



St Columba's School Bayswater

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Faith Wisdom Peace Grow in Faith Seek Wisdom Live in Peace

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

COVID-19 Update

I hope this correspondence finds you and your family well. Thank you all for your unwavering support of the school community during this time. There are many people that are acknowledging this and the wonderful attributes of our St Columba's School Community. To see the community come together in strength, to ensure continuity, contact and support, has been outstanding. Thank you to everyone for their calm and positive outlook to ensure that, as a community, we provide a supportive and caring environment, in these current circumstances, for our students. It is Ubuntu and it is Ikigai. That is the beauty of being a Principal, I hear and see so much goodness.

This week, our school staff have been finalising their teaching and learning plans for Term Two. Their willingness to collaborate and share their gifts, in a changing moment in educational delivery, is a credit to their professionalism and their commitment to our St Col's kids and families. It has brought me much joy throughout the week. I think we have a few teachers vying for the title of Seesaw Ambassador of the Year Award. Some are self-nominating of course.

The following correspondence from CEWA regarding Term 2 is outlined below. Please take the time to read this and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me directly. A reminder that Monday 27 April, ANZAC Day is a public holiday. We commence remote learning on Tuesday 28 April.

From Catholic Education Western Australia:

As communicated by CEWA Ltd to all Catholic schools, St Columba's School, like all other Catholic Schools, will remain open in Term Two. Learning will continue to be delivered remotely and all parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep their children home. As has been the case since we transitioned to remote learning in Week 9, Term One, parents and caregivers who are engaged in essential services, or are required to maintain employment, may choose to send their children to school, if they are unable to care for them at home. If you are planning to send your children to school as a part of the essential services, please email me directly at art.lombardi@cewa.edu.au by Wednesday 22 April.

As parents, you are playing an important hands-on role, assisting your children to engage in learning at this time, as well as supporting them through any anxiety or worry they may be feeling. I would like to stress that parents are by no means expected to take the place of teachers, and we will be doing our very best to support you and your child, delivering the curriculum and providing pastoral care in the most engaging way possible remotely.

As we continue to partner to support your child's ongoing learning, we acknowledge that it will be important to maintain regular contact between the school and parents/caregivers. Ahead of Term Two commencing, you will receive further details of our plans in this regard. These plans have been well considered, and while we are initially planning for **remote delivery of learning for the first four weeks of Term Two**, we are also considering the potential for this to be extended as required.

We remain committed to the care and wellbeing of our school and broader community, especially those most vulnerable who must remain our first priority. One aspect of this is considering the social and financial impact of this situation on many families. As communicated last week, I wish to reassure every parent and caregiver that the ongoing enrolment of every child in our school is guaranteed, regardless of a parent's financial circumstances.

If parents or caregivers have concerns in this regard, I encourage you to contact myself, or Peta Santella, peta.santella@cewa.edu.au directly to confidentially discuss financial support arrangements.

The following options are immediately available to all families with children in Catholic schools:

- The Centrelink Health Care Card Discount Scheme provides an automatic fee concession to the holders of eligible means-tested family concession cards. **This discount applies to all year levels from Kindergarten to Year 12.** Additional financial considerations are also available depending on each family's circumstance.
- For parents who do not qualify for the Health Care Card discount, but who are experiencing financial difficulties, arrangements can be made to provide immediate support to assist you with tuition costs.

Our school staff are grateful for the support and appreciation that so many parents and caregivers have shared as we journey together through this challenging time. You are true to the St Columba's spirit which is high in the care and wellbeing of those around us. We are blessed.

I will keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available. Take care this Easter and may this joy of Easter Sunday bring a sense of hope for the future. Blessings to you and all your loved ones.

In Ubuntu! Warmest regards



Art Lombardi
Principal