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https://twitter.com/OHRLearning **Parish Priest**

Brendan Reed

Newsletter No 3 11th February 2021

"Courtesy is the one coin you can never have too much of or be stingy with." John Wanamaker

DATES TO REMEMBER MONDAY, 15TH 8.45 AM ASSEMBLY PREPS WELCOME ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY, 17^{TH} ASH WEDNESDAY NO PREPS MONDAY, 22ND 8.45AM ASSEMBLY 7.30pm TUESDAY, 23RD PSEB MEETING WEDNESDAY, 24TH **NO PREPS** 7.30рм **PFA MEETING** FRIDAY, 26TH P/1/2 PARENT EVENING IN THE OHR SCHOOL GROUNDS SATURDAY.27TH SURREY HILLS MINI MUSIC FESTIVAL SUNDAY, 28TH 8.30AM WORKING BEE #1 MONDAY, 1st 8.45AM ASSEMBLY SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY FRIDAY, 5TH STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY MONDAY, 8TH LABOUR DAY WEDNESDAY, 10^{TH} 6.00рм SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FRIDAY, 12TH Yr3/4 Parent Evening

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Parishioners,

Counsellor and psychotherapist Georgina Manning, Director of Wellbeing For Kids, says there is an increase in children doing more out of school activities now than ever before. *"Parents are running children around from activity to activity and filling every spare moment with extracurricular activities,"* she says.

"It seems we have a current parenting culture of filling every hour of every day with interesting things for our children. In my work with families, most parents say they feel a pressure to keep up with other families that provide these extra activities and feel like they are not doing the right thing or giving their child the best opportunities if they don't put them in a range of activities."

Georgina also notes the pressure the extracurricular activities is putting on families. "The pressure on parents to keep their children 'busy' is enormous and it is not working for the parents and not working for the children.

All it is doing is putting enormous stress on families and families are left exhausted, stressed, anxious and irritable with little time left to just be in the moment or nourish the things that are important."

Georgina says the decrease in free play can also lead to children losing out on valuable life skills and even potentially affect their mental health.

"It is really important that children learn to problem solve for themselves and if adults are hovering over their children every minute of every day, we are dis-empowering our children, and this has catastrophic consequences on their mental health.

Children never learn to direct their own lives or think for themselves which erodes the development of self-efficacy."

What is free play? Georgina explains that free play is play which is not directed by an adult in any way, but where children choose activities or games that interest them.

"This may include adults setting up the tools so kids can be engaged in their own play such as having art materials, Lego, or building materials around for children to investigate and explore." Free play, she says, is where "the child directs the



play and there is no expected outcome from an adult. Examples of free play are playing in the garden, dress ups, singing, making a bug catcher, creating a cubby house, building with Lego, drawing, playing with toys using imagination, exploring the garden, creating a puppet show, role playing, being silly with friends, blowing bubbles, rolling on the grass, jigsaw puzzles, playing with pets etc."

Georgina notes that screen time is definitely not free play and that screen time actually takes valuable time away from free play.

"Research shows that when children are using their imagination or in the state of wonder of their natural environment, just playing for the sake of playing without any expected outcome from an adult, then their brains are refreshed and rested," she says.

"Children need to rest their brains regularly and by taking children from activity to activity, this only stresses children, leaving little time for this vital play time. Not only is this vital for children's mental health and overall wellbeing, but essential for development of social and emotional skills."

Parents can get involved in the play too, says Georgina, as long as they aren't directing the play, but rather playing with their child and letting their child take the lead.

Acknowledgement: This article is based on an interview with Georgina Manning, Director of Wellbeing for Kids.

Georgina has previously conducted parent information evenings at OHR and facilitated professional learning workshops with the OHR teaching staff.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

For Students who Prepared in 2020

All students who participated in the Catechists preparation program will be invited to a 'refresh and rehearsal' session on **Sunday 28 February at 1:30** – **2:30** in order to re-orient students to the sacrament and prepare for the celebration of First Reconciliation.

All students who participated in preparation via Our Holy Redeemer will have the 'refresh and rehearsal' session organised by their classroom teacher and school REL.

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be celebrated on **Wednesday 10 March**. At **6:00 pm** the OHR School group will celebrate the sacrament with the Catechist Group at Our Holy Redeemer Church.

For Students who will enrol in First Reconciliation in 2021 for the first time

February and March – School to manage preparation of children from Year 3.

Friday 19 March – OHR students to participate in Reflection Day with Catechist group.

Thursday 25 March – 6.00pm OHR School group will celebrate the sacrament with the Catechist Group at Our Holy Redeemer Church.

For further details of dates pertaining to students in the Catechists program, refer to last weekend's Parish Newsletter.

Sacrament of Eucharist

The Sacrament of Eucharist will be celebrated on:

Sunday 30 May – 2.00pm for students from OHR School and catechists group who were prepared in 2020 Sunday 6 June – 2.00pm for students from OHR School and catechists group who will be preparing in 2021 for the first time.

Full details can be found in last weekend's Parish Newsletter. https://www.cbdparish.org.au/blog/sacrament-program-2021/

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) program 2021

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) program for 2021 is now open for processing. The fund helps ensure that all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities.

- A payment of \$125 for eligible primary school students and \$225 for eligible secondary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards the cost of camps, sports and excursions for the benefit of the student.
- Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply.
- Parents who received funding under the program in 2020 do not need to complete an application form in 2021, providing there has been no change in their family circumstances (e.g. a change in the care arrangements of the student, a change of name or Customer Reference Number, or the commencement of a new sibling at the school in 2021).

Further details can be found on the flyer located further in this Newsletter.

Introducing our Preps

At this Monday's Assembly we will take the opportunity to publicly welcome our 2021 Prep (Foundation) children. They all have settled well into the classroom environments of their teachers and carers Mrs Hautot, Mrs Hollow and Mrs Hart. Our students in Years 5 and 6 have fully and responsibly embraced the opportunity of acting as nurturing buddies to these young children.

Members of Parliament (SRC)

The Members of Parliament (SRC) for Semester 1 were introduced at Monday's Assembly and presented with their badges. The Members of Parliament represent the students in their class and meet with Mr Nick Byrne on a fortnightly basis to explore

ways of ever-improving our school.

Congratulations the following students:





Prep HH	Mia H	Maxwell L
Prep HT	Hailey W	Harrison K
1/2DE	Jacob Y	Gabriella W
1/2MJ	Zoe C	Christian M
3/4CB	Oliver F	Rory S
3/4PK	Art T	Oliver R
Year 5	Henry C, Lucy E, Abby J, Pia M, Remy P, Madeleine S, Benjamin W	
Year 6 Leader	Eddy O	

Child Feeling Unwell?

The following points regarding the management of unwell students or staff members are taken from the current version of the School Operations Guide. It is important that any staff member or student who becomes unwell while at school gets tested and returns home. While it is unlikely that a staff member or student who is unwell with flu-like symptoms will have COVID-19, there are some sensible steps schools can take while a student awaits collection by a parent or carer as a precaution:



Staff and students experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19, such

as fever, cough or sore throat, should be isolated in an appropriate space with suitable supervision and students should be collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible. Urgent medical attention should be sought where indicated. It is not suitable for an unwell student to travel home unsupervised.

- Where staff or students are experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19, the important actions to follow include performing hand hygiene, maintaining physical distance and putting on a surgical face mask.
- If a staff member is unsure whether a student is unwell, it is advisable in the first instance to contact the parent/carer to discuss any concerns about the health status of the student and, taking a precautionary approach, to request the parent/carer collect their child if concerns remain.
- Staff or students experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19 should be encouraged to seek the advice of their healthcare professional who can advise on next steps.
- Where staff or students have been tested, they must isolate until they receive their test result.
- Staff and students are generally not required to present a medical certificate stating they are fit to return to an education setting after a period of illness; however, staff and students should not return until symptoms resolve. Staff continue to be required to present a medical certificate in accordance with personal leave policy for periods of absence on personal leave.

Prep and Years 1 & 2 Parent Gathering

As noted in last week's Newsletter, we greatly appreciate the generosity of Bec and Stephen Capello for kindly offering to host the P/1/2 (Prep and Years 1/2) Parent Gathering at their home on **Friday 26 February**. These evenings are a great way to gather and mix with other parents, and provide a more intimate environment for new families to foster those important friendships.

However, due to the current cap on visitors allowed in family homes, such an event cannot proceed at the Capello's house. Instead, we have decided to

host the event for parents on the school grounds. More details will be communicated next week.

School Closure Day

Our first school closure day for staff professional learning will be held on Friday 5 March. This is the Friday leading into the Labour Day long weekend. Scheduling the school closure on this day may enable some families to get away for a longer weekend.



Working Bees

There are four Working Bees scheduled throughout this year and it is hoped that each family would be able to attend at least one of these events. The Working Bees will be coordinated by both Justin Bolger and Luke Torpey to address the upkeep of the school grounds and minor maintenance matters. Working Bees are a cost effective and essential means to maintaining aesthetic school grounds that afford a safe and welcoming environment for our children, parents and visitors.



Working Bees provide the opportunity to connect with

other families, and the children always have a great time helping out and playing with one another in the school grounds. A range of days and times are available to enable each family the opportunity to select the most suitable Working Bee. A complete list of dates and times may be found on the reply slip attached to today's newsletter. You will notice that we have alternating Saturday and Sunday Working Bees. Reply slips can be returned to the school office. Alternatively, you can email your preferred day to Justin: <u>justin.trees@hotmail.com</u>

We request that you look ahead at your commitments for 2021, and nominate for at least one Working Bee now. It's a great way to show your children that you value their school through committing to a few hours per year. Certain families have been extremely generous with their time over recent years in turning up to multiple Working Bees within the one year.

The first Working Bee is a morning session (8.30am – 10.30am) scheduled for Sunday 28 February. A barbeque and refreshments will be provided during this time.

Adding the OHR Public Calendar to Your Device

If you would like to view the school's public calendar, which includes all relevant events, dates and times, you can view it in your web browser through the following weblink: HTML

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ohrsurreyhills.catholic.edu.au_i26e5bhu63ijbjqp ke8prjvp3k%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Australia/Hobart

If you would like to add the OHR Public Calendar to your **phone/tablet (including iPhone or android)** simply copy the following link:

ICAL

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/ohrsurreyhills.catholic.edu.au_i26e5bhu63ijbjqpke8prjvp3k%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics

Then go to the settings section of your phone/tablet.

- Select calendar
- Go to Accounts.
- Select Add Account.
- Tap Other.
- Go to Calendars.
- Select Add Subscribed Calendar.
- Paste the copied link in the Server section
- You will be prompted for username/password simply click next.

The calendar will then be added and you can choose whether to have it on display on the calendar app on your phone/tablet or not.

For those who use **Google Calendar**, to add the calendar, open Google Calendar on your computer.

- Next to "Other calendars" on the left, click the Down arrow.
- Select the + sign to add a calendar and then choose from url.
- Enter the calendar's address in the field provided. This is: <u>https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/ohrsurreyhills.catholic.edu.au_i26e5bhu63ijbj</u> <u>gpke8prjvp3k%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics</u>
- Click Add Calendar.

Supervision Before and After School: Repeated

The children are supervised before school by teaching staff from 8.25 – 8.40am. Commencing at 8.30am, the children may enter their classroom and begin setting up for the day as long as their teacher is in attendance. In the interest of child safety, we request that children **are not** dropped off at school any earlier. Teaching staff are not scheduled for playground supervision until 8.25am as they are regularly involved in meetings, preparation and administration.

The children are dismissed at 3.15pm, with staff supervision in the school grounds extending from 3.15pm - 3.30pm. We kindly



request that all children be collected by 3.30pm as staff are often involved in a variety of meetings commencing at this time. At 3.30pm, the staff on Yard Duty will call for any students who have not been collected by their parents or guardians to gather in the school entrance foyer. Please note the following:

- Children are allowed to play on the Junior Playground equipment between the times of 8.25 8.40am and 3.15 – 3.30pm, but not in the sandpit nor on the Middle/Senior Playground Equipment at the Northern end of the grounds.
- In the interest of safety, ball games are not to be played before or after school between the times of 8.25 8.40am and 3.15 3.30pm.
- Children should never wait to be picked up in York Street. They should always be collected by an adult from within the school grounds.

Wishing you a great weekend, Frank Dame



Ash Wednesday

Next Tuesday (16 February), Father Trac will lead all our students in a palm burning ceremony outside the Church in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Using ashes obtained by burning palms from the previous Passion Sunday provides a wonderful life-death-life symbol of the paschal mystery to explore. The palms are a symbol of Christ our triumphant king (life); that triumph turns to ashes at the crucifixion (death); being marked with those ashes signifies our commitment to journey to the font at Easter (life).

The students in Years 1-6 will be working with their teachers to plan and lead Ash Wednesday Prayer Services in their classroom or as a level.

Lent - Project Compassion

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. The theme for this year's appeal is *Be More*.





During Lent our RE Year ⁵/₈ Student LeadersipTeam will be selling *Zooper Dooper* icy poles for 50c after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 - 3:30pm at the tuckshop window. All money raised will be donated to Project Compassion. If anybody would like to donate a pack (or more) of *Zooper Doopers* please bring them to the Office. We can look after the freezing for you!! This will start on **Tuesday 23rd February**.

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.

RE LEARNING IN 3/4PK

This term's Value of the Gospel is FORGIVENESS.

For us to be able to forgive one another and move forward there are special ingredients to share. The students in 3/4PK created their own recipe for forgiveness. The ingredients are sourced from close and afar, and to create and store the final product there is little effort. **The execution** however takes up most of our effort and will be of value throughout our life. The taste they say is in the pudding - How will our recipe be judged by the food for the soul critics?

RECIPE FOR FORGIVENESS

Ingredients

- Love
- Caring
- Kindness
- Respect
- Fairness
- Understanding / Compassion
- Thinking time
- Friendship
- Inclusion
- Courage
- Forgetful heart
- Acceptance

Method

- 1. Place all the ingredients in a bowl.
- 2. Mix all the ingredients with a large spoon.
- 3. Place the mixture in a large heart shaped tin and use when necessary.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.



The Gospel of the Lord

- 1. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS In today's gospel who came to Jesus?
- 2. The man had a sickness which made him an outcast. What does it mean to be an outcast?

- 3. What did Jesus do when he met him?
- 4. What did the man do when he was cured?
- 5. What would it be like to be an outcast or an outsider?
- 6. Jesus asks us to be kind to outsiders. How can we show kindness to people who do not feel included?

We pray that this week we will look out for ways we can show kindness to people in need.

AWARDS FOR WEEK 3 SOCIAL SKILLS AWARD MERIT AWARD

Prep HH Patrick J Prep HT Amelia O'H 1/2DE Annabelle F 1/2MJ Audrey K 3/4CB Rory S 3/4PK Harriet J 5/6DU Phoenix B 5/6HN 7ac C

All Students All Students Emily N Arlo P Oliver F Art T Pia Mcl Brady H

NEWS FROM THE LRC

Chess in 2021

OHR is known as a chess school, and as we begin the new year I am excited to once again be involved with Northern Star Chess to offer classes which will commence at lunchtimes on February 11th and run for six weeks.

Northern Star tutors are very experienced and no matter what standard your child is, they will be accommodated.

The cost will be \$60 for the six lessons.

I cannot recommend the game of Chess highly enough as a fun way to develop strategic thinking, spatial awareness and problem solving, so please encourage your child to give it a go in 2021.

To enrol your child, please complete the form and return it to school, or email me <u>lgole@ohrsurreyhills.catholic.edu.au</u> before Thursday 11th.

HELP WANTED

I am looking for some parents to help with covering books. This job is a way of helping the school if you are unable to be here in person.

How it works is that I send a bag of books with the appropriate covering materials home and you complete the task in your own time.

Please email me <u>lgole@ohrsurreyhills.catholic.edu.au</u> if you are able to assist. Thanking you in advance.

Leone Gole – Library Technician

BOOKCLUB NEWS

The first Scholastic Book Club order forms for 2021 are coming home today. A reminder that every order earns the school reward dollars that we can use to purchase books for our Library and teacher resources. If you wish to order, please go to <a href="https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book

Cara Mitchell, Coordinator

2021 CHESS ENROLMENT FORM

Please enrol my child in the chess program on Thursdays at lunchtime.				
My child is (please circle): Beginner Experienced				
Child's Name:				
Class level:				
Parent Name:				
Email:				
Phone:				

OHR 2021 Working Bees

Please indicate which working bee your family will attend. A barbeque and refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of each event.

Adults Children	
8.30am – 10.30am	
9.00am – 11.00am	
9.00am – 11.00am	
8.30am – 10.30am	
	8.30am – 10.30am 9.00am – 11.00am 9.00am – 11.00am

COMMUNITY NEWS



OUR HOLY REDEEMER PRIMARY UNIFORM

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Our Lady of Sion College Catholic Girls' College Years 7-12 1065 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill VIC 3128 P 03 9890 9097 | E info@sion.catholic.edu.au



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



