

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE 8th May 2020

## Week 4

We are now at the end of Week 4 of remote learning and it has been an interesting, challenging and different experience for all of us.

Last month my wife had her birthday in isolation which was an unusual experience and this weekend we will spend Mother's Day at home. I wish all of our mothers a wonderful Mother's Day in these very different times.

## Remote Learning

Congratulations to our community for supporting our transition to remote learning. As previously stated by myself, the Premier and Minister for Education, if you can learn from home you **must** learn from home.

I received a great deal of positive feedback from parents this week regarding the interaction with the students and teachers but as always, we are receptive to respectful feedback to assist us with continuous improvement.

Recently I have been made aware school materials produced by teachers have been shared on social media. Although the intention may be innocent and positive please refrain from doing so. I would like to point out that any material produced by the school, should not be shared, reproduced or published in any other way, without consent from the school. I ask that you consider our staff in this context. The learning tasks developed, accompanied by the videos, is work that teachers have put a great deal of effort into. We do not post this work in the online environment for praise or public scrutiny – the only purpose is to educate your children. You can imagine how vulnerable and exposed our staff will feel if videos of themselves are shared (even if the intentions are to highlight how wonderful our lessons are). Just as your professional documents and files are not for public display, neither are our teachers. Please privilege them their privacy.

Please remember the General Office is now only staffed from 8.30am to 10.30am and phones will be answered during this period. I have made this decision to reduce the amount of time the office staff need to be away from their homes and thank everyone for your understanding that the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community is paramount.

## We Are Not All in the Same Boat

For several weeks and even months we have heard politicians and many people suggesting we are all in the same boat. I may have even referenced this myself at some point. However, the reality is we are not all in the same boat.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a tea or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial & family crisis.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

Some children were concerned about what they might get for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some adults want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others abuse those who break the quarantine.

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## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...Continued....**

Some parents are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with remote learning while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to supervise their child's learning on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some of our parents are requesting more school work for their children as for them this actually reduces anxiety, while others want a reduction in work or in some cases, none at all.

We are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this pandemic. Please respect the perceptions, feelings, needs and emotions of others. We are not in the same boat.

Take care,

**Greg Paine**  
**Principal**

