



Thursday 3rd March 2022

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Parent and Caregivers, Boys and Girls,

The large amount of rainfall experienced during the week has continued to play havoc with the usual routines of the school. I thank the many parents who have offered their assistance if needed to navigate the current challenging weather conditions.

Yesterday, we again had to move the Stage 2 classes out of their rooms temporarily and will continue to monitor the situation as required. The sandbags across the lower classrooms in Block C prevented more water ingress, however these rooms will continue to be out of action while a solution to the drainage issues is worked out. In the meantime, we have relocated the Stage 1 students to other classroom spaces in the school to allow them to settle back into their usual routine.

I also thank parents who were in the position yesterday to respond to our request to pick up their child/ren a little earlier. This action minimised traffic congestion and assisted the school in getting children home safely.

Ash Wednesday

Yesterday we celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass with all our students attending. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season which traditionally is a time of personal reflection and renewal. We heard Fr. Shaju challenge us all to let God be larger in our lives through the actions of Lenten traditions of prayer, alms giving and fasting. This is a great opportunity for parents to speak to their children about the traditions of the Lenten Season as a time for reflection and renewal through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

We look forward to celebrating our school's St. Patrick's Feast Day Mass on March 17th. More details will be provided in the coming week.

Covid Update

This week the school has reported a rise in Covid-19 cases in Grades 3, 4 & 6. I thank parents for notifying the school. I ask parents to watch for symptoms and maintain the usual Covid-safe practices.

Yesterday, more Rapid Antigen Tests were sent home to families with another batch to be sent home expected to be arriving next week. The tests do not need to be carried out each Monday and Wednesday morning as was the case previously. The RAT kits are for families to keep and use as required i.e., if symptoms arise.

Please remember that even though many of the Covid-safe restrictions have eased, children still need to stay at home and get tested if they have symptoms or if you suspect they may have the Covid-19 virus.

- If a student or staff member receives a **positive** RAT test, they need to
 - record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#)
 - **notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible**
 - follow [NSW Health advice](#) to isolate for 7 days

As was communicated previously, the updated settings for schools for the remainder of Term 1 will again change from Monday. Masks will no longer be mandatory for staff in primary schools as of Monday 7 March. Staff and students should continue to be supported to wear a mask should they choose to do so. In line with community settings.

School Open Day 2022- Postponed

With the recent rain event and the rectification work required due to the flooding of classrooms, the school has postponed the School Open Day that was scheduled for Thursday 24th March. Moving the date will allow us to get the school back into order and put our best foot forward when showcasing the school to prospective parents. The new date for the School Open Day will be provided soon.

St. Leo's Open Day

This week I wrote to the parents of our Year 6 students reminding them of our school's special arrangement as a Priority Feeder School for St. Leo's Catholic College Wahroonga. Many of our current Year 6 students would already be enrolled at the school as students who attend St. Patrick's have a clear K-12 path with the PFS Program. Parents of Year 6 children who haven't yet enrolled, who are interested in applying for a position at St. Leo's, must do so before March 31st. Parents who are unsure if they have submitted an enquiry, should contact the Acting Registrar, Joanna Gower on joanna.gower@dbb.catholic.edu.au to ensure they are on their list.

I encourage all parents interested in finding out more about St. Leo's to attend the school's Open Day scheduled for Tuesday March 15th between 4-7pm. I am sure you will be impressed with the schools recent \$30 million dollar upgrade.

School Canteen

Maegan Rose, who has taken on the voluntary role from Ebony O'Hagan, is ready to reopen the canteen with a launch date of Wednesday 9th March. The updated menu is attached.

Maegan is looking forward to opening the canteen and is asking for parents and carers to once again volunteer to assist. Please click on the following link to volunteer your services for the canteen:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49acae2ea3ffc34-stpatricks>

Our school canteen functions through the generosity of our parent community volunteering their time and I am sure the children appreciate the support this wonderful service provides our school community.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Our Parent/Teacher Meetings will be scheduled for early next term. Parents who have important information they wish to communicate to their child's class teacher before the Individual Parent/Teacher Meeting takes place are encouraged to make an appointment through the school office or communicate information via an email to the school office to be passed on to the class teacher.

Friday Awards Assembly

Each week children from each class are presented with pastoral care and merit awards that acknowledge student's excellent behaviour, effort and academic success. Parents and carers are invited to join the Friday morning award assemblies from **8:45am** via Zoom using the following link and access codes:

Link: <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/61022185802?pwd=VzRsUjVBLzlxV21pUUIGdjJNK2JGZz09>

Meeting ID: 610 2218 5802

Passcode: 497455

If you do join the assembly, please keep your settings on mute and your video turned off. I hope that many parents can tune in for our next awards assembly.

God bless you and your families.

Todd Vane-Tempest

Principal