



Term 2 | Week 3 | Date: 5th May 2021

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary's

"Don't rescue your child from a challenge - teach them how to face it."

"Do not educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy so when they grow up they'll know the value of things, not the price." (anon)

There is such a strong relationship and connection between parenting and teaching. As parents you are your child's first teachers and during the time your children are at school, we teachers take on the role *'in loco parentis,'* literally in place of the parent. Both parents and teachers have the child's best interests as their key driver and both seek to create environments where the child can flourish and be his or her best self. This works best when there is a strong relationship between teachers and parents and where families are strongly connected to the school and work in close partnership with it.



As schools work together with parents it's important that there is a sense of shared understanding about what it means to raise happy and successful children who enjoy good wellbeing and learning.

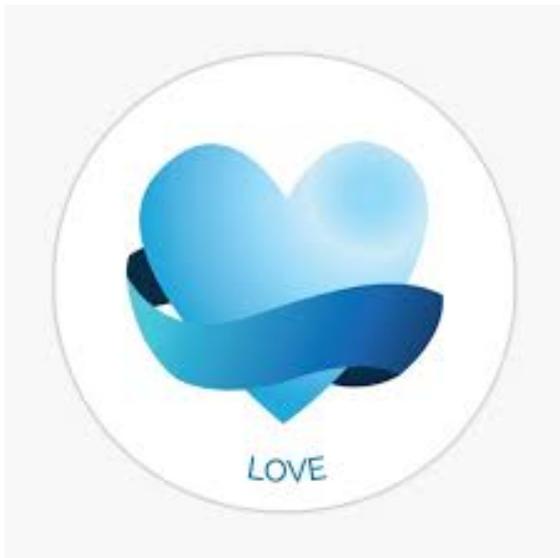
It is easy for parents sometimes, with the best will in the world, to overhelp, overprotect and overdirect their children in their efforts to help them. Equally the same can be said for teachers who at times may, in their zeal to help children, may deprive children of the chance to build their self-efficacy through taking risks and experiencing the valuable lessons of what it is to fail and how we can recover from this setback and grow stronger.

"Ok, that's all very interesting," you may say, *"but it's just your opinion, right?"* Well actually, It's really interesting to see what the scientific research has to say about what children need to have the best chances of leading happy productive lives into adolescence, early adulthood and into old age. It's also good news for parents as the research says that we should be a whole lot less obsessed with grades and scores and a whole lot more focused on building a foundation for success on things like *Love* and *Chores*.



Yes, chores! The longest longitudinal study of humans ever conducted is called the Harvard Grant Study. It found that professional success in life, which is what we want for our children, comes from having done chores as a kid, and the earlier you started, the better. A mindset that says, *"there's some unpleasant work, someone's got to do it, it might as well be me,"* is what's going to get you ahead in your schooling, your uni and your workplace.

The second very important finding from the Harvard Grant Study said that happiness in life comes from love, not love of work, not love of money but love of other human beings, our spouse, our partner, our friends, our family. So childhood needs to teach our children how to love, and they can't love, and they can't love others if they don't first love themselves, and they won't love themselves unless we, as parents and teachers, can't offer them unconditional love. So it's our job to provide the nourishing environment, to strengthen them through chores and to love them so they can love others and learn how to receive love themselves.



Of course Love figures as one of the 24 Character Strengths and at its heart it is about valuing close relationships while feeling loved by and connected to others. As a Catholic School we have no better example of the embodiment of Love, of course, than Jesus who counsels us to *"Love one another as I have loved you."* (John 13: 34 - 35).

Wishing everyone well and good luck with getting your children to do chores - you can tell them it's for their own good and that you have the backing of the longest research study ever conducted, at Harvard no less.

God Bless

Vince

**A REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS IN YEARS 3 & 5
NAPLAN WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK
TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY & FRIDAY
Please ensure that all students attend school on
time and bring their headphones to school**

Religious Education News

Family Mass - Sunday 23rd May

All families are invited to attend a special Family Mass at 9 am on Sunday 23rd May. A note will go home shortly, calling for volunteers to help at this mass.



Our Lady Help of Christians Mass - Monday 24th May

We will be holding a whole school mass to celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians on Monday 24th of May at 9.30 am. Parents, carers, family members and friends are warmly invited to attend.



We would like to wish the following students
and staff a very

Happy Birthday

Mrs Nelson 9th May

Mrs Symons 10th May

Emma Curtis for 10th May



Lunch Order Deal Friday

4&20 Sausage Roll

with Sauce \$3.50



HEALTHY HAROLD MERCHANDISE ORDERS

MUST BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE BY

THIS FRIDAY 7TH MAY

STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PURCHASE

FROM THE VAN ON THE DAY

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL RAFFLE TICKETS (SOLD/UNSOLD) ARE

RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY

THURSDAY 6TH MAY

ST. MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL

HEALTHY HAROLD

TUESDAY 11TH MAY 2021

TIMES

9.15am to 10.45am

Year 2/3/4

11.15am to 12.45pm

Year 5/6

2.00pm to 3.00pm

Kinder & Year 1



FOR A SAFER, SMARTER LIFE.

Sport Report



Congratulations to our students who travelled to Parkes to compete in the Cross Country trials. The sportsmanship and support the students showed to each other was outstanding. Thank you to the parents who made the long journey to enable their children to participate. We appreciate the feedback and the photos.

Thank you to those who organised the event and made sure the day was such a success.

School Athletics Carnival

to be held this

Thursday 6th May, 2021

We are still looking for some helpers to so please contact the office and put your name down if you have any free time. These are always fun filled days.

Students are to come to school as normal and will all walk over to the oval for the carnival to commence at 10am.

We will be having a small canteen offering tea/coffee/milo and cakes/slices with a sausage sizzle for lunch. There will also be water and juice boxes for sale.

If you cannot make it to help perhaps you can donate cakes/slices/biscuits to the canteen.

There will be no lunch orders from the High School canteen on Thursday.

Many hands make light work.

Weekly Compliance Articles

SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS - LEGAL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

CHILD PROTECTION

We take our responsibility to protect children seriously. All staff are expected to promote child safety by having a clear understanding of their legal child protection responsibilities and act in accordance with those responsibilities.

In particular, the school will:

1. Maintain professionalism in our interactions with children at all times by exercising appropriate duty of care and maintaining professional boundaries.
2. Follow an established process to address allegations of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards children.
3. Ensure all people working in our school who are required to undertake a Working With Children Check have a valid clearance.
4. Respond appropriately when we suspect a child is at risk of significant harm due to possible abuse or neglect by a parent/carer or other adult.

RESPONDING TO RISK OF HARM

All school staff are mandatory reporters. This means that if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at risk of 'significant harm' from abuse or neglect, then a report must be made to the Department of Communities and Justice Child Protection Helpline (CP Helpline).

School staff are to inform the Principal if they are concerned that a child may be at risk. It is the role of the Principal to make the report to the CP Helpline.

In making a report the Principal will consider all of the information and seek appropriate advice from the Catholic Education Office. Any information about a child at risk is kept confidentially by the Principal.

In situations where a child is considered to be at risk, the school will work with the child and family to assist them as much as possible.

If you have any concerns about a child who you consider may be at risk, please discuss your concerns with the Principal as soon as possible and maintain confidentiality.

MAINTAINING PROFESSIONALISM

All staff are expected to act professionally and in accordance with the school's expectations regarding staff conduct toward children. We understand that staff have a duty of care to:

- ensure no child is exposed to foreseeable risk of harm;
- take action to minimise risk;
- supervise actively; and
- if we see others acting inappropriately with children, report concerns to the Principal.

School staff also understand that they are in a position of trust, authority and influence in relation to children and that it is important that we do not take advantage of that position to mistreat or misguide students either intentionally or inadvertently.

Weekly Compliance Articles cont.

Addressing Complaints of Inappropriate Behaviour by Staff

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for both students and staff. This includes addressing complaints of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards any child or young person.

Such complaints are handled differently to other types of complaints which may arise in the school because of legal obligations established by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019. The NSW Office of the Children's Guardian is a government agency which requires schools and other organisations working with children to ensure systems are in place for recording and responding to all allegations of a child protection nature against staff. You should be aware that 'staff' includes volunteer helpers (including parents), contractors as well as paid staff.

If you have concerns about alleged inappropriate behaviour by a staff member towards any child or young person it is important that you discuss your concerns with the Principal who in turn will consult with the Catholic Education Office.

All complaints are investigated and resolved through a fair and confidential process which involves listening to 'both sides of the story' and giving all involved an opportunity to be heard. If the concerns involve alleged criminal behaviour they will be reported to the Police and the Catholic Education Office will wait for the outcome of the Police investigation before continuing its own investigation.

At the end of an investigation a finding will be made and appropriate follow up determined. In relation to the staff member this may include no action, increased support, professional development, increased supervision/monitoring or disciplinary action, removal of duties or termination of employment.

If harm has occurred to a child, counselling or other support will be offered to the child.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

Screening of those working in schools

Working With Children Checks are undertaken by staff working in our school. Non-exempt school volunteers, outside tutors, external providers and any staff engaged by an external organisation are also expected to provide schools with their WWCC which is verified prior to engagement.

Exemptions from Working With Children Check are:

- Children (under the age of 18);
- A 'parent of a child' includes a carer or person who has legal responsibility for a child;
- A 'close relative' includes a spouse or de facto partner, child, step-child, parent, step-parent, sibling, step-sibling, grandparent, step-grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew.

This exemption does not apply where the work is part of a formal mentoring program or involves intimate, personal care of children with a disability, or when volunteering on overnight camps.

The purpose of the check is to exclude people from working with children who are not suitable. A person who has been convicted or found guilty of a listed serious offence against children (whether in NSW or elsewhere) is prohibited from working in a child related role.

Weekly Compliance Articles cont.

The participation of parents and close relatives of students at the school as volunteers is welcomed and appreciated for various activities in the school. It is important that all volunteers are aware that they are subject to child protection legislation. This means all volunteers must:

- sign in on the *Compass Kiosk* at the front office and obtain a visitor's badge or slip as per school procedure;
- check with the school to ascertain the current legal requirements for working with children;
- not engage in any inappropriate behaviour towards any children. In particular, although parents and volunteers are not employed by the school, they are considered to be 'staff' for legal purposes and are subject to an investigation if an allegation of inappropriate behaviour towards a child or children is received.

Volunteers who are not the parent or a close relative of a child at the school will be expected to undertake a Working With Children Check.

Further information on the Working With Children Check can be found on the website for the Office of the Children's Guardian at <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/>



St Mary's Christmas Tree Fete



Yes, it is that time of the year where we start planning the annual

St Mary's Christmas Tree Fete

This event is the schools major fund raiser.

SAVE THE DATE:

FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2021

Thank you to those who attended last term's meeting where we made a decision to hold the Christmas Tree Fete this year. I invite everyone interested to attend a planning meeting to be held at school on

PLANNING MEETING TO BE HELD

TUESDAY 18TH MAY @ 6PM

The more input and ideas we can generate, the better the Fete will be, I'm sure.

Thanks Vince

