



# OUR HOLY REDEEMER

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Principal  
Frank Dame

Parish Priest  
Brendan Reed

**Newsletter No 30**  
**8<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

*"I consider social skills a bit like learning a language.  
I've been practising it for so long over so many years  
I've almost lost my accent." Daniel Tammet*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**MONDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
7.30 PM

**THURSDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
1.00 PM

**ALL STUDENTS RETURN**  
**2021 PREP PARENTS TRANSITION**  
**WEBINAR**  
**AUSTRALIAN MATHS COMP**  
**OHR PUBLIC SPEAKING FINAL**  
**(VIDEO STREAMED)**

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school term which is showing great promise with the return of all students to onsite learning from this Monday. The staff, and I am sure yourselves, would have popped the champagne on Sunday 27 September when the Victorian Government announced that primary year levels would resume in Week 2. As a staff, we have dearly missed having the children on-site and cannot wait to welcome them back.

We are very mindful that the return to school will be met in different ways by the students. Some will embrace the opportunity, while others will take some time to assimilate back into the routine of school life and ways of working with peers, teachers and staff. We are also conscious that the impact of the pandemic, coupled with months of restrictions, will have impacted the emotional wellbeing of students to varying degrees.

So, our immediate focus will be on checking in on the wellbeing of our students. The re-establishment of good social skills is also important, as they allow our children to enjoy better peer relationships. However, the benefits of robust social skills reach far beyond social acceptance.

Social skills need ongoing refinement as children get older. They aren't something your child either has or doesn't have. It's important to look for teachable moments where children can be helped to do better. In fact, some social skills are quite complicated – such as understanding it's important to be assertive when a friend is being victimised, or understanding to stay silent when you don't agree with a call from the umpire.

The good news is that social skills can be taught. As parents and teachers, it's never too soon to start showing children how to get along with others. And it's never too late to sharpen their skills either. It's always best to start with the most basic social skills first and then to continue sharpening the child's skills over time.

The seven most important social skills for children include:

- Sharing
- Cooperating
- Listening
- Following directions
- Respecting personal space
- Making eye contact
- Using manners



So, as the children return to school, their teachers will be focussing on developing and refining these essential skills.

### **OHR Public Speaking Final**

Congratulations to all our students for preparing and presenting their oral presentation as part of our public speaking program during Term 3. Remote learning presented some challenges to presenting this in the usual format, but our work-around using Seesaw enabled students the opportunity to deliver their speeches via video.

Next Thursday, the finalists will present their speech in the hall in the usual tradition. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions this will be a closed event. The finalists from each year level will be joined by Mrs Mitchell, our Guest Judge and myself. Some other staff will also gather in the hall to run the event. The finalists will present their speech to this small audience. Mr Byrne will live stream the event to the students in the other classes as well as the parents of the finalists.



Thank you to Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Canty for coordinating this year's public speaking competition.

This year's finalists include:

Chloe S, Harry C, Arabella B, Zoe C, Henry C, Claudia C, Poppy T, Annabelle H, Ava S, Oliver F, Harriet J, Benjamin W, Pia M, William W, Lucy B, William M and Meg M.

### **Ms Fisher**

I have been in regular contact with Trish. She has had to wait a long time for her second round of surgery, which will take place on Saturday. If all goes well this weekend, Trish will require at least a month of recovery. As optimistic as ever, she is then hopeful of returning to school for the second half of this term.

Jackie Boyle will continue in the office until Trish's return.

### **Book Week**

The school will still be recognising Book Week this year, albeit in a stripped-back format. Mrs Leone Gole has suggested that we hold Book Day on Monday 26 October.

Over recent months, Mrs Gole has also been guiding and supporting the Year 6 students with the development of their picture-story books, which has been an annual tradition. The Year 6's will launch their books during the morning of 26 October and during that week will visit the other year levels and read their books to the students.

The Arts/Library Team will run a simple activity in classrooms on Book Day.

More information to follow.

### **Student Progression to the Next Year Level**

Our focus for Term 4 is for each of our students to finish the year in a strong manner and with the confidence to progress to the next year level in 2021.

We also aim to respond to the unique and individual learning and wellbeing needs of each student, prepare them for transitions, and continue to build their knowledge, skills and resilience.

Some parents may be worried about their child's progress during the period of remote learning and may be questioning whether their child would benefit from repeating a year of school in 2021. While some might think that another 12 months at the same year level will give their child an opportunity to catch up or mature, research indicates that this is not usually the case. Very few studies of students repeating for an additional year have shown it to be effective and students do not 'catch up'. Researcher John Hattie found that 'overall, there are negative effects for students who are retained, and there are more positive effects in the long term for promoted students than for retained students – even when matched for achievement at the time of decision to retain or promote'. Research found that students who repeated a year made an average of four months less progress academically and fell even further behind compared to their peers who did not repeat. Studies have shown that repeating a year can have negative impacts on student learning, wellbeing, engagement and school completion.

What is important to remember is that all children have missed schooling in its usual sense. However, our school has demonstrated that it is really adaptable, and our teachers are terrific professionals. We responded very quickly to the crisis and continued refining our program.

When this all picks up again next week, part of what we are going to be doing is making sure our students are back on the curve, in one way or another. Our school will use teaching strategies that draw on the best evidence available to help students close any learning gaps and meet their learning needs.

### **Holiday Maintenance**

Over the school holidays the following maintenance tasks were performed:

- New student furniture was delivered and set up in the Prep – Year 4 classrooms. The furniture comprises new tables, chairs and tote storage systems (including tubs). Thank you to the PFA for donating approximately \$32,000 towards the furniture. The children will be in for a surprise when they return to their classrooms next week.
- Repairs completed on parts of both the Junior and Middle/Senior fixed play equipment, following recommendations from the most recent annual safety inspection.
- School grounds were entirely cleaned, with trees and shrubs being pruned.

### **CSEF**

The Victorian government through the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides a \$125 payment per year for eligible students to ensure no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

Applications are currently open and will close on 27 November 2020

Application eligibility criteria: Holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card or a temporary foster parent (further details in the form found further in today's Newsletter).

The one-page application form is available on the website:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/resources>

### **School Closure Days**

- The Premier of Victoria recently announced that the Friday public holiday before the AFL Grand Final will be moved from its original date (Friday 25 September) to **Friday 23 October 2020**. The Friday public holiday before the AFL Grand Final is based on the AFL playing schedule, which was altered as a result of COVID-19.
- There will be no school for the children over the Melbourne Cup long weekend, inclusive of Monday 2 November and Tuesday 3 November. We are hopeful that restrictions will be eased so that families can manage an escape to parts of regional Victoria.

Note: There will be no school closure days for staff professional learning this term.

### **OHR Family Reflections: Due**

Recognising that many families had a lot on their plate over the past term, the school captains offered an extension of time for when the family reflections were due. The school holidays were offered as additional time to see to this task, with contributions still being gratefully accepted up to today. On behalf of our school captains I would like to thank all the families who have contributed a page towards the book which will be a lasting legacy of this year.

If you are concerned that you may have forgotten, or simply run out of time, we are happy to extend the deadline to this **Monday 12 October**.

One final reminder about the family page:

“Our school captains have been encouraging each family to prepare a page that will go towards a book reflecting how our school community have managed this time of COVID-19. The page will need to be **A3** in size and **landscape** orientation. A **margin of 12mm** should be left around the perimeter allowing for eventual binding. The page should include the **family surname** and be a reflection of how the family managed this time. This may form a collage comprising a combination of any of the following: stories, drawings, artwork, photos of the family engaging in activities together, poems, words, recipes, song lyrics, celebrations shared during COVID-19 time, anything that is appropriate ...”

The captains would like to remind each family to make a **PDF** copy of their completed page and email it to [principal@ohrsurreyhillscatholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@ohrsurreyhillscatholic.edu.au)

Wishing everyone a great weekend,

Frank

# RE News

## Sunday Gospel

The liturgy of the Catholic Church provides a framework for reflection which is used by Catholics throughout the world. Each week in the newsletter, you will find the Sunday Gospel as well as some discussion questions to have with your child/ren.

Nick Byrne, Education in Faith Leader

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

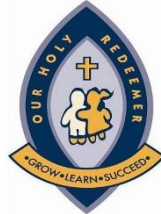
1. What did the king in today's gospel decide to do for his son?
2. What happened when the servants invited the guests?
3. When the guests didn't come who did the king invite?
4. Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like this story. Who does God invite to the banquet?
5. We are invited to God's banquet. How do we show we accept the invitation?







## Our Holy Redeemer



FOOTY COLOURS DAY

A massive thank you to you all

**We raised \$597.00**

# Surrey Hills Pre-School Centre

## VACANCIES 2021 4YO PROGRAM

Blue Group: 18 hours a week  
Red Group: 23 hours a week  
Please contact our centre on **9836 4902** or  
**[enrolments@surreyhillspreschool.com.au](mailto:enrolments@surreyhillspreschool.com.au)**

*Experience our wonderful kindergarten  
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Pre-School**  
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