

OUR LADY OF FATIMA SCHOOL
16 Hinton Street Rosebud 3939
Ph 59 500 400



17th July 2020

Dear Parents,

Here we are back in this situation which turns our lives upside down. Your support of the students and teachers during our last lockdown was outstanding. We can do it again and we can even do it better. Thank you for your prompt responses to our surveys this week and for your feedback regarding the home learning. We have made a few adjustments based on your feedback and on what we learnt last term.

- Teachers will be making more instructional videos so students can use the pause and replay functions to revisit instructions as needed.
- We are providing some more structured worksheets so there is less time online.
- There will be a Wellbeing Wednesday – with activities to focus on body, mind and spirit. This will include Physical Education.
- Specialist lessons, PE, Art and Performing Arts will be activities which are adaptable across the year levels so sibling activities will be similar and can be done at the same time.
- Core Literacy and Numeracy tasks will be held over four days instead of five.
- Friday assemblies will continue and then be followed by a family friendly fun day to provide a break from the written work.
- Be sure to log in every day – even if you are doing your own family activity to ensure your child's attendance and connection to school is recorded.
- The ICT hotline email remains the best way to have any ICT issues addressed. Darren Perry will monitor this closely ict@fatimarosebud.catholic.edu.au and respond as quickly as possible to your queries.
We do expect that with the various software updates which have been rolled out by google and apple since our last lockdown, that there may be a few teething issues next week.
- We can't stress this next point enough – just do what you can and know we are here to support you if your child is struggling with the online learning. You can email your child's class teacher, Darren Perry or myself with any concerns.

FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

On Fridays there will still be plenty of learning involved but it will include interest based activities, exploration of talents, and opportunities to share accomplishments. There will be no google meets and no requirement to submit any work. It will be up to families how they choose to engage with the activities, and if you want to replace them with a family activity of your own – you are welcome to do so. Different teachers will set tasks each week. Be sure to log in each Friday to have your attendance marked, check your grid and tune into assembly each week to hear about the new activities.

We will continue to use the same online portal where students can access their work from home. Students must use their school google account email to enter the virtual classroom, to meet with teachers online and submit their work. The link to classrooms will be provided by teachers. It is also available through the online learning portal on our school website.

www.fatimarosebud.catholic.edu.au

Once again – log in using student accounts to access the learning and the assemblies.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We will give everyone the chance to settle back into home school routine next week and then hold virtual parent teacher interviews the week after. Your class teacher will let you know when the bookings open. The interviews will take place in google classroom and we will ask you to use your child's google account to log in.

PREP 2021

As we are unable to do our school tours for prospective preps for next year, we have to rely on our virtual video tour and your recommendations. We are putting together a promotional sheet for new parents. We would welcome input from anyone who can take a few minutes to make a recommendation. Your responses can be emailed to mcoyle@fatimarosebud.catholic.edu.au and will be compiled on a page for our prospective parents. If you know of anyone who has not yet enrolled for 2021 please remind them to do so now.

WELCOME BACK

This term we welcome back Aley Allen to our staff. Aley has been on family leave and returns to us with the responsibility of developing our STEM program. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Although the lessons will have to be offered remotely for now, we will be introducing all students to the exciting new STEM room once onsite schooling resumes.

BREAKING NEWS

In my career I have felt blessed every day to be involved in education. There is something very inspiring to see the world through the eyes of children, and to work with people who share that joy and its accompanying responsibilities. There are so many of those wonderful moments, which you as parents also experience, when a child discovers something new, masters a skill, understands the world in a new way and can't wait to share their learning with you. When you have had a hand in guiding those new insights, you celebrate that learning all the more. I have had much to celebrate and much to be thankful for in the last 40 years since I commenced my teaching career back in 1980. Yes really – so long ago!!

Over the years I have worked at four different schools and have been fortunate to have two separate appointments at Fatima. The first time round at the McCombe street site as a teacher (and parent) from the early 1990's to 2000. The second appointment came seven years later, following my time as principal at St Joseph's, Crib Point. I felt Fatima calling me back, and I returned in 2008 in the role of principal. So, it has been a long and happy association with the Fatima family which I have known as parent, teacher and principal. However, with my current contract concluding at the end of 2020, I have decided it is time to begin my transition to retirement and to step back from principalship. I will remain in my current position until the end of 2020 and then hand over to a new principal who will commence in 2021.

I am sorry to be making this announcement under the current circumstances where we are not physically able to gather as a community, however the time has come to share the news. There is a lengthy process involved in advertising, interviewing and appointing a new principal. This includes a period of consultation with Father John Paul, school staff and parent representatives. Catholic Education Southern Region Office will co-ordinate the process and will begin working on the search for a new principal in coming weeks.

COVID – 19

And, finally, a reminder that if you, your child or a family member develop symptoms of a fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of smell or taste, you should get tested at a coronavirus (COVID-19) testing facility and stay home.

If you would like health information from the Department of Health and Human services, you can visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Stay home where you can, stay safe and follow every precaution to stay well.

I look forward to the day we can all meet together again, but until then we will make the most of our technology and online spaces.

Take care and God bless each member of our community.



Monica Coyle
PRINCIPAL