



Ignatius Park College Newsletter

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From the Principal

Dear Parents, Friends and Caregivers

The Ignatius Park College Community would like to humbly acknowledge the Wulgurukaba peoples on whose land our College is located, as well as the Bindal peoples on whose land many of us live and travel across daily. We respectfully thank the elders of this traditional land both past and present for guiding us through the journey of time to where we are today. This spiritual and cultural journey is significant in allowing the freedoms our society has today. As a community we reflect on the history of Australia and its First Nations peoples and ask all elders to guide us to a promising and enriching future. As a community we will continue to develop our minds to be respectful and learn from Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders as well as all people who make up this country of Australia.

Over the last week we have been overwhelmed with the spread of Coronavirus both globally and within Australia. Who would have thought at the beginning of this term that some ten weeks later we would be to a point where state borders are closed, gatherings are banned, pubs/restaurants/places of worship closed and the requirement now not to walk in more than groups of two in public. In the last three weeks, we have had to think and act differently, not only in our own personal life and our interactions with others, but also the way we operate within the College. This is a new paradigm in terms of teaching and learning.

As the Prime Minister, Mr Scott Morrison, stated:

It is no longer business as usual for our schools, as we adapt to the impact of COVID-19.

We are now in a transition phase until the end of term as schools prepare for a new mode of operation following the school holidays.

For principals, teachers and support staff, the next few months will bring incredible challenges for our education system. We understand they need time to engage in the professional preparation and planning that is required to ensure that every child has access to education during this difficult time in a sustainable and effective manner for the rest of the 2020 school year.

This week, our staff have been involved for preparing our curriculum to be delivered through our online learning platform STILE. All parents and caregivers will receive an *#IPCOnline: A guide for Students and Parents* booklet outlining how students will prepare for online learning and gain access to our STILE platform as well as information regarding tasks that will need to be completed weekly, IT support available and students utilising their time effectively while they are online. I would like to thank both Mrs Allison Elcoate and Mr Shane Dove who have worked diligently over the past few weeks to ensure that we are ready to deliver our curriculum online at the beginning of Term 2, if we are required to operate via remote learning. This a new mode of engagement with our students that is going to be challenging for us all. Although parents are going to have to be more actively involved in their son's learning, the spread of COVID-19 has made all schools and educational systems think differently in the way we deliver education, but ensuring that we are continuing to provide quality teaching and learning, as well as monitoring the wellbeing of our students. We have also developed systems to assist our students' wellbeing.

We live in a time of uncertainty and the coronavirus pandemic is both confusing and frightening to us all as we watch what is happening overseas. As a College, if we move to remote learning, we have no timeline for how long this will occur and when schools will resume normal business. It is important for us all, in this time of uncertainty and self-isolation to remain faith-filled people, people who are calm and hopeful. St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, often talked about two forces in our interior lives: one that draws us toward God and the other away from God. As Christians we need to use this moment to bring us closer to God, this may be through prayer or supporting others in need through collecting food for others, contacting friends to check their wellbeing and ensuring we are not putting others health at risk through our actions.

Last year, as part of our Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders commitment, the College launched our *Connecting Globally* strategic plan where each of our Houses are partnered to an Edmund Rice school overseas. This week we received the following email from St Kevin's College, Omaru, New Zealand who is partnered with our Reid House:

Despite currently not being able to receive the physical body of Christ, faithful devotees around the globe remain united and nourished by scriptures, prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit inspires us in our isolated yet connected selves "that we are never alone" especially at this moment in history when people desperately seek reassurance. We remain a hope filled universal community of believers - the Holy Spirit will guide us and God's



A Catholic Secondary College in the Edmund Rice Tradition

The Edmund Rice Community acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which the College stands, the Bindal and Wulgurukaba People, and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future.

From the Principal (continued)

will be done - so what have we to fear. The Lenten journey provides a reassuring perspective - Easter brings new life to our world. It serves to remind us, locked inside Covid's tomb, that we all do need a time for personal renewal and that the resurrected Christ will indeed show us the way out - the Joy of Easter and New Life awaits us all.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Ignatius Park College community at this moment - keep safe, trust in God's eternal love and compassionate mercy.

The College has postponed the Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences scheduled for Wednesday, 29 April. A new date will be confirmed once a clear picture emerges of the situation next term. Please make a note of this cancellation.

Last month, the Christian Brothers held their 2020 Chapter in Lima, Peru. The Christian Brothers Chapter occurs every six years where they set the future vision of the Brothers and elect a new Congregational Leader. The Chapter focused on the scripture of Luke 8: 22-25 in which Jesus calms the storm, calling the Brothers to be open to the Spirit and to listen to their hearts and renew their commitment to the poor with whom they work. Br. Paul Conn cfc, a former principal of Ignatius Park College attended the gathering. Unfortunately, the chapter had to be finished early with the outbreak of Coronavirus globally.

During the Chapter, Congregational Leader, Br. Hugh O'Neill, led a meditation with the following poem by Helen Mallicoat.

I was regretting the past and fearing the future.

Suddenly, my Lord was speaking: "My name is I AM"

He paused. I waited.

He continued.

*"When you live in the past, with its mistakes and regrets,
it is hard. I am not there.*

My name is not – I WAS.

*When you live in the future, with its problems and fears,
it is hard. I am not there*

My name is not – I WILL BE.

*When you live in this moment,
it is not hard. I am here.*

My name is I AM".



With everything that is happening in the world, it is important not to forget that this Sunday is Palm Sunday. This year, Easter will be celebrated in the middle weekend of the break. Easter is the most important liturgical event in our Church year as we remember Jesus' death on Good Friday and his ultimate resurrection three days later Easter Sunday. Even though we will not be able to attend Mass this year (it will be live streamed). Easter reminds us of God giving his son for our salvation and we need to think of it from another entirely different perspective. After all, one must love something very deeply to want to bring it back from the dead. The message of Easter calls us to bring back to life our relationship with others and this is so important as we address the spread of the Coronavirus. We are challenged more than ever now to be people of "hope", a hope that nurtures and revitalises the earth, mending relationships in families, communities, work places and schools - people who open our hearts to the stranger. All these could begin to be transformed with a word of encouragement, acceptance, humour or welcome.

Easter calls us to be people of change, to reach out to others in love and compassion which may result in us being criticised and crucified for our efforts. God expressed his extraordinary love for Jesus in the resurrection. As a College community we need to celebrate Jesus' love for us during Easter and how we can be a voice for those broken, lost and marginalised in our society. I wish you all a Holy and restful Easter and, although we will be encouraged to self-isolate during this period, please keep yourself safe and minimise any risk of infection. May God's Blessing be on you all.

A reminder that school recommences at Ignatius Park College for Term Two on Monday, 20 April 2020. I would ask all parents and caregivers to please check our Facebook and emails during the break to be updated on any changes in school operations.

Live Jesus in our Hearts. Forever.

Shaun Clarke



Identity and Mission

Prayer for our new situation

Creator God, we pray today for protection over our homes and school – physical safety, good communication, grace and kindness under stress. We pray for our young people as they process what they are hearing and seeing about Corona virus, and for them to have people they can talk to about their concerns. We pray for families experiencing hardship through lost work and income and the extra stress this causes. We pray for school staff as they balance their workloads and learn about remote learning, while they continue to care for the emotional wellbeing of their students. We pray for health professionals and essential workers as they continue to support the community, risking their health for us. God, be with us during this difficult time. AMEN



Fifth Week of Lent

In Malawi, 18% of the population are undernourished

Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to provide food for the family.



Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school.

With your help, this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.

Watch a short film about Tawonga's story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KANloqXQQ0>

Let's Go Further, Together! Please support Project Compassion: www.lent.caritas.org.au

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Lent 2020 continue and this year, perhaps we can understand some of the messages of Christianity more clearly. We might understand better how Jesus felt when he went into the desert for an extended period. We might understand the fear of the early disciples, locked in an upper room after Jesus' death.

If you are interested in being part of the Triduum and Easter services in Townsville, go to the Sacred Heart YouTube channel at the appropriate times: www.youtube.com/user/SacredHeartCathTSV. You can visit the website for details about times, etc: www.tsv.catholic.org.au.

Christians and Corona Virus

It is important we, as Christians, frame our response to this virus from a Christian perspective. Anglican priest, Dave Andrews, offers a comprehensive reflection on this topic.

Today we are faced with what people who have gone before us have faced since ancient of days – a pandemic for which, for the time being, we have no vaccine that can save us...The words of Jesus provides the framework for our response: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" Luke 6:31; and "Love your neighbour as yourself" Matthew. 22:39...

In 16th century, when bubonic plague hit Wittenberg, Martin Luther refused calls to flee the city to save himself. Rather he stayed and ministered to the sick, Luther outlines three characteristics of a Christian response to epidemics I would interpret as:



1. Do no harm
2. Help where we can
3. Bear our share of the losses

1 Do no harm

... Primary responsibility – if sick, self isolate

Personal hygiene – wash hands with soap

Social distance – do not greet with handshake and make sure we keep one and a half metres apart

Public conduct – always be patient, respectful and kind

Church policy – this is the last week of our church meeting

2 Help where we can

... Look out for vulnerable people next door, at the shops and the hospitals

Contact someone you know from church on the church contact list

Write a letter to someone self-isolated or in locked-down institution

Volunteer your art, music, teaching, counselling etc skills online

Organise an online discussion group, sing-a-long or dance party

Offer to work on the front line at the shops or hospitals (Qld Health)

Support a local business by trading there as long as you can

Grow your own food and/or support a food bank

Help homeless people find a place to stay

3 Bear our share of the losses

... We need to pay our taxes to fund services, help people get those welfare payments as soon as possible

Those of us with secure income may need to subsidise those who have lost their jobs and their income

Older people like me need to support priority treatment of younger people, even if it means we don't get treatment.

A Final Word From CS Lewis:

...C. S. Lewis's words - written 72 years ago - rings with some relevance for us. I've just edited it a bit...

'The first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If many of us are going to get sick, and some of us are going to get very sick, let the (coronavirus) when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, reading, listening to music, working, teaching, playing with the children, chatting to our friends — not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about the (coronavirus) all the time.'

Johanna Smith | Deputy Principal - Identity and Mission

HouseParty App - challenges and opportunities

Family Zone have written an excellent article regarding the new (ish) App called HouseParty and the challenges and opportunities that it presents to our young people. In these times when we want them to stay connected with their friends and family – it is important to make informed decisions about what social media apps that they use.

Teen-targeted video-chatting app, Houseparty, has exploded over the past two weeks, as housebound kids turn to their screens to connect with friends. But privacy concerns abound, amid increasing reports of data breaches, geo-location risks and porn-bombing.



Houseparty is like Zoom on alcopops.

Like Zoom, it's a social networking app that allows users to connect with up to eight others. Members of the chat are then split up on screen to make it feel like everyone is in the same room.

So far, so familiar. But here's what's different, and why kids are crashing Houseparty in huge numbers right now.

Unlike more business-oriented video-conferencing applications like Zoom or Skype, Houseparty features in-app games and trivia in a range of fun categories, from entertainment and superheroes to geography and sports.

(Fun fact: the app is owned by Epic Games, creators of Fortnite.)

The "houseparty" theme continues with a feature that lets users "lock the room" they are chatting in, blocking others from joining in on the chat. It's a feature that has both risks and benefits - opening the door to social sidelining and passive-aggressive cyberbullying, while also affording some privacy protection (see below).

Risks to children

Location settings

This is a major red flag for parents, as Houseparty's default geo-location feature can be used by predators to pinpoint children's exact location.

Data mining

When your child signs up to Houseparty, they are asked to hand over their entire contact list, which will be stored on the app's servers.

"If you choose to import your personal contacts from your mobile device we will access your personal contacts in order to identify Users that you may know that are using the Services and to provide other Users with suggestions for potential Connections based on mutual contacts," Houseparty's privacy policy explains.

Unless they choose "Skip" at this step, the app will set to work soliciting your child's friends - without their consent - for further business.

Hacking

Houseparty users are complaining that they have been hacked, reporting on social media that their PayPal, Netflix, Spotify, and online-banking accounts were compromised, according to a report today by businessinsider.com. The company has denied these reports.

Porn-bombing

Houseparty is the latest app to be targeted for this new online nastiness, which involves users dropping inappropriate on-screen content - typically porn or their own naked images - without warning or permission. The trend has also been rife on Zoom in the past few weeks, where it's become known as "Zoombombing."

On Zoom, it's an easy matter to find and access another person's group call - and it's the same on Houseparty. Experts advise users to keep their rooms locked if possible, and to avoid adding strangers as friends.

Reporting online abuse

Houseparty provides no channel for reporting abuse. But users can block anyone while video-chatting with them by tapping on that person's chat screen to reveal the settings toggle, and "Private Mode" can be activated by tapping the pink settings wheel.

How should parents respond?

It's a tough call, when kids are stuck at home and unable to see their friends through the normal face-to-face channels. If your child already has Houseparty, or is asking for it, be sure to discuss the potential risks, and to insist that Private Mode is activated.

Family Zone cyber expert Jordan Foster, clinical psychologist and managing director of ySafe, advises,

If used appropriately, this app is a great resource for teens. However, my concern is that without adequate supervision, this app lends itself not only to easy conversations with strangers, but overwhelming possibility for endless chats. It's not dissimilar to an old school chat site, where new people come into rooms and you're notified every time a new connection comes along.

Our suggestion is that this app is for users aged 13+, with teens between 13-15 not allowed to use the app late at night or close to bedtime. Using the app in a communal area is a great idea, with parents regularly checking in on the conversation content.

Most importantly, keep Houseparty - along with all device activity - out of children's bedrooms entirely, and prohibit screen-time of any kind at least an hour before bedtime.

Remember: Wherever kids are going online, predators will follow - and Houseparty is the latest online craze.

As always – any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting either Dannielle or Val on counsellor@ipc.qld.edu.au.

Dannielle Charge | Student Counsellor

parenting * ideas

INSIGHTS

Helping siblings resolve their fights

With family members living in close proximity during the current COVID-19 pandemic, parents may find an increase in sibling squabbles. This is understandable as any relationship is tested to its limits by excess time and lack of space. Sibling squabbles usually arise over low level issues such as space (“He’s sitting in my seat.”), possessions (“That’s my book!”) and fairness (“It’s not fair. I was here first!”). It’s enough to send most parents around the twist.

While it seems that kids in families are programmed to fight with each other, the good news is that parents have the power to facilitate learning.

According to a recent study, sibling fights teach kids important conflict resolution skills. In fact, parents who stop their children from arguing may well be depriving them of important learning opportunities. Researcher Laurie Kramer from the University of Illinois in the US found that kids who learned how to argue with their siblings had more advanced emotional development.

Many parents also worry that their children who fight with each other will not get along as adults. The evidence doesn’t support this view. The test for strong families is more about the willingness for kids to pull together when the chips are down, rather than the frequency of the squabbling.

Healthy families know how to fight well. When parents take an active approach to helping their children resolve their fights, they are teaching them a valuable life skill as well as reducing the incidence of fighting over the long term. Here are some practical strategies to use:

Model good conflict resolution skills

Kids wear L plates when it comes to solving disputes. Some kids will yell, get abusive or even get physical when they are settling disputes. Show them better ways of sorting out problems by talking things through with your partner, compromising and apologising when you’ve said something upsetting to your partner or your children.

Help kids manage their emotions

“Yep, it would make me mad too if someone said that to me.” Usually someone’s feelings get hurt when siblings argue so make sure you recognise their emotions without taking sides. This focus on feelings helps kids develop emotional literacy and promotes empathy in siblings as well.

Monitor sibling relationships

Keep your antenna up for the signs of discord within sibling relationships. Some disputes kids can sort out themselves, but you need to be ready to intervene and assist kids in the peace-brokering, or at least to act as a safety net when one child continually appears on the wrong end of a power imbalance.

parenting * ideas

Mentor them to sort out disputes

Kids need the chance to sort their conflict out themselves, but sometimes they need a little coaching. They often invite their parents to take sides, which is usually counter-productive. Rather than trying to sort out who started an argument, focus on possible solutions, provide suggestions such as taking turns, giving way, bargaining, swapping or even walking away.

Encourage them to make up

Kids often get over disputes far quicker than adults. They can be squabbling one minute and cuddling up the next, so it gets tricky intervening sometimes. However there are times when you need to encourage a child to mend bridges with an aggrieved sibling. This can mean kids have to swallow their pride, admit that they may be wrong, make an apology or make some sort of restitution such as doing a special favour. This type of restoration means kids must take responsibility for their behaviours and is a sign of growing maturity.

Conflict and siblings tend to go together. While sibling squabbles can be annoying, they also offer parents great opportunities to help kids to handle conflict effectively, which is a great life skill.

Related webinar

Our school has a membership with Parenting Ideas. As part of this membership, you can access the below webinar recording 'Sibling Fighting' at no cost.

Spend an hour with renowned parenting educator Michael Grose as he explores the weird and wonderful world of sibling relationships. He'll help you develop an active approach to resolving sibling disputes so they learn valuable life skills.

To redeem:

1. Click this link: <https://www.parentingideas.com.au/parent-resources/parent-webinars/sibling-fighting-what-to-do>
2. Click 'Add to cart'
3. Click 'View cart'
4. Enter the voucher code HARMONY and click 'Apply.' The \$37 discount will then be applied
5. Click 'Proceed to checkout'
6. Fill in your account details including our school's name to verify your eligibility. These are the details you will use to login to your account and access your webinar and resources
7. Click 'Place Order'

This voucher is valid until 5 May 2020.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.

Messages from around the World

Message from Stella Maris College, Uruguay

Dear IPC Community

How are you? I hope everything is fine over there. Here the situation is a bit complicated and that's why I didn't write before, I'm really sorry. But, to tell you the truth, we are - as a country - a little overwhelmed by the situation.

Though quarantine is not compulsory (I mean, imposed by law), the government has asked people to stay at home and many, many things are closed and there are plenty of people on the dole because of the outbreak of coronavirus.

Education, at all levels, 'has closed its doors' since March 13th until April 13th, though it may be extended if things don't get better. The number of people infected with the virus is increasing slowly, which is something good. And no diseases so far, thanks God.

As you can see, we are living an extremely special situation. Our kids as well as their families are quite worried and though they are trying to make the best out of this situation, some of them are a little bit overwhelmed. Kids at home, distance learning, sharing computers, a lot of parents working from their homes, too. Not to mention the fact that going to a shop to buy food is an issue too, one person per family, certain restrictions regarding the number of products to be taken by person and a special time for people over 65 to go to the stores.

I hope you agree with me, and maybe until things get a little bit better here, we postpone our email buddy program, as some kids are not even coping with the distance learning.

Best,

Paola

From St Kevin's College in New Zealand

With Bishops closing the church doors in NZ, so in the spirit of Blessed Edmund & EREBB I share this line of thought with IPC:

Despite currently not being able to receive the physical body of Christ, faithful devotees around the globe remain united and nourished by scriptures, prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit inspires us in our isolated yet connected selves "that we are never alone" especially at this moment in history when people desperately seek reassurance. We remain a hope filled universal community of believers - the Holy Spirit will guide us and God's will be done - so what have we to fear. The lenten journey provides a reassuring perspective - Easter brings new life to our world. It serves to remind us, locked inside Covid's tomb, that we all do need a time for personal renewal and that the resurrected Christ will indeed show us the way out - the Joy of Easter and New Life awaits us all.

My thoughts and prayers are with you Greg and the IPC community at this moment - keep safe, trust in God's eternal love and compassionate mercy - Kind regards Tony.

Greg Christ | Identity and Mission Coordinator - Liberating Education

Connecting Beyond Borders

"Never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity." Pope Francis



	Mount Sion C.B.S. Waterford, Ireland	
	Saint Ambrose College Manchester, England	
	PALMA SCHOOL Palma School California, USA	
	St. Edmund's School Shillong, India	
	Veritas College Springs, South Africa	
	Colegio Stella Maris Montevideo, Uruguay	
	St Kevin's College Oamaru, New Zealand	





A School of EREBB
EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
Beyond Borders

The Spirit of the Anzac Competition

Create a piece that reflects the spirit of our ANZAC history.

- Creative story
- Speech
- Poem
- Song/Music
- Artwork (please take a photograph of your artwork)

Submissions online, please see the IPC website for more information:

<https://bit.ly/anzacdaycomp>

For more information, contact:

Carolyn Drummond

Defence School Mentor

carolynedrummond@ipc.qld.edu.au

Great prizes to be won!

