

# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

251 Diamond Creek Road  
Greensborough North, 3088



Telephone: 9434 4565

No 09  
16th April, 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a very different looking Term 2. Yesterday was a watershed day as teachers, parents and students started their remote learning. I'd like to congratulate the staff for the enormous amount of planning, preparation and dedication to the new method of instruction. It has been an incredible effort in such a short period of time.

As with any new system there will always be teething problems but over all, our methodology stood up. We acknowledge the great work that parents are doing at home, juggling numerous children's needs and in many cases working at the same time. It is a difficult time but I do believe that as the children get into a routine and become more familiar with the learning tasks the pressure will ease off.

Communication has been constant, especially in the initial stages, and on some occasions could feel overwhelming. The staff are always willing to communicate with any parent to discuss any concern as they arise.

We will continue to review the process and make adjustments as required and we will communicate these with you.

Thank you for your continued support in these very trying times.

## ENROLMENTS FOR 2021

Our Open Day tours last term were well attended and we are still accepting Prep enrolments for 2021. If you have a sibling due to start Prep in 2021 enrolment forms are available from Carly and Francine in the school office.

Due to current circumstances please mail your child's enrolment application, along with required certificates, to the school or if you are able to email it to:

[office@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

Likewise, if you know of any families wishing to enrol their child at St Thomas but haven't as yet collected an information pack or enrolment form, please let them know to ring/email the school office and an information pack will be mailed out to them.

Our Prep 2021 Information Evening was postponed and we will be uploading an abridged version of the presentation onto our school website shortly.



*St Thomas the Apostle School community is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.  
This will remain the primary focus of our care and decision-making.*

## SCHOOL FEES AND LEVIES



If any families are experiencing financial difficulties at this time please feel free to contact me on 9434 4565 to discuss your situation. All discussions with myself will in a confidential manner.

## TUESDAY, 21ST APRIL – NO REMOTE SCHOOLING - CURRICULUM DAY

We have been advised that we will be having a power outage on **Tuesday, 21st April**, in our area - Plenty, St Helena and Greensborough North. Therefore **there will be no scheduled remote learning classes or on site classes** at St Thomas the Apostle School. This will be a curriculum day where students will be able to catch up on any unfinished tasks.

Classes for remote learning will recommence on Wednesday, 22nd April.

*David Delaney*

Principal

## REMOTE CONTROL

**Peter Sist - Deputy Principal & Student Wellbeing Leader**

During these unusual times, it's important you keep a balanced approach to home learning. Time spent using digital devices for learning should be broken up with physical exercise and offline learning tasks often.

### **Mental health and wellbeing check-in**

Just as you set aside time for physical exercise, it is important to make time each day to check in on your child's mental health and wellbeing.

As your child adjusts to their new routine and not being able to see their friends in person, it is important to be understanding of their feelings of frustration, anxiousness and even anger – every child will react differently.

To support your child, use these mental health and wellbeing check ins to:

- provide an opportunity to talk about how they feel and listen to what they say
- identify one or two things they could do to address what they are concerned or angry about
- ask how they are going, whether they are finding it easy or hard to learn remotely, and if there's anything they'd like your help with

If you have any other concerns about the health and wellbeing of your child, please feel free to contact me directly as I will be at school each and every day.

**Stay safe and in 'remote control'.**

*St Thomas the Apostle School community is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.  
This will remain the primary focus of our care and decision-making.*

## LEARNING AND TEACHING UPDATE

Tess Dwyer - Deputy Principal & Learning, Teaching & Religious Education

Welcome back to Term 2. I would like to congratulate you all on a successful first week back. As a parent of school-aged children I have been struggling with supporting them in their learning and continue working myself however as the week has gone on things have become easier. We're more familiar with the routine, we have great support from teachers and children are beginning to slowly learn some independent learning skills. This change is not one that children were prepared for. They are used to having the support of their teacher and classmates to help them to learn. The challenge for us all is to find a balance between supporting and enabling.



Teachers have learned so much too over the past few days. I know many realise that they have planned to do too much, but it is much better to over plan than be under prepared. I am hearing many stories from my colleagues in other schools and I know that St Thomas' School approach to Remote Learning is miles ahead of many other schools. This is not an accident, it was a planned and considered decision last term that is standing us and our students in good stead for this term's learning. Yes, there will be challenges to overcome, changes to make, and support needed but I know we can rise to this new situation and I'm confident that we will all come out of the other side of this pandemic with a whole new perspective on life.

### COMMUNICATION TOOLS WE USE

1. **Compass** - for all correspondence from the office and administration staff
2. **Class Dojo** - for classroom based communication
3. **Google Meet** - for video conferences with students - in small groups, whole class or individually.

If teachers are working one-on-one meetings with students these can only occur with a parent present for child safety reasons.

## DID YOU MISS LAST NIGHT'S CYBER SAFETY WEBINAR?

We are pleased to let everyone know that the recording of last night's cyber safety webinar for parents is now **available to watch until April 26th**.

This is what parents said about the session:

*"Fantastic session. So valuable! Thank you so much"*

*"Terrific presentation. Thanks"*

*"Awesome content, really informative and great ideas. Thanks heaps :)"*

*"Congratulations! Only 30 minutes in and you have me hooked. I have done several eSafety Commission courses and although brilliant, this is a more comfortable presentation for parents. Important information!"*

To watch the replay, as well as access to all of the slides, links and resources, visit:

[www.informandempower.com.au/april16webinar](http://www.informandempower.com.au/april16webinar)

Password: parents 2020

*St Thomas the Apostle School community is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.  
This will remain the primary focus of our care and decision-making.*

## UPDATE TO SCHOOL WEBSITE

I am currently working on a new page for our school website where all parents can access all resources for remote learning. The page is called Learning @ Home. It is a work in progress and it currently has links to the individual level Google Sites. I am hoping to add other information and resources so that everything for remote learning can all be found in the one place.

## BOOK CLUB

To be able to continue to provide books for children in the way we've always done, Scholastic is still running Book Club in Term 2.

Book Club is now available for parents to access the catalog remotely. Please click on / type in the link below to access the latest catalog.

<https://scholastic.com.au/book-club/virtual-catalogue-1/>

Book Club orders can be placed via LOOP and be delivered directly to your home for a nominal fee per order of \$5.99, regardless of the order size. Please ensure that you check your address details on your LOOP account and ensure their child was still assigned to a class, even for this home delivery option.

We are very happy that Scholastic is giving the students the opportunity to still have access to Book Club at this time - we want to encourage all children to read offline whenever possible.

***Orders will be accepted soon - we will let you know when the LOOP orders are open for Issue 3.***

## IT SUPPORT

Our IT technical department have a dedicated support phone number that will be resourced with dedicated team members to provide parents/guardians with general IT support for their children throughout this remote learning period. Parents can phone this number to get help with issues such as:

- My device won't connect to the wireless;
- Internet isn't working;
- I can't print;
- Why isn't my camera or microphone working?
- I can't open Google Apps for Education.

This general support for parents/guardians can be accessed by phoning **03 9998 6392** between the hours of 8:30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday, excluding Public Holidays and will continue to operate throughout the remote learning period.



*St Thomas the Apostle School community is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.  
This will remain the primary focus of our care and decision-making.*



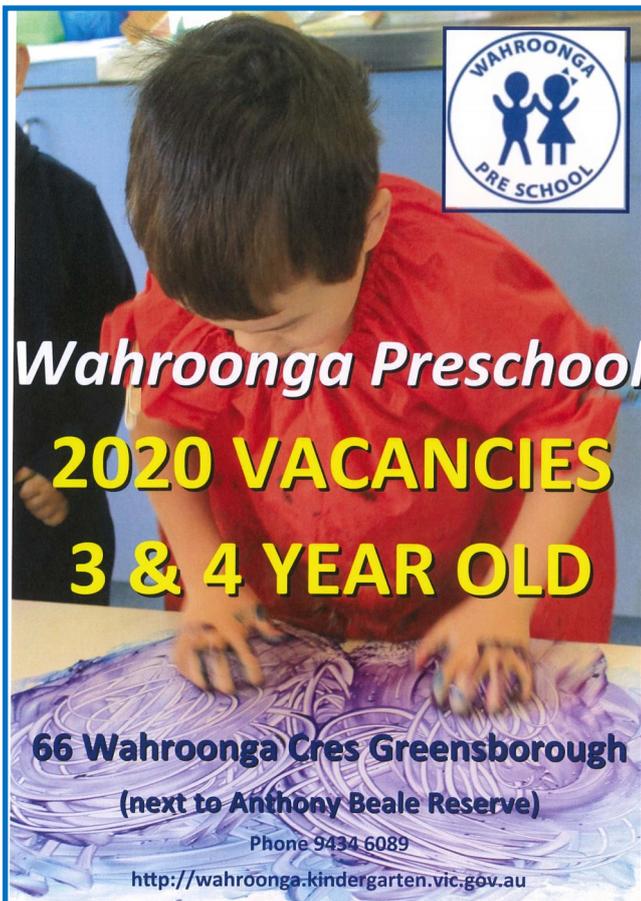
Welcome back to term 2!

Happy Birthday to the following students who are celebrating their birthday this week:

15th April—19th April

Connor V, Celeste L, Jordan C, Christian M & Emily M

## COMMUNITY NEWS



**Wahroonga Preschool**  
**2020 VACANCIES**  
**3 & 4 YEAR OLD**

**66 Wahroonga Cres Greensborough**  
(next to Anthony Beale Reserve)  
Phone 9434 6089  
<http://wahroonga.kindergarten.vic.gov.au>

### DIAMOND HILLS PRE-SCHOOL



Play, Learn, Laugh and Shine

**ENROLMENTS OPEN 2021**

Come and explore our 3 and 4 year old programs!  
Our 4 year old program also includes an extended care program.

**"every day is open day"**

Visit us and experience the Diamond Hills difference at  
9-11 Diamond Hills Drive Greensborough VIC 3088  
You can find us tucked away behind Melbourne Polytechnic!

Enquiries: [diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au) or (03) 9435 8694

[www.diamondhillspreschool.com.au](http://www.diamondhillspreschool.com.au)