for Canvas to be utilised for face to face delivery before the Covid restrictions came into effect, the rollout of this product was fast-tracked. We have used this platform for specific classes, based on student's level of access.

For these classes students have been automatically enrolled into the appropriate course on Canvas, allowing them to access all course materials.

Students can access Canvas by selecting the application via the Student Portal (see below).

With an inundation of teacher correspondence and school work, it is important that students manage their workload, in order to stay on top of assigned tasks whilst sustaining positive wellbeing.

To aid in managing workloads the following strategies should be considered;

- Refer to your student timetable
- Use a calendar to maintain a record of due dates and pending tasks
- Keep a record of communication from teachers
- Actively seek feedback from your teacher
- Incorporate activities to support your own student wellbeing
- Prioritise pending tasks

To facilitate a positive learning environment at home the following should be considered;

- Allocate a designated work space
- Remove distraction, where possible
- Organise materials and learning tools each day
- Use the resources you do have available
- Separate home and school related tasks

To supplement Remote Learning a number of free online resources have been developed and released publicly.

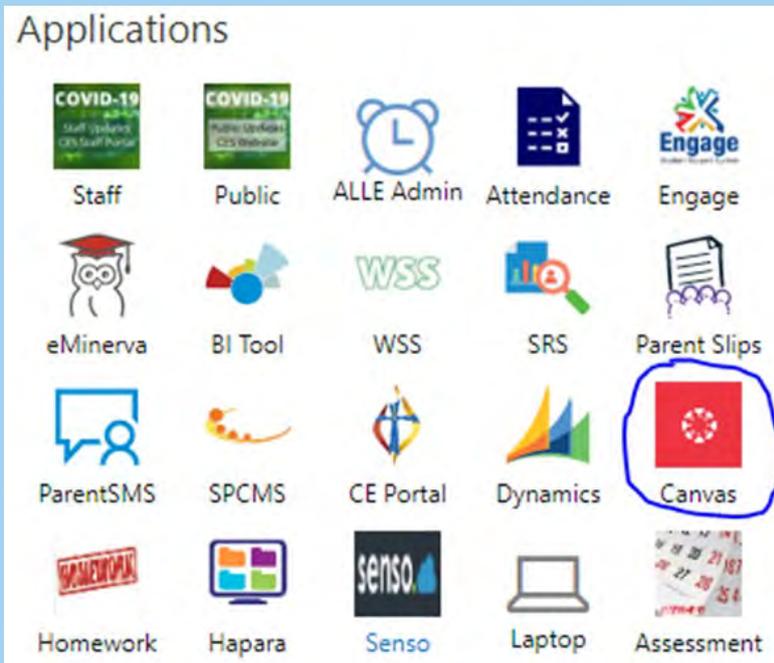
I have included the link for two of which below.

These can be utilised for various purposes including; extension exercises, consolidative activities and as a reference or guide for both the student or carer.

- Learning@home -Education QLD Resource
<https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home>
- Scholastic Learn at Home
<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

If you require any further support to aid in remote learning at home, please feel free to contact me at the college.

Sincerely, Matt Brauer—Deputy Principal



Residential News



Mr Scott Whitters

Dear Families and Friends of MSB

I hope all families are healthy and well during this time of Covid-19. The Boarding Staff are managing to keep busy without any students at school. Currently we have no clear direction regarding the re-opening of our Boarding Houses, however, we are hoping that students may be able to return around week five. We will be in touch as soon as a decision is made. Arranging flights through Abstudy may take some time.

I know that Boarding Staff have contacted families in the last few weeks. We will continue to call you through the lockdown period to check on you and your family. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries once the lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Below is a list of all the activities our Boarding Staff have been involved with so far:

- Cleaning and painting the College front fence
- Cleaning and re-organising the Eco Shed
- Weeding and preparing garden beds in the Eco Garden
- Restoring the garden and courtyard in the former Mercy Sister's residence
- Revamping the Ag garden and preparing it for an Orchard
- Creating three mountain bike trails in the scrub beyond the top oval
- Revamping the Mercy Sisters Grotto
- Cleaning and maintenance tasks in both boarding houses
- Various administration tasks related to boarding
- Training and Professional Development

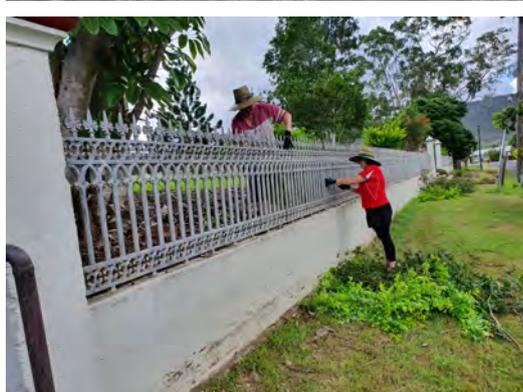


All Boarding Staff are keen to see students return to MSB and will continue to prepare facilities during this period of lockdown.

Aunty Lorraine will continue to check in with families over the next few weeks.

Kind regards

Scott Whitters - Assistant Principal - Residential



Assistant Principal - Mission



Deacon
Michael Lindsay

Christ is risen—He is risen indeed!

There is a long-standing Christian tradition within certain parts of the Christian world that during the Easter Season (a period of 50 days from Easter until Pentecost) we greet one another in a different way from “hello” or “how’re you going?”. The first person says (in a joyous way): “Christ is risen!” to which the other replies: “He is risen indeed!”

For Christians (especially Catholics and Orthodox) Easter isn’t a *one-hit wonder* quickly forgotten the next day. Easter is the very source, heart and purpose of everything we’re about and so the Church celebrates Easter for a whopping 50 days .

As we begin to hear of a gradual lifting of restrictions due to COVID-19 and to look forward to life returning [somewhat] back to normal, the prolonged celebration of Christ’s resurrection packs a powerful message for us at this time. Christ’s resurrection—his overcoming the power of death with the promise of eternal life— brings with it all those Christian attributes of **hope, love, peace & joy**. We can hold out hope in times of darkness **because** Christ has already brought light. We can maintain joy in our lives and hearts **because** Christ offers us something greater than whatever our “now” is. We can attain inner peace **because** of the love which Christ has already freely shared for us. Our part, then, is to share that same complete love—the whole giving of self—with others. The more the merrier. We have already seen this in so many instances around the world and locally, where the sharing of peace, hope, love and joy with others has lightened up the darkness for them. May Christ be risen indeed, in us all.



ANZAC Day



After a few weeks now of ZOOM, Skype, and Online this-and-that, last week saw us inspired by the ANZACs to take-back our sense of community and connection which had been abruptly interrupted by COVID-19. Maintaining all relevant distancing regulations of course (easier to do with a small number of students and staff on campus) we decided to throw-off the chains of isolation and commemorate ANZAC Day as has always been our custom at MSB—gathered together as a community for a dignified ANZAC commemorative service.

In order to maximise our together-ness and also maintain appropriate distancing this year we held our ANZAC commemorative service in the courtyard of the Mercy Building with students and staff gathered around both the ground and first floor verandas. The Celtic cross in the centre of the courtyard became our temporary cenotaph. Our College Principal led the service with other members of the College community sharing various readings. Unable this year to play the bagpipes for the local community services, I was honoured to be able to pipe the Lament as a wreath was laid by Ms. Booth on behalf of our College community.

May we never forget; and may their sacrifice and example inspire us always to cherish and to hold fast onto what is good.

Project Compassion

A great many thanks go to every member of our College community who assisted with and contributed to our Project Compassion efforts last term. Having settled various costs, it seems we cleared \$1,200 in total—a significant achievement for such a small school and certainly a notable increase on recent years’ collections.

This money will shortly be forwarded to Caritas Australia to assist their development and aid projects both in Australia and around the world.

Deacon Michael Lindsay - Assistant Principal - Mission

Assistant Principal - Student Wellbeing Report

Term 2 has brought on a lot of changes to the face of education for students. It seems that talk of the Coronavirus is all over the news, social media sites, the internet and daily life. It has created a situation that is constantly changing for people all over the world.



Mr Dan Niemerg

It is important that you try to keep your children busy and focus their attention away from the Coronavirus. Encourage your children to engage in things at home that help them feel physically and emotionally safe. (For example: listening to music, playing a game with family, or exercising.)

Focusing your child's attention a couple hours during the day towards their learning is a great way to also keep them engaged and moving forward educationally. Teachers have been communicating with students every day to provide support with their learning. Encourage your child to work during a set time each day to get that learning routine established. Take the time to communicate with your child's teacher to see where things are at and encourage your child to check their emails daily.



The Mount St Bernard wellbeing team are making calls to students every day to make sure they are progressing well emotionally and coping with their new way of learning. Feel free to support your children by encouraging them to make contact with any of our wellbeing staff if they are struggling in any way with their learning or other issues.

Dan Niemerg - Assistant Principal - Student Wellbeing

BUSINESS & IT NEWS

The Digital Technology and Design subjects have fully embraced the new learning management platform, Canvas. During this time of remote learning, we urge students of the Technologies subjects to check the student portal and access Canvas to join in.

For those who are lacking internet, paper versions have been emailed or posted to students this week. Many students received work before leaving MSB last term.

All student work is available on Canvas for all Year 7 – 12 students. The main form of communication going forward will be email to the Digital Technology students so work can be exchanged and photos sent to the teacher for collection and feedback on student progress. Zoom meetings will also be communicated via email and on Canvas to keep contact with students.

All teachers in Business and IT are missing all the students and are looking forward to everyone's safe return.

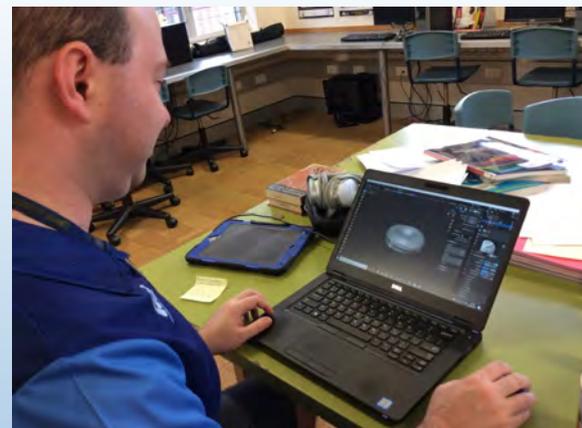


Mr Brendan Akers

Brendan Akers - Assistant Principal - Business & Information Technology (IT)



Mrs Saffron Belkessa-Wood and Mr Brendan Akers busy teaching and preparing student work



Careers and Vocational Pathways

Careers

Be prepared for your Senior Education and Training Plan meeting

If you are in Year 10, your **Senior Education and Training Plan (SET P)** meeting is just around the corner. Your school will soon be asking you to a meeting to discuss your career pathway and subjects for Year 11 and 12 and beyond.

Interested in a career in health?

Visit the [Health Heroes website](#) where you will find videos of Indigenous health workers as well as a three-part documentary, 'I Heart My People'. This presentation follows six Indigenous health and emergency workers. The stories of these workers provide an insight into their characters, lives and motivation. They also communicate a genuine appreciation of the unique culture, challenges and social context and public confidence in the credentials issued to this year's senior students.

Making better career decisions

[myfuture](#) has a resource called '[The Adventures of You](#)' [executive function guide](#). Executive functions are the mental skills needed to make decisions, including career and course decisions. These include planning, reasoning, prioritising, problem solving, task flexibility, execution and monitoring actions. [The Adventures of You site](#) includes three animated videos that will help you understand these skills.



Coronavirus updates: Students, parents/carers FAQs

Parents and students, especially Year 12 parents and students, have many questions about the current COVID-19 situation. You will find many of your questions answered by [clicking here](#) and reading the Frequently Asked Questions page on the QCAA website.



QTAC & Tertiary Entry

Where do Year 12 currently stand regarding ATAR?

On 7 April, 2020 the Federal Education Minister, Dan Tehan, announced Year 12 students will still receive an ATAR rank this year. Universities Australia is working with governments and schools to ensure Year 12's have clear pathways into tertiary education for 2021. Universities may consider extracurricular achievements and Year 11 work, and where appropriate, use aptitude tests. [Click here](#) to read the media release.

VET News

All Vocational Education and Training students are working online on theory based units. When you return to school be ready to put your learning to work through practical lessons. Trainers will have been in contact to explain what units would be best for you to work on. The courses are :

MEM20413 Certificate II in Engineering Pathways offered through TAFE Qld North

ICT0115 Certificate I in Information Digital Media and Technologies

SIT10216 Certificate I in Hospitality

SIT20416 Certificate II in Kitchen Operations

SIS20115 Cert II in Sport and Recreation

HLT23215: Certificate II in Health Support Services and CHC22015: Certificate II in Community Services

HLT33115: Certificate III in Health Services Assistance

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

[Apprenticeship Support Australia](#) services are focused on lifting apprenticeship commencement and completion rates by providing support at every stage of the employment cycle. Job seekers, school students and apprentices can all receive ongoing support including career advice, job matching, and ongoing mentoring. Visit the [Apprenticeship Support Australia website](#) and clicking on 'Apprentices' you will find information about apprenticeship wages, get free career advice, qualifications, apprenticeships that might suite you, school-based apprenticeships, how to get started, where you will study, advice and support and more. On the site, you can also schedule a free career consultation with a [career adviser](#).



Australian Defence Force

Upcoming Defence Force Information Sessions

In light of current events, [Defence Force Recruiting](#) is holding virtual information sessions. Stay informed about upcoming [Queensland and National ADF events and information sessions](#) and [watch this video](#) to find information on ADF careers and recruitment. View the specific events information links below for details on two upcoming Queensland sessions and to register.

Information

MSB Career/VET Padlets have been maintained to help students see current vacancies and other useful information to follow different pathways whether work or tertiary studies.

The padlet may be accessed on the portal.

WOW!! Zooming!!!?

Mrs Cazita-Mazeaud has been contacting students, parents and teachers, and today, we were able to

speak to **at least 8 students**

IN ONE SCIENCE CLASS!!!???

That has to be the largest year 9 class that has met up, so far, since all this Covid action started. It took real dedication from: students coming in to school, students calling up the school, and students zooming in..

(well ..some of us and only, some of the time)

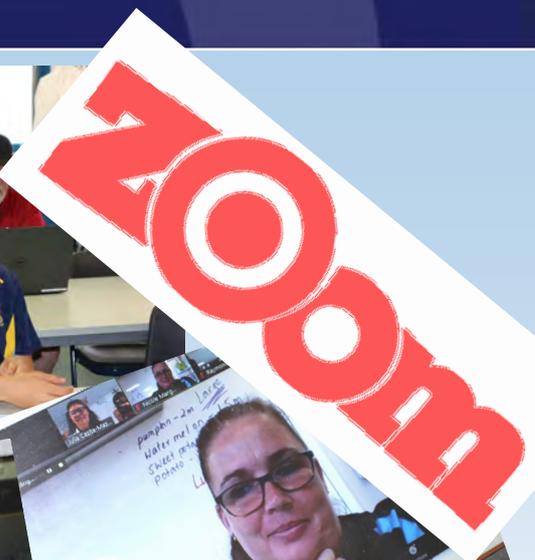
Logging into a zoom room takes a little time and patience and some students were blessed to have parents who had used zoom on their phones before.

RECOMMENDATION: Practice with a friend before logging into the classroom zoom and if it doesn't work the first time, **try, try, try again.**

A Big Congratulations to all those students, teachers and parents who were able to get to say "hello",

this time: Troy Nelson Hodges (+parent) from Babinda, Blossom Turner from the Millstream, Jimmy Billy from Coconut Island, Mulga Barker from Yungaburra, Tia Dewley-Crane (+parent) from Ravenshoe, Franklyn Hilla from Herberton, Sinevah Mari (+parent) from Coconut Island, and Sophie Jonsson from Evelyn. An especially big thank you to the students helping other students to get into the Zoom Room.

This meeting is a recurring one, that will open at **9.30am every Tuesday morning** to speak to Year 9 Science students in particular. There will be a Yr10 Science Zoom at **1.30pm, every Tuesday**.. until we're back to face to face teaching times.



HPE NEWS



Mr Ryan Mawdsley

We are entering new and uncharted territory with schooling at home due to the current circumstances. To continue with learning at home, each student was given hardcopy booklets at the end of term one to continue with their learning. We encourage parents to help us to engage with your child in the learning of health and physical education. Please note that physical element of HPE will be postponed until further notice as we are focusing on the theoretical component during isolation at home.

We will continue to call or email to help you and your child through this tough time. If parents or students need further assistance please email or call teacher (contacts below), thank you.

Teachers contacts:

Ryan Mawdsley—rmawdsley@cns.catholic.edu.au or Ph: (07) 4096 1575

Mike Tolley—mtolley@cns.catholic.edu.au

Matt Brauer—mbrauer@cns.catholic.edu.au

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ryan Mawdsley - Middle Leader—Health & Physical Education (HPE)



Students will be learning the following units during Term 2.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 10 S&R	Cert II Sport & Recreation
Unit: Super Snacks	Unit: My Decisions, My Life	Unit: Drugs in Sport & Society	Unit Fitness & your body	Unit: Aquatic rescues and safety	Year 11's—Binnacle online Year 12— Maintain industry knowledge
<i>Learning about healthy snack options and nutrition</i>	<i>Learning about the impacts of alcohol on behaviour, physically and decision making</i>	<i>Learning about how drugs can impact ones behaviours, physical being and community health</i>	<i>Learning about fitness components and how their body works</i>	<i>Learning about aquatic rescues and safety</i>	<i>Learning about how to maintain industry knowledge in the sporting field</i>
Teachers: Mike Tolley	Mike Tolley 7A Ryan Mawdsley 8B Matt Brauer 8C	Matt Brauer	Mike Tolley	Ryan Mawdsley	Ryan Mawdsley

MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE NEWS

Remote Learning: Maths and Science with a difference

This term there were many experiments planned for Science as well as many great activities for Maths however they will have to wait for a date in the future.

In the mean time all families have been posted booklets for students to work from. Electronic copies of these booklets have been emailed to students and community centres such as schools and council offices which have agreed to support our students. If your child is still waiting for work books please contact the school and a copy will be emailed to you.



Mr Malcolm Fahey

In addition to the work books, some staff are using other learning systems such as google classroom, canvas and zoom. Please ensure your child checks their emails regularly for zoom meeting times as this allows them to interact in an online setting with their teachers and class mates.

All parents are encouraged to have regular contact with the school. All teachers are encouraged to have regular contact with parents and students. This may include weekly phone calls or text messages. It is important that students stay on top of their work and communicate with their teachers if they are having problems.

If your child is struggling in any way then please contact the school. They may be missing their friends as teenagers often consider their friends to be very important. If they feel down or just need a bit of support please have them speak to Mr Glen, or another member of the support team to get them through to the start of school

Whilst we are continuing the learning program as normal for years 7 to 10 many of our assessment items have been removed or changed to the second half of the term.

The following list shows what items lay ahead .

Science

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 End of term Test.

Maths

Year 7 A Maths Online Activities during the term

Year 7 B, 8 A, 8B, 8C, 9A, 9B, 9 C, 10 A, 10 B, 10 C—End of term exams.

Senior Maths Formative end of unit exams

Senior Science Research Assignment Biology and Chemistry Week 7 to 10 , Physics—Extend Experimental Investigation Week 3 to 6, Agricultural Practices—No Assessment this term.



Malcolm Fahey - Middle Leader—Mathematics & Science



English and Humanities Term 2



Mrs Sarah Riber

Term 2 brings challenges and opportunities for us all. We really appreciate all the work that parents and carers are doing to help their children learn in these tumultuous times.

Curriculum content changes

We have looked at all the units we teach across the year and done some rearranging. Challenging units that need a lot of teacher help will be postponed until later in the year and instead we have planned Term 2 units that will be accessible and interesting for students learning from home.

Curriculum delivery

We want to make learning as fun and engaging for students as possible and so are including in our curriculum:

- ◆ Zoom classes where students can videoconference with their teachers and friends
- ◆ Links to videos and interactive websites to help our students learn concepts
- ◆ Online activities such as Reading Eggs, Wordflyers, Storyboardthat and Vocabulary.com



Many teachers are using online learning platforms such as Canvas, OneNote and Google Classroom to deliver the curriculum. They will let you know which ones your child will be using.

But we know that many students don't have access to computer or the internet and so all students should have workbooks to complete at home as well. We sent home work at the end of last term and more will be mailed out in Week 2.

Sarah Riber - Middle Leader—English & Humanities

Teachers will let you know:

- ⇒ What online learning platforms to use and how to use them.
- ⇒ What work they want your child to complete every week and how to submit it.

Parents, you need to:

- ⇒ Encourage your child to check their school email daily for updates from their teachers and keep in contact with them regularly.
- ⇒ Email teachers to let them know if you can't access any of the learning materials. We want to help your child learn and will give you alternatives.

ART NEWS

A new mode for Creativity

Whilst it has been challenging, students have been enjoying learning remotely in the comfort of their own homes and communities. Through Zoom Meetings I have interacted with several students and been able to discuss assessment items individually and as a group. I am also very excited about how the communities are supporting MSB's students. I spoke to Heidi Luke and her mother Melissa yesterday, they were at Kowanyama Primary School. Heidi was inspired to develop designs in her visual diary for a 'Public Art Sculpture'. She will research cultural artefacts in Kowanyama to inspire a final design that will be turned into a miniature sculpture. Desphina Tomsana is working at the Art Centre on Moa Island to complete her printmaking unit. Gerti e (Desphina's mum) said she will be sure to send a video of Desphina creating.



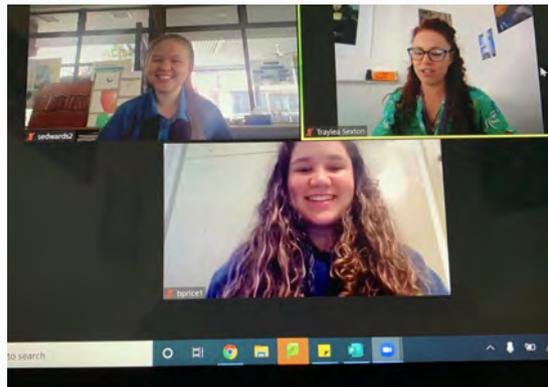
Ms Traylea Sexton

Zoe and Tiarni are busy looking through an 'Artist's Lens' generating ideas for their final body of work (project), Zoe is specifically focussed on documenting (photographing, painting and drawing) how Covid-19 is affecting people on Hammond Island. She is considering the 14 days of isolation, disconnection from mainland and social media.

Mornington Island is equally on board in the creativity process, facilitating learning for Annatania and Shennelle, they have been offered a timeslot to attend the Primary School to paint their canvases and access computers. Jessica and Bianca have been working from home in the local community of Herberton, Jess even shows up on Zoom in her school uniform ready to learn! I am very grateful for the parents, caregivers, community members and students who are committed to assisting our students with new spaces and places to learn. Thank you.

Local students that are attending have been completing the same work as those at home, however I added a Poppy Making activity in the lead up to Anzac Day. Enjoy the photos.

Traylea Sexton - Middle Leader—The Arts



Activity 1: I AM

OPTIONS: Use a variety of FOOD products from your pantry to make a portrait – paint yourself or someone else. You could use coffee, tea, soy sauce, jelly water (unset), beetroot juice, tomato sauce, Easter egg wrappers or food colouring. You could even use candy and make a collage out of skittles (then eat them – you have my permission). Please make sure you take a photo on your phone and email it to tsexton@cns.catholic.edu.au or dbooth@cns.catholic.edu.au.

Happy isolation and note there will be a prize for the most creative portrait!

Painted with Coffee

Hendrix Coffee Art Portrait

Is a painting by Dirceu Veiga which was uploaded on July 1st, 2012.

<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/hendrix-coffee-art-portrait-dirceu-veiga.html>





Monday April 20 2020

TO ALL PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN QUEENSLAND

During this time of COVID-19, I write to you to seek your support for your Catholic Schools and to acknowledge the ongoing support that they will provide to your child and to your family.

These are new experiences for everyone – students, families, principals, teachers and other school staff. We are all learning together how to manage this crisis and so I ask you to be patient and to just do the best you can for your child/children who may be learning from home for at least the next five weeks. We also thank those essential workers who are out there in the front line helping to ensure we are all safe and also supporting those who may have lost their jobs through the impacts of COVID-19.

This is not a time to panic – your child's education will be ok. Catholic Education Diocesan Offices and other Catholic Education authorities, along with schools are working hard to ensure that your child can continue to learn from home in multiple ways which suit differing family circumstances. They will provide you with learning materials which are appropriate to your circumstances at home. This may be online for many but also may be paper based for those who do not have the connectivity or facilities at home to be online. Make sure you contact your school if you have any problems at all with managing learning at home. They are there to help you I can assure you of that. Everyone is learning what to do and how to do it at the same time and so if there are some hiccups then be assured that your school will work through this with you. You do not have to be the teacher – they already have one of those – but be a guiding hand at keeping them on track. Also please remember that if your young person is online then this is like a normal classroom so please follow protocols sent from your school and set them up as suggested if possible. We know that it will be different for each family. Also this is not the time for you to be talking with the teacher or interrupting them as they will have many students on line. Contact them later if you have any questions or issues.

This is a wonderful time to engage with your child's learning and to be even more aware of their wellbeing. We talk about Parent Engagement all the time but this is truly living it. There are many activities you can do at home during this time that will enhance their awareness of the connection between what they are doing in school and how it lives out in real life. Take this opportunity with both hands and enjoy it as you will be a lot more aware of what they are learning at school and their capability in learning areas (and may have a new appreciation for teachers). – You can also have them help more around the house doing simple things e.g. helping prepare meals through measurement, size shape etc, folding washing, picking up after themselves, keeping their workspace tidy etc. as well as reading and playing games together both inside and outside. There are many activities on line that you can download and do with them or they can do by

themselves if they are older. Keep watching our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pandfqlld/>) for ideas and activities.

One more thing – it is about school fees. I am sure by now that many of you have received information about school fees for Term 2. Catholic Education across Queensland has said that no child will be denied a place at their school because of the financial implications of COVID-19. Those families that need a discount for this period of time in order for their child to be able to continue their learning with their school will be allowed to do so through applying for fee discounts. Please do this so that schools know what is happening with every family and payment. I also ask that those who are in employment with no disruptions because of this crisis continue to pay their full school fees so our schools can manage to pay staff who are working to keep your child able to learn whether at home or at school. Be assured that staff are working harder than ever during this time. This full payment is very important otherwise many of our schools may struggle financially which may have implications when children return to school. After all, Catholic Schools are about working together for the good of all who are in our community. So please support by paying your school fees if you can.

There is so much advice around about what and how you should do at home with home learning that I am not going to repeat it here. Too much advice can be a bad thing. Please read whatever you are sent by your school and follow it as closely as you can but if you cannot do everything do not worry. Try to have a routine and follow it but remember just be a parent and that all of this is not worth a fractured relationship with your child over differing opinions about how things are done now and how they were when you were at school. You are all learning together.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Best wishes for the next five weeks.

Yours sincerely

Carmel Nash
 Executive Director