



## Covid-19 Newsletter 14

### Principal's Message – Mrs Joanne Webster

5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Families,

As I write today, I hope and pray that you and your dear family are safe and well. This week we have moved to Stage 4 Restrictions and with this, the role of schools for families shifts once more. We continue with remote and flexible learning for all students - the significant change being the students permitted to be onsite for supervision. We are being directed to minimise both the students and staff onsite in an effort to curb the spread of the virus. I thank all the families we spoke to over the last few days who have supported us to achieve this. A community effort, for which I am very grateful.

I spoke at length to staff yesterday, about "What is essential?" at this time. Their responses I would guess would be very similar to yours...good health, prayer, connectedness, family, going more gently and finding gratitude and joy in the small events or non-events in our lives. Sometimes "less is more".

Learning for your children is important, no doubt. However, more important at this time, is wellbeing and care for each other. Many will and have lost jobs, are unwell with the virus or are struggling with the new normal we all find ourselves in: home learning and working from home is only one example of this.

Please understand all students and families are in the same position across the world. This is a global pandemic. Your children will learn differently at this time, but remember they will learn and they are not alone...all students are in the same position with their learning. When students return to school, yes, they may not have achieved what they normally would have, but they will not be alone. Our roles as educators is to understand where they learning lies and to move them forward. A task, St Bernadette's educators, have been extremely good at. And I can assure that is what we will do once they return to school. And this will happen. We need to be patient and trust in God.

I have attached a link to a book called Windows written by Patrick Gues and Jonathon Bentley. about the experience of a child looking out of the window while in lockdown. It's beautiful, reassuring and captures the spirit of human connection. You may like to view this with your children.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_yQv4\\_rhU4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yQv4_rhU4)

#### **PRAYER**

This Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August is the Feast Day of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint. This prayer reflects the courageous work of St Mary MacKillop. May we remember the adversity she encountered and the fortitude she demonstrated throughout her life.

Ever generous God,  
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop  
To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
and constant in bringing hope and encouragement  
to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.  
With confidence in your generous providence  
and through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop  
We ask that you grant our request for fortitude throughout this time.  
We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit  
so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust and  
openness.  
Ever generous God hear our prayer.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen



Take care, stay safe, God bless

Mrs Joanne Webster  
Principal