

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Term 3 Week 4

3rd August 2021

As we begin a further month of lockdown, I would like to thank parents, carers, and children for creating time, space, routine, and support for learning at home. The support you are showing the teachers but more importantly your children in Home Based Learning is greatly appreciated.

FROM THE OFFICE

Office Access: We are trying to minimise visitors on site, unless there is an emergency. Therefore, currently the office is closed for face to face visits, however, Cheryl, Donna or Raneer will still be in the office on a rotational basis. We ask that parents phone the office for any queries rather than visiting, this includes early collection of children.

Early Departures/Late Arrivals: Please call the office from the front gate if you are at school to pick your child up early. If your child is leaving school early they MUST go to the office to first sign out and then the office staff will bring your child to you at the school gate.

If your child arrives late to school, please say goodbye to them at the school gate and **do not enter the school grounds**. If your child is late they MUST go into the office on their own to be marked in by the office staff.

School Fee Payments: No cash payments at this time and we ask that any school fees are paid via B Pay. We are mindful of the impact that this extended lockdown may have on some families and its impact on their ability to pay school fees. If you are experiencing any financial difficulty and need assistance with your child's school fees, please contact the Fees Liaison Team (schoolfees@dbb.org.au or 9847 0728) or Mrs Chylewska via the school office. Further details on our COVID-19 Lockdown Fee Support program are available under the [Parent Hub Fee Relief](#) section of our website.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parents are reminded that while teachers are supervising children onsite as well as in virtual mode they can not respond to every message in an instant. Work submitted by children will be supervised throughout the day, some work samples will receive specific teacher feedback or comments and others will be observed. Teachers are also taking note of who is completing the tasks as some may need to go towards assessment items for student semester two reports. Teachers will respond in a timely manner to any parent emails or online messages they may have, but please be respectful that it will not be in an instant.

SUPERVISION

Teachers are continuing to be rostered for supervision onsite and I need to plan for this accordingly. I will continue to publish an 'Event' in compass each week to book into supervision. You will receive a notification when the Event has been published and it should be completed by **12pm on Friday afternoon**. The NSW Government asks that you keep your children at home if you can, to stop movement in the community and the spread of the virus. We remain open for those who genuinely need us.

Please email the School Office at scw@dbb.catholic.edu.au and withdraw from supervision if your needs change over the week - this may allow me to release more teachers from supervision and keep the maximum number of staff working from home in line with Government advice.

CHYLEWSKA'S CHALLENGE - Week 4

One of the silver linings of COVID is the opportunity to spend extra time together as a family. If you're working from home, you might not always have a lot of time during work hours to spend with your children

but I'm sure many of you are making the most of the time you do have by turning everyday moments into quality time. So, this week's challenge I'm asking children to draw or paint a Frame worthy Family portrait. The winning family portrait from each stage (Early Stage 1, Stage 1,2 & 3) will be printed on a Canvas and given to the winner. All submissions due by the end of this week on **Sunday 8th August, 3pm**. Please submit the drawings or paintings to scw@dbb.catholic.edu.au with your child's name and 'Family Portrait' included in the subject line. I look forward to seeing the children's artistic creations.

GRANDPARENTS' LITURGY

Many thanks to Mrs Dowling and all the staff for the preparation that went into our Virtual Grandparents Day Liturgy. I understand some families are lucky enough to have all their grandparents nearby, others a bit further away or they might be spread across the country and then some who are sadly no longer around. Whatever your circumstances are, I encourage you to honour a Grandparent this Grandparents Day, even if they are no longer with you. I have lost all my grandparents but I still try to honour them and share stories or photos with my children about my '**babcia**' and '**dziadek**' (*polish for grandma and grandpa*). Sharing my memories of my grandparents with my children helps me remember them.

If you have a special grandparent in your life, please share this Grandparents Liturgy link with them to let them know they're being thought of and missed in our St Cecilia's community.

<https://youtu.be/HJYDk5Oxhzk>

PARENT SURVEY

Please feel free to complete the optional survey below to provide us with an insight into how HBL is going from a parent's perspective. We will endeavour to continue to improve our approach to this learning and teaching style and appreciate your feedback. All responses are PRIVATE and confidential.

<https://forms.gle/8mGXghmW2dLQfJbP7>

Once more, thank you all for your tremendous support and do not ever hesitate to contact me.

Stay safe.

Stay well.

God bless.

Marta Chylewska
(Principal)