



Term 2 - 28 May 2020

NEWSLETTER

St. Monica's Primary School 20 Robinson Street
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Faith
Hope
Love



Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Anthony Feeney

Principal: Mr. Peter Moore

Parish Office: Phone 9370 5035

Mass Times: Saturday 6:30pm (Vigil), Sunday 8:00am, 9:15am in Italian, 10:30am and 5:30pm

OSHP Number 0412 616 491



We're Back Together Again



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Children,

It is an understatement to say the words “It’s great to be back.” Even though we have only 9 of our 21 grades back with us, the transformation has begun. It is wonderful to see the Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 children back: smiling, laughing and learning. In just over a week, we’ll look forward to welcoming the Middle School and Senior School students as well.

I thought I’d take this opportunity to talk with a couple of the children whose photos I had gathered during our time off-site. Alyssia and Amelie are both in 1P and I visited them this morning to take the cover shot. I also used the opportunity to compare their home learning experiences with the ones we have at school. In both cases, there were positives and some of the answers surprised me!



Things I liked about learning at home:

- I think I did more work at home; I was more focused.
- I enjoyed staying with my family.
- I enjoyed having no uniform. I got to wear anything I wanted.
- I worked on my own and I liked that.

Things I like about coming back to school:

- I get to be with my friends and I enjoy playing with everybody.
- I like being at my table.
- I enjoy doing my work here.
- I don't have to unmute!

Things I liked about learning at home:

- I don't get distracted at home.
- I get to do more work.
- I get to have more food. Mum would sometimes give me chocolate.

Things I like about coming back to school:

- I love seeing all of my friends.
- I like being with my teachers.
- Playing on the Adventure Playground is lots of fun.
- I really like my Specialist Classes.



The partnership that has existed between the school staff and parents has been inspiring. I cannot praise the staff enough for their overall dedication and hard work. We also acknowledge with gratitude, the efforts of all families to keep learning going throughout the past six weeks (for F-2) and eight weeks (for 3-6). I have received many heartfelt messages from parents who have openly and honestly ‘poured out their hearts’ about the whole experience and it has been both a challenge and rewarding experience.

At school, we would dearly like to capture these thoughts. In a brand new idea for St Monica’s, we’d like to ask each parent who participated in the ‘learning at home’ experience to pause and reflect. We’d like to ask you to write your thoughts down, to be captured as part of your child’s School Report.

Tomorrow I will write to all families via Skoolbag and with my letter, I will attach a Google Link . If you are willing to take up this opportunity (and I sincerely hope you do...) then your thoughts can be filled out and emailed back to your child’s classroom teacher. Some of the grades are also going to send this pro-forma home in an envelope, so it can be filled in the old fashioned way using a pen. Either electronically or by hand will be equally well received. Can you imagine the power of a document that has valuable reflections on this whole educational journey from all involved: children, parents and teachers! I honestly believe that the insights parents have developed about their own children are as deep as they ever have been and it is the right time now to mine all of that gold!

Once again, a warm welcome back to our Junior School!

Regards,

Peter Moore

Principal



Parents, I take my hat off to you for what you’ve achieved this term.



We hoped you enjoyed the SMPS version of the National Simultaneous Storytime Book!! The students enjoyed completing some additional activities about the Chicken Divas.



The Year 2C students were so engaged in their lesson on perimeter. They were using hands on materials to support their learning.



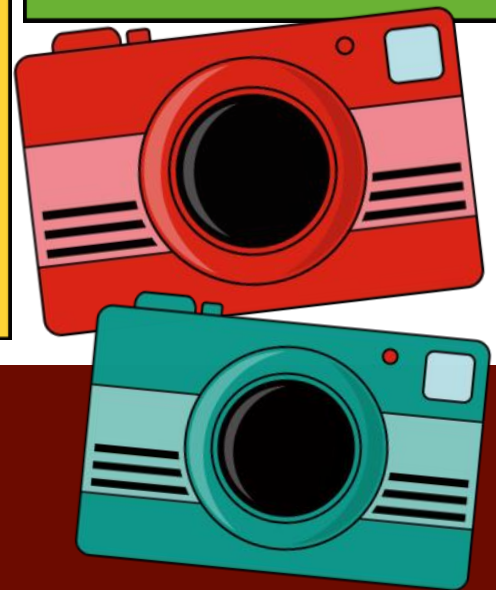
The Year 1 students made 'characters' by bending, twisting, scrunching and stretching different materials when they were remote learning. They were very excited to share their characters with their friends.



Mr Donoghue or otherwise known as Mr Maths was eager to get back into classrooms too!



Did we manage to sneak an excursion in to Sovereign Hill? No.....it is just our Year 5 students showing their creative skills by still get into the spirit. Well done!



Caught in the Act



There is no doubt the students in FE were very excited to be back in the classroom. On my visit, they were VERY enthusiastic about working out the missing number!



It is so exciting to have the F-2 students back on-site, but the home learning continues for our Year 3 to Year 6 students. Keep up the great work. See you soon!