



St Augustine's Primary School

Newsletter

20 March 2020

Week 7

PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

With the increased possibility of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) likely to affect the way the school will run for at least the next six months, I wish to share with you some of the changes that will be in place for the foreseeable future. Based on advice from our controlling bodies in education, health and government, all whole school gatherings have been either cancelled or rescheduled where possible including: First Holy Communion, School Photos, Assemblies, School Masses, excursions and sporting events.

I would ask that at drop off and pick up times parents and carers drop off and collect and go as soon as possible. This will limit the amount of time that families will be in contact with each other and be in keeping with social distancing protocols. I would also ask that families use social distancing when on the school grounds.

I have spoken to staff and as much as possible the students will be using social distancing inside the classrooms and undercover area.

I realise we are a small school and that some of these measures may seem drastic, however if all schools follow the recommended practices, we have a greater possibility of keeping our schools open.

The staff have worked with students on hand washing and hygiene techniques to limit possibility of exposure to the virus and other illnesses. We remind parents to ensure children bring a drink bottle and refill it from the taps rather than drink directly from the water fountain. It is also timely that I remind you to keep sick children at home for their own health and that of their classmates.

I would also like to inform you that a **"School Response Team"** has been established and team roles and responsibilities have been clearly identified. Representation on this team includes School Leadership Team, Senior Staff, School Board, and Parish representation.

Our planning includes Educational delivery in the event of school closure, child safe frameworks (Keeping kids safe online), differentiated learning modes e.g. Digital Learning, educational packages, supporting student wellbeing and communication processes.

To assist us in our planning I would once again remind all parents to ensure the following:

1. Access the school APP
2. Ability to "log into" students See Saw account
3. Ensure we are updated with correct email and phone details

All communication regarding COVID-19, School Closure, Return to School, will be done via the school App (SAPS) and SEQTA and See Saw.

We feel well placed, supported and prepared to implement all aspects of our planning in the event that we are instructed to close the school.

Further information will be communicated as required.

SCHOOL NON-ATTENDANCE

As part of our response planning, the staff have been working on the delivery of offsite lessons should there be a school closure. These will be implemented only if there is a full school closure as it is not possible to cater for the needs of a few families that have made the choice to keep their children home and to maintain the regular class lessons for those attending school. The following advice was sent to principals by the Executive Director of Catholic Education WA, Dr Debra Sayce, yesterday.

Attendance at school (new information as at 18 March 2020) ~

“Should parents choose to keep their child at home without seeking medical advice, it is not a requirement that schools provide curriculum work and activities. We understand that there may be extenuating circumstances where consideration be given to provide support and resources where possible. The priority for staff is to maintain focus on classroom learning programs. In the event of a temporary school closure, schools are asked to enact their curriculum continuity plan.”

Whilst there is not a requirement for us to provide work, we will post some work that may not be directly related to the areas of the curriculum that are being covered at school at the time. Parents will need to sit with their child/children to facilitate their learning and monitor their understanding. Please note mornings are a busy time for teachers preparing for the day unfortunately they cannot cater for parents requesting work for their children to do at home at this time.

Please take care of each other, students, staff and school community, and be patient and supportive of one another as we navigate these uncharted waters.

SCHOOL BANKING ~ A MESSAGE FROM CBA

Dear Principal and School Banking Co-ordinator,

Over the past few weeks, you will have seen the rapidly evolving coronavirus situation continue to unfold. We've been consulting with our schools, P&Cs and the relevant health authorities on the best approach moving forward.

As a result of this feedback, we have made the difficult decision to temporarily pause the School Banking Program from close of business 20 March 2020 until the start of Term 2 in your state. We will of course keep the start date flexible as the situation continues to change.

Our primary goal will always be to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our communities and our people. By taking these precautionary measures, we hope to minimise any potential impact. With regards to the impact to children collecting Dollarmites tokens and the impact to schools regarding School Banking contribution payments, we will circle back to you once our program resumes.

To help you communicate this to your school community, we have attached a newsletter article at the end of this email to distribute to parents as you wish.

We kindly ask that any monies outstanding relating to deposits accepted to the program are paid into your school's clearing account by Friday 27 March 2020 at the latest. This will ensure there is no delay in the accurate processing of deposits to children's accounts.

Please note, our team of School Banking Specialists are still available to support you and your school via mobile and email. Our School Banking Helpdesk also remains available on 1800 674 496, Monday - Friday 9am-5pm Sydney time.

Regards,
Veronica

2020 TERM DATES

Term 1 Monday 3 February to Wednesday 8 April

Term 2 Tuesday 28 April to Thursday 2 July

Term 3 Monday 20 July to Thursday 24 September

Term 4 Tuesday 13 October to Thursday 17 December

2020 PUPIL FREE DATES

Monday 2 March (Labour Day Public Holiday)
Thursday 9 April
Monday 27 April (ANZAC Day Public Holiday)
Friday 29 May
Friday 3 July
Friday 25 September
Monday 12 October

PARISH NEWS

Following the latest update from the Archdiocese of Perth regarding precautions that have been put in place to deal with the COVID-19 situation.

The most significant points being:

- * All Masses in the Perth Archdiocese are suspended for 2 weeks, effective immediately
- * The faithful are exempt of our Sunday Obligation during this time
- * At-Home Mass options such as TV and online services are included in the following statement

I trust this finds you well and may you stay that way!

God is good.

Father Robert Carrillo PP

COMMUNITY NEWS

Chess Club

CANCELLED until further notice.

Keyed Up Music ~ Email Message Sent to Parents on 13 March 2020

“Dear Parents and Caregivers, due to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak and in line with recently issued State and Federal government health information and directives, we ask that students not come to their weekly instrumental lesson **if they are unwell and/or have flu like symptoms**. This is even more so if they have **been overseas recently and are unwell** or have **been in contact with friends or family who have recently travelled overseas and are unwell**. If unwell, they should not return until they are **certain they are not at risk to others**.

We have instructed all of our teachers to disinfect the instruments (particularly keyboards) in between lessons and to sanitise their own hands before and after lessons. Could we please ask that your child come to their lesson having already thoroughly washed their hands with either soap or hand sanitiser (if you can find some!). This will not only protect your child but also other students around them and after them. Please do not ‘share instruments’ during your lesson time.

We are monitoring the situation daily and will provide you with any changes to your child’s lessons once information comes to hand.

Your child’s health along with our staff is of course, our highest priority.”

Thanks for allowing us to continue to serve your school in this way.

Therese Dabbs

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Capoeira 2020

CANCELLED until further notice.