

# NEWSLETTER

T1

W10

APRIL  
02  
2020

## Hello From Mr Davis

As you know I left for overseas in early March with other Principals– led by our Executive Director, Pam Betts - on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Unfortunately, we were only two days into the trip when the borders of Israel closed down due to the virus. The majority of the trip was therefore cancelled, and, after a few days of uncertainty, I arrived home two weeks ago. I am well and full of energy and have been supporting the team at school from home for the past week. I've been back at work for part of today (Thursday) to connect with staff and say hello to students who come from families with essential workers.

My time in isolation has certainly not compared to the challenges and anxieties no doubt felt by our school community during this unprecedented emergency. Our teachers and staff are doing an extraordinary job and you all will have had your own challenges through it as well. Thank you for maintaining a sense of hope and love for all at this time.

### Preparing for Term 2

The continued learning progression of students will be important and necessary as we move into Term 2. This week our teachers have been working super hard to prepare for learning to occur in an alternate format if this becomes necessary. However, because it is so unfamiliar, there will be no right or wrong way of delivering this learning. It will be a time of trial and error and we will keep getting better at it as time goes on.

### What Can You Expect?

Please look out for information and correspondence throughout the second week of the holidays. Our intention is to make available important details on how you might make the best out of your home learning environment. We hope to tell you:

- What we want your children to be learning and doing (at the beginning of Term 2 and then each week).
- How we will be maintaining our connection with your children and with you as a family.

Once the term starts... we'll take it day by day and build our momentum from there.

### Happy Easter

Take care everyone. Wishing you a happy holy Easter whatever that may look like in your family during these strange times. Stay safe and well. I am happy for you to touch base with me if there is anything I can support you with.

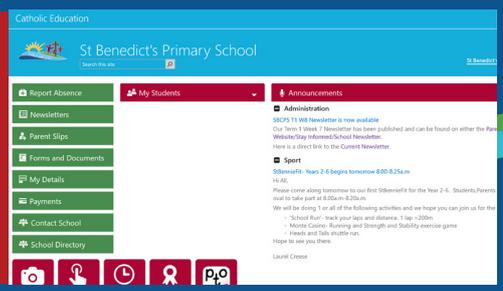
Patrick Davis, *Principal*

St Benedict's Primary School Mango Hill  
Posted by Patrick Davis  
Yesterday at 4:13 pm · 📷  
Hi Everyone here is a video message from Patrick Davis. Take care. We will be in touch towards the end of the week regarding Term 2.



# Your Parent Portal

The St Benedict's Parent Portal, via BCE Connect, is your main source of school information. If you haven't done so already, please make sure you can access the Parent Portal. You will find instructions on our [school website](#) under Community Access, attached to this newsletter email as well as at the back of this newsletter.



## Are You OK?

If you are struggling for whatever reason, please tell us. A well-being process for families has been engineered to respond to any calls for help and support. The best email address to use is [pmangohill@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pmangohill@bne.catholic.edu.au)



## COVID-19 Info Link

The COVID-19 Link is now available on our School Website. Brisbane Catholic Education enacted this and it will direct parents/carers to the most up to date information via the yellow bar at the top of our website found at the following link: <http://www.stbenedicts.qld.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx>



## Thank You

Thank you to our Leadership Team, led by Acting Principal Tim Cronin, who have led the community during this unprecedented time. They deserve a high distinction for their ongoing communications with parents, staff and students. They have ensured everyone is well informed and that processes have been put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all. Their calm leadership and positivity has been most appreciated. They have done a marvellous job.



## Just a few here this week...



Let's all continue to walk in God's ways as we live, love, learn and celebrate.

# Application for Concession of Fees

Two documents have now been placed on our Parent Portal with regards to COVID-19 Fee Concessions for Term 2. This information came through from our Acting Executive Director last night and is for families who are affected as a result of COVID-19. To locate these documents from the Parent Portal Homepage, please look under the red 'Forms and Documents' tab and under the Finance/Fees heading. There is also a FAQ Sheet which contains helpful information to guide the process. Please know that BCE are doing everything they can to make this process as simple and easy as possible for parents/ caregivers experiencing significant financial hardship due to COVID-19 impacts. Contact our Finance Office if you have any questions or concerns.

## Our Catholic Identity Goals

The Catholic Identity of our school is the fabric of who we are at St Benedict's, the glue that holds us together and as such it is so important that we continuously strive to improve in this important area of school life.

This year at St Benedict's we have a number of goals we are working towards achieving. The first of which is to reimagine our school *Vision and Mission*. This is something that was created when the school was opened and after 13 years requires a revamp to ensure it reflects what our present-day St Benedict's community believe to be important. Staff, student and parent voice will be used to refine this document.

We will also continue to work in the curriculum space, to embed a Catholic Perspective across all learning areas. Building on the good work that was done in 2019, we will work with the Health Curriculum moving on to embedding a Catholic perspective in other learning areas. Teachers will also engage in professional learning designed to improve the classroom teaching of Religion, focusing on understanding scripture and how this understanding can guide both teaching and learning. We will also revisit our Religious Education Scope and Sequences to ensure they are aligned and provide a sequential and developmental approach to Religion.

Our final Catholic Identity goal focuses on the spiritual formation of both staff and students. A formation plan will be developed, containing details of professional learning for staff and activities for students aimed at developing the faith dimension of our lives as members of a Catholic school community.

Ellen Locke, APRE

## Our Staff 'Keeping It Real'



Let's all continue to walk in God's ways as we live, love, learn and celebrate.

### *Safety Tip: Maintaining Your Car*

You should regularly carry out safety checks on your car. Try to do a regular safety check at least once a month. Read your car's manual for instructions and to find out which parts of your car should be checked while warm, and which while cold.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/safety/road-safety/maintaining>

# St Benedict's Bounce Challenge - April 13

To supplement our 'St BennieFit' Challenge and our Virtual Sports Days, I will be using See Saw (Prep-4) and Teams to send you some simple activity ideas for your children. Mr Webb will be adding some ideas to the mix to keep you being and thinking active! The main aim of all of these activities, including the at home PE with Ms Creese, is to keep the whole family active and also to have fun while including relaxation into your day. Enjoy and have fun together!



## Send in Your Happy Snaps

It would be awesome if we could share pictures of our St Benedict's students studying and sporting from home. If you are happy to share with our community please send your pictures through to [rbensley@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rbensley@bne.catholic.edu.au) and we will post them in the newsletter or on Facebook.



## Building Sustainable Futures Goals

To unpack the last of our annual goal areas for 2020, we look at the development of three specific whole school supports to promote positive engagement for learning and wellbeing. These three supports are:

1. Development of and use of our Positive Behaviour for Learning behaviour matrix
2. Development of whole school approach to respond to student needs.
3. Wellbeing education for staff and School Community

Through our pupil free days at the beginning of the school year, our teachers began the process of drafting a St Benedict's Expected Behaviours Matrix and used this draft to teach and promote appropriate behaviour. This will be something that will be drafted and re-drafted and tweaked until it can be shared with our school community.

At St Benedict's we strive to ensure that all learners get the support they need to thrive in their learning. Sometimes this requires students to receive additional support. We have revisited our processes for responding to student needs and seeking support for student needs. This is a process that happens in consultation with parents.

The wellbeing of our students, staff and school community will always be a priority as a Catholic School. This year we aim to add on what has been done in the past in the way of wellbeing week activities and offer some educational opportunities for our community. This was to begin with a CSP forum opportunity lead by Justin Coulson early next term. Unfortunately, this has had to be postponed due to the Coronavirus, but we remain committed to offering this opportunity in the future. Our staff have already benefited from a session with Assure Services about '*addressing your inner critic.*'

Tim Cronin, *Assistant Principal*

## Just a few here this week...



Let's all continue to walk in God's ways as we live, love, learn and celebrate.

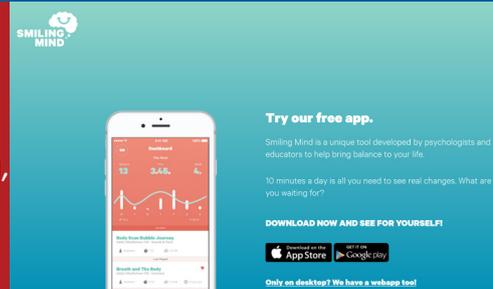
# Please Return Borrowed Uniforms

We have loaned out many uniforms already this year, which we keep for emergencies in the office, and due to uniforms being loaned out and not returned our supplies are running very low. Could any families who's child has borrowed uniforms please wash them and return to the office as soon as possible, this will ensure we have a supply for students who need to borrow them in the future.



# Managing Your Mind During Coronavirus

Mindfulness can be an invaluable resource at a time like this as it helps us navigate our thoughts and emotions more skillfully. This enables us to make better decisions and respond, both to ourselves and others, in ways that are less reactive and more caring, productive and helpful. Mindfulness helps us create space around how we're feeling and from there we can choose how we want to respond as opposed to reacting automatically in ways that may not always be so helpful.



It's important to remember that our thoughts have a direct impact on our emotions and to be aware that our mind can often predict the worst. It is normal and natural at times like these that our minds will have a tendency to get caught up in negative, and potentially unhelpful, thinking.

By bringing mindful awareness to how your brain reacts to feeling threatened, you can stimulate and develop a mind that has more calm, wisdom and inner strength. When we're being mindful we practice in small ways noticing and being with what's here. It doesn't mean we have to like or want discomfort, just that we get better at being with it.

Try the 'Mindfulness of Emotions' meditation in the [Smiling Mind.app](https://www.smilingmind.com.au)

# Your Staying Fit and Healthy Ideas

It is important that our students, where possible and safe, continue to practice their sport skills and stay fit and healthy. With the cancellation of many training sessions and competitions many families are already planning how they are going to stay active as a family not only for the physical benefits but general overall wellbeing. **We encourage you to do the same and would love to hear how you're doing this so we can share ideas: [rbensley@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rbensley@bne.catholic.edu.au).**



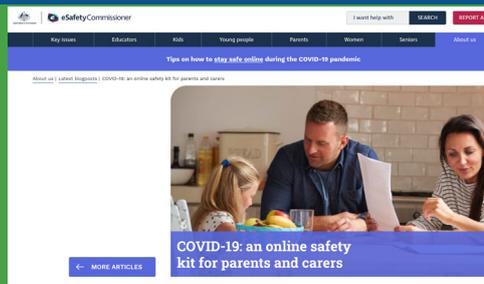
# Our Staff 'Keeping It Real'



Let's all continue to walk in God's ways as we live, love, learn and celebrate.

# Project Compassion and Caritas

With the current situation, we are moving towards the possibility of increased online learning from home. Families may find the following information useful in helping children safely navigate in this online space. One important tip is to have children using their devices in a space where they can be supervised.



[https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/blog/covid-19-online-safety-kit-parents-and-carers?fbclid=IwAR18krsH2rw2LqbuGUqyJBBDzKT\\_\\_P\\_7cmXrA0oZcpThBnk2kM1REKYpvs](https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/blog/covid-19-online-safety-kit-parents-and-carers?fbclid=IwAR18krsH2rw2LqbuGUqyJBBDzKT__P_7cmXrA0oZcpThBnk2kM1REKYpvs)

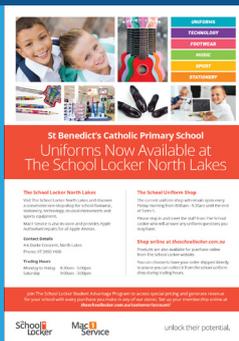
## Easter Crosses

Last week classes viewed a slideshow prepared by the Year 6 Faith and Mission committee dramatizing the story of the Passion of Jesus. Students then engaged in learning about this important story and each class created a Lenten Cross to symbolise the promise of new beginnings that Jesus' death and resurrection brings.



## Your Uniform Provider

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School and The School Locker have recently partnered to give our families access to school uniforms 6 days a week at their retail super store in North Lakes. Their range not only includes our uniform options but also extra school supplies including footwear, stationery, technology, musical instruments and accessories as well as sporting goods including trampolines. All sales at The School Locker will raise valuable funds for your school.



## Just a few here this week...



Let's all continue to walk in God's ways as we live, love, learn and celebrate.

# OSHC Vacation Care Referred

Bookings at St Benedict's OSHC, Mango Hill are not sufficient for us to operate vacation care during the Easter school holidays (Autumn break). Families will be referred to Southern Cross Catholic College – Kippa Ring OSHC or Christ the King OSHC, Deception Bay for care requirements.

As the COVID-19 crisis unfolds, information and directives from Government are changing rapidly and we are being measured in our responses but sending out updates in a timely manner.

Should you wish to discuss any of this information further, please do not hesitate to contact either Shayne or Lawrie. Their contact details are:

- Shayne 0407 659 047 shayne.vincent@catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au
- Lawrie 0437 716 673 lawrie.knott@catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au

# Confirmation and First Holy Communion



The St Benedict's Parish would like to advise that all Sacramental Programs for 2020 have been postponed for the foreseeable future.

Our Parish Masses have also been postponed for the foreseeable future also. However, Fr Bryan is streaming a Sunday morning mass from 8am on the St Benedict's Parish YouTube page, everyone is welcome to view. [https://youtu.be/uFyuqe\\_V1rQ](https://youtu.be/uFyuqe_V1rQ)

For further information, please contact the Parish Office by phone 3490 1768 or email [admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.edu.au)



## Every Week



- All School Assembly: 1:40pm Wednesdays (Cancelled)
- Student Mass: 9:00am Fridays (Hall) (Cancelled)
- School Banking: Tuesdays (Cancelled)
- St Benedict's Community Choir: 7:45am Fridays (Cancelled)
- Mini Singers (Prep-2): 7:45am Tuesdays (Cancelled)
- Junior Choir (Yr 2-3): 7:45am Wednesdays (Cancelled)
- BP's Choir (Yr 4-6): 7:45am Mondays (Cancelled)
- Band/Instrumental: Wednesdays (Band Cancelled)
- Bennies Bright Stars Sr Dance (Yr 5-8): (Cancelled)
- Bennies Bright Stars Jr Dance (Yr 2-4): (Cancelled)
- NEW Stagestarz Dance: Mon P-3/Thur 4-6 (Cancelled)
- Guitar Lessons: Wednesdays
- Piano/Keyboard Lessons: Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Playgroup: 9.30am Wednesdays (OSHC) (Cancelled)

## Every Month

- CSP Meeting: 1st Wednesday/Month (Postponed)
- Board Meeting: 2nd Tuesday/Month (Postponed)
- School Office Open: Monday to Friday 8:00am-3:30pm



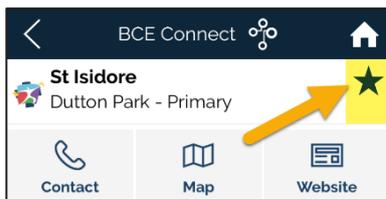
# Setting up your account

A guide to getting started with your BCE Connect and Parent Portal account.

## 1. Download BCE Connect

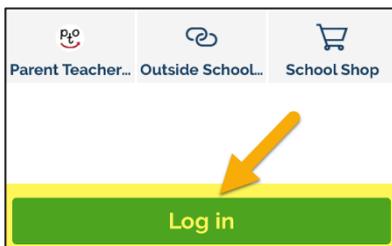


## 2. Favourite your school



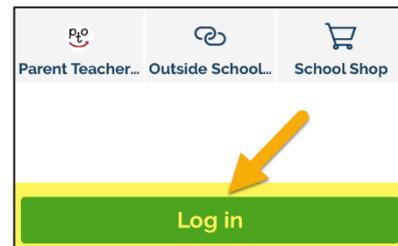
**Favouriting** your school in BCE Connect enables you to receive Push Notifications from the school and makes it easier to navigate back to the school by adding a shortcut on the home screen of the app.

## 3. Create an account



Select the first-time logging in option and enter the e-mail address you have supplied the school. A security code will be sent to your email. Return to the page and follow the prompts to **create your password**.

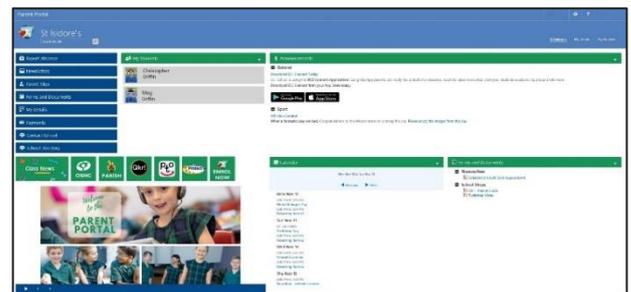
## 4. Log in



**Log in** to the BCE Connect App using your email address as your username and enter your newly created password.

Logging in will unlock all the features of BCE Connect. You can also access the Parent Portal from the Parent Portal link on the BCE Connect App.

## 5. Visit the Parent Portal



The **Parent Portal** offers a more feature rich experience for Parents.