



St Columba's School Bayswater

32 Roberts Street
BAYSWATER WA 6053
PO Box 61
BAYSWATER WA 6933
Tel: 08 9208 2700
admin@stcolsbays.wa.edu.au
www.stcolsbays.wa.edu.au

Grow in Faith Seek Wisdom Live in Peace

30 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

UPDATES

Thanks for a wonderful start yesterday. It was great to see kids back at school and online at home. I know everyone enjoyed the connection back with one another either in person or virtually through our Seesaw platform. I wanted to touch base on a few things from the last couple of days.

Extremely Sad News:

It is with deep sadness I inform you of news received that one of our past parents, Tina Sacino, mum of Ruby Raso, and wife of Albert, passed away earlier this week after a serious accident. Ruby was a student here in Year 6 back in 2018. Tina was a much loved teacher of the Chisholm College community. A wonderful person who touched the lives of all her students, their families and her colleagues. A very special person. We keep Albert, Ruby, all their family and friends, and all those in the Chisholm College family in our thoughts and prayers. We know many of our St Columba's School families and staff have close connections to their family also and hope you are all going okay. Look after each other during this time of loss and if you need anything at all, please know we are here. May Tina rest in peace.

Start of Term 2:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for staying true to being 'gentle'. It is a non-negotiable for every St Columba's person. Whether we are 3 years old or 53 years old [this refers to me], we have a commitment to care and wellbeing of everyone front and centre of each decision, each interaction. This is why I love being at St Col's, because we all get it. This is what I saw yesterday:

- Kiss and Drive protocols and no entry into school grounds 100% supported by parents. I had asked for only a couple of staff to come out and assist before school, but we saw a line-up of staff come out to make sure our kids were looked after. This is the care we talk about that comes naturally. Not fabricated, purely comes from who we are, genuine and true to what we say. I could not ask for more from parents and staff. I appreciate this was not perfect in the afternoon, but it was pretty outstanding when we consider the numbers of little guys we were getting into their cars. Patience by parents was exceptional, and by 3.10 pm, the K and D was clear.
- The use of the Seesaw App – After a couple of hiccups with some downloads of the App, the day went very smoothly. Full credit to our staff who worked through this with parents and students online, while still working with their students in their classrooms. Talk about multi-tasking. I have no idea how everyone did it, but I sat in awe of your calmness, your patience and your gentleness. This overrides any learning that took place. The understanding and appreciation for supporting families and each other was at an exceptional level. Teachers will continue to work with families through the online learning.

- Our classrooms had many students attend yesterday, and we loved it. Teachers and EAs worked efficiently with both students in their classrooms and at home, while all continuing to do their playground duties and squeeze in a lunch break. It is important to remember, and I know you do, which is terrific, a teacher can end up with well over a 100 messages throughout their day as they are working with their students that are attending. It is not humanly possible for teachers to respond to every message that comes in to their inbox at this current time. Teachers will be working to do their best to respond to questions online, but will be prioritising which messages need addressing. Teachers are in their classrooms on full teaching loads. I have stressed to staff they must take care of themselves during this time and make sure they are doing their best to provide for our kids, but also that their own wellbeing is incredibly important and a key priority also. You get this as parents, as you continue to check-in on us. I have explained the amazing support from our parents through the emails I have received, so thank you for being true to what we say. This is Ubuntu, this is Ikigai!
- Teachers will continue to communicate through Seesaw Classes in Year 1 to Year 6, and through Seesaw Family for our Pre-K to Pre-Primary. I was so very impressed with how supportive our staff have been in moving to this mode of delivery and their enthusiasm for delivering their curriculum in an engaging way. I am proud to say they are my/our staff. The support from parents and our kids has also been phenomenal.
- Any glitches, we will work through them as we go along. We will not get bogged down in the things that do not go to plan. We will accept these imperfections, because this is what is needed to be embraced. So while we will be modelling gentleness on ourselves here as a staff, we hope you are also being gentle on yourself if you do not get through everything that comes through Seesaw, or if your day at home does not go that smoothly. Gentleness. It is a time of change and is all different. Whatever is missed, whatever gaps happen over the next weeks, we will be able to catch up. We are St Col's, we will all do what is needed.
- I have learned much about life in the last 6 weeks and that is with gentleness comes 'judgementlessness'. Yes, no such word, but I like it. Imagine a world where I judge no one, you judge no one. Like, how easy is it to judge? I can fall into this trap. I want us to not only live gentleness, I want us to live 'judgementlessness'. See how you go with this. Not easy, but so uplifting and freeing. Imagine even more than this, being judgementless on self. Free yourself, I say. I do. I talked about this on Facebook earlier today. Embrace imperfection!

Look after yourself and all those you love. Thanks again for being amazing support for each other and for us. You are truly an incredible people. I do not think we could ask for more. With blessings your way and an abundance of good things.



Art Lombardi
Principal