

St Stephen's  
Catholic College



# St Stephen's News

Issue 5 - Term 1 - Week 10

**Principal:** Ms Kerry Manders  
**Deputy Principal:** Mr Simon Vaughan  
**Assistant Principal Religious Education:** Ms Janai Sugars  
**Assistant Principal Administration:** Mr Rohan Priestly  
**Business Manager:** Mr Hadyn Flynn  
**College Leader Pastoral Care:** Mr Matthew Draper

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## Bullying. No Way!



On Friday 20 March, St Stephen's Catholic College joined schools across the nation to support the "Bullying. No Way!" stance. The day highlighted getting along, recognising and appreciating others differences and valuing our college community. Pictured above are year nine students, Sienna Byrnes, Tiana Stallan, Sienna Lloyd and Holly Prien, enjoying chalk art (more stories and pictures - pages 6 and 7).

**BULLYING. NO WAY!**  
**SAFE AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS.  
TOGETHER.**

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# NOTICES

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



Unfortunately, due to responses to the COVID-19 precautions, events have been postponed for the foreseeable future.



Keep up-to-date with COVID-19 updates, by clicking on the link above.



## CHESS CLUB

with Mr Harnischfeger (Mr H)

**Room: MCR - Every day during Recess 2. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



## TERM DATES 2020

Term 1: 28 January - 3 April

Term 2: 20 April - 26 June

Term 3: 13 July - 18 September

Term 4 : 5 October to 27 November  
Year 12 - 20 November

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

Please inform the college if your child has achieved success in an extra-curricular activity not directly related to school, so that the college community can celebrate these achievements. Please email the principal ([ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au)) with any information and photos.

## ABSENTEE EMAIL

If your child is absent, please email:  
[ssm.absentee@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.absentee@cns.catholic.edu.au)

## Maths Tutoring Available

**Tuesday and Thursday**

Recess 2 - MCR

(all students welcome)

**Wednesday**

3.00 pm - 4.00 pm - Library

Years 10 -12 only



## Change of Details

To ensure communication is received, please advise the college if you have changed your email address. Please email the office: [ssm.office@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.office@cns.catholic.edu.au) or telephone: 4086 2500. This also applies to any other contact details.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the St Stephen's community

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the support and compassion shown to our College across what can only be described as a turbulent term. It gives me pleasure to let you know that Mr Kieran Morley and Mr Richard Bassano are both on the mend and very appreciative of your kind wishes.



The COVID19 pandemic has taken over all aspects of College life and we prepare for the home-based continuity of learning we may move into in the future. I want to assure you that we are ready to go with teaching and learning as we navigate with you this unprecedented and difficult time. We are operating with dual commitments to student well-being and learning. We aim to do our best to support your children and you whilst we enter a new stage of learning which we hope will be short lived. I would like to reassure you that we are well planned and ready. It will feel awkward in the beginning for all of us, we are all uncertain at this stage and looking to show much courage, kindness and optimism to sustain us through this time of isolation. We will engage students through learning experiences that are held centrally on our learning management system, Canvas, that each student has access to via their school laptop and internet. The learning management system will help students stay connected to their teachers, curriculum expectations and classmates. Some subjects will be tricky to undertake at home, but we are encouraging students and staff to continue working together. We know that there might be a few funny experiences as we work through any glitches and difficulties together, I'm sure your children will be happy to tell you about.

We have sought feedback from experts in this area of learning with technology and at this stage we have the curriculum stripped back for a staged delivery to ensure good teaching and quality learning. We are using a learning model that provides a timetable for connection whilst at the same time learning can be accessed at any time to suit families across multiple contexts. What we know as teachers is that learning won't be the same as usual – attention spans are different online and outside the classroom, wi-fi might be patchy, some students might not have a quiet private space. We will persevere and with your feedback modify as required. QCAA has recognized this as well and has responded by removing an internal assessment for all Year 11 and 12 students. The key for seniors is to continue following the syllabus requirements and learning the core concepts of the course. Maintaining student well-being and connection is very important and as such we will have Home Form each day via "zoom" to allow those important relationships to continue. If this isn't available, then an email to the Home Form teacher is very important. Many students will be concerned about assessment and we will send further information about this as the semester unfolds. The structure of the day will set the scene for learning. We expect that our students will be able to continue their learning with some sense of normality by starting each day at 8:35 am and logging in to Home Form to check in with classmates and Home Form teacher and have the roll marked. A series of lessons will follow like at school, where each lesson will begin in Canvas with directions for the day. I would like to suggest some ways in which parents can provide support for learning:

1. Create a learning space – as free from distractions as possible and be aware of what is visible and audible in the background.
2. Routine is King - set boundaries including getting dressed, model school day (start at 8.35am, break for morning tea and lunch). Model the school rules – no phones until 3.00 pm.
3. Exercise movement and joyful activities each day are essential.
4. Limit screen time (school lessons will count within this) – research suggests high levels of screen time may lead to an increase in anxiety in the long term.
5. Boredom is ok, it's the mother of invention and fosters a commitment to learning.
6. There are Canvas pages for well-being as well as year level and whole school pages for connection opportunities. Check out the library Canvas page, for instance, audible has been offered free to all students until normal schooling returns.

In addition, we have created one point of truth for information – the parent portal available on the College website. In the portal you will find all COVID19 communications to parents. Communication with staff needs to be via the College email, all official whole school communications will come in the form for a brief weekly update. Please check with your internet provider as some are offering unlimited data throughout a home-based learning phase. As well, your child can log on to Canvas and show you how their work is presented. Please remember that copyright laws still exist and be mindful to ensure no material or resources are stored, copied, edited, reformatted or posted or linked to publicly available or non-secure environment. Teachers are well prepared and looking forward to trying a new way of working. They will be communicating with students according to the year level timetable. Staff will respond to questions between 8.30am and 3pm and as usual will respond to emails within 24 hours. Please understand to ensure longevity of this demanding process that staff will not be available outside these hours. I would like to thank staff for their agility in responding to this challenge to ensure each student has access to continued learning to assist your child. Our promise to you is that we are looking to make a difficult situation as manageable as possible, please check the parent portal at any time you are looking for information. Our intention is to conduct a review of our plans towards the end of week two and ask that you contact us directly if you have concerns regarding student learning or wellbeing.

I thank you for continued support as we journey the unknown together. My very best wishes for a happy and holy Easter and a restful break during this turbulent time.

Go gently, God bless.

**Ms Kerry Manders**

**Principal**

**Email:** [ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au)

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

It is interesting times we find ourselves in currently. I never thought that a pandemic would have such a large impact on business, industry and civil liberties. We as an educational institution have also felt the impacts of COVID-19. With the State Government's decision to have this week as a student free week has meant some changes for students, staff and parents. The positive outcome has been that a "Continuity of Learning" plan has been enacted at the college. The beforementioned plan will see the school develop and deliver curriculum in a, home based environment. St Stephen's is in a privileged position that we have staff engaged in the use of Canvas and other learning tools that will aid curriculum and assessment delivery, along with quality feedback. Our learning management system, Canvas is set up for students to access and has rolled out over the past two years. Those students without internet access will be provided course materials and can use Canvas "offline". This will be sent home via post. Many staff are utilising this tool already in classrooms and to aid students when working from home, this will continue. Staff are also engaging in professional development around the use of Zoom, which is a videoconferencing tool. This means that staff can operate lessons at designated times with your student from home. Zoom has a number of features, including recording which will allow students to reflect on the lesson and go back to view it if concepts are missed. Email is also available as well as telephone communication should the need arise. As a staff we are committed to quality educational experiences for our students and with the current climate our staff are well equipped to deliver this. Further details of what the "Continuity of Learning" plan will look like will be communicated over the coming weeks. Please be rest assured that the school is taking into account advice from all stakeholders including the State Government, Catholic Education Services and the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

Please stay safe during these interesting times and of course feel free to make contact with your students teachers, Middle Leaders or myself if you have any questions.

God Bless

**Mr Simon Vaughan**

**Deputy Principal**

**Email:** [svaughan@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:svaughan@cns.catholic.edu.au)



## COLLEGE LEADER PASTORAL CARE

### Resources and Support - Parent Portal for Parents and Families

CES has developed a Public Information Website – Coronavirus for parents and families which will provide some useful information and tips on wellbeing and anxiety support, hygiene and social distancing, useful links and updates and advice. Public Information Website – Coronavirus can be accessed via our Parent Portal: <http://www.cns.catholic.edu.au/news-events/coronavirus-covid-19/> Parent Portal also has a dedicated resource and support section – Parent Resources (Wellbeing Parent Resources) that provides information from trusted sources, including the student wellbeing hub, esafety commissioner, red cross, department of health to name a few.



### Canvas: Students - Pastoral and Wellbeing: College page – "GoWell"

The college has developed a suite of documents which will provide some useful information and tips on how to keep your child connected and engaged at home, enhancing you and your family's wellbeing. GoWell will be launched by Monday 20 April and will be available on every student's Canvas page. Resources are aimed at supporting, good mental and physical health, student's organisation and families.

### Canvas - Home Form and Year Level Pages: Connecting: Home Form

Home Form will take on a whole new look with classes expected to log into the daily Zoom Home Form meet with their fellow classmates. It is essential at this time of social distancing that students take the opportunity to connect daily.

### Connecting: Pastoral - Year level pages

Pastoral Leaders of each year level have already been engaged in creation of their Year level pages. Students can access Pastoral and wellbeing resources designed to maintain connectedness and wellbeing through their own year level page. Students are invited to access opportunities to connect with their year level by accessing a range of resources and activities. Year level pages include resources and activities such as challenges, things to do while at home, notices, important information, competitions and wellbeing tips and opportunities. If your child is experiencing some worry at present you may find the following points helpful:

1. It is important to listen to your child and acknowledge any fears which they may have.
2. Reassure your child that, given the widespread media attention on COVID-19, it is understandable that they are worried about what is happening and how it could impact their lives.
3. Normalise their feelings. Their fear or worries are normal, and these feelings will subside.
4. Encourage them to keep talking to you when they are feeling worried.
5. It is also important to respond to incorrect information or assumptions with the facts.
6. Remind them to ask questions if they have something on their mind

Utilise digital platforms (Canvas etc) to connect and become creative in how to check in.

Please remember to take care of yourself and your family during this health crisis. If you or anyone you know needs help, please connect with:

- Lifeline on 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800
- MensLine Australia on 1300789 978
- Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636
- Headspace on 1800 650 890
- ReachOut at <https://www.au.reachout.com>

## COLLEGE LEADER PASTORAL CARE

### Term 2

In the event we start term two in a home-based learning mode, I would like to remind you of the contacts available if you would like to connect with your student's Pastoral Leader.

Mr MacCallum	<a href="mailto:pmacallum@cns.catholic.edu.au">pmacallum@cns.catholic.edu.au</a>	Year 11 and 12 Pastoral Leader
Ms Barnes	<a href="mailto:sbarnes2@cns.catholic.edu.au">sbarnes2@cns.catholic.edu.au</a>	Year 10 Pastoral Leader
Mrs Malcolm	<a href="mailto:smalcolm@cns.catholic.edu.au">smalcolm@cns.catholic.edu.au</a>	Year 9 Pastoral Leader
Mrs Salerno	<a href="mailto:jsalerno@cns.catholic.edu.au">jsalerno@cns.catholic.edu.au</a>	Year 7 and 8 Pastoral Leader

Let us, like Jesus, take time in our isolation to build our relationship with God, and rely on God's strength to sustain us through this period which we are all experiencing. Find a way to connect and show the love of God through our acts towards others.

**Mr Matthew Draper**  
College Leader Pastoral Care  
Email: [mdraper@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mdraper@cns.catholic.edu.au)

## BULLYING. NO WAY! CAMPAIGN

On Friday 20 March, St Stephen's Catholic College joined schools across the nation to support the "Bullying. No Way!" stance. The day highlighted getting along, recognising and appreciating others differences and valuing our college community. Students were involved in specific lessons in our Social Emotional Learning program focusing on empowering student voice. All students received a student tips – pocket card "Bullying – what can you do?" in home form, which can be referred to and easily accessed.

Lunch time activities open to all year levels included: karaoke, soccer, chalk art, touch football, trivia, board games, table tennis, biscuit decorating to name a few.

At St Stephen's Catholic College, we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone. You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involves everyone. A pocket card from Bullying. No Way! with tips on what to do if your child talks to you about bullying is included in this article. Parents know their children best and know the best way to tailor communication to their needs. Adapt these tips to what works for you and your child. If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. Listen calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they've told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child's experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.
2. Reassure your child they are not to blame. Many children blame themselves and this may make them feel even worse. You could say things like, 'That sounds really hard to deal with. No one should have to put up with that.'
3. Ask your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel they have some power in the situation.

## BULLYING. NO WAY! CAMPAIGN

4. Visit [www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au) to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practise strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.
5. Contact the school. Your child may be reluctant for you to do this, so discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know. Make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher and, if you need to, ask to talk with the principal. Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child's safety.
6. Check in regularly with your child. Keep the conversation going. It can take time to resolve issues, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.

Thanks for your support to make St Stephen's Catholic College a great school for everyone.



## TERM ONE IN THE LIBRARY

The beginning of 2020 has been a little different to other years. While the busyness of the term has not changed, global events have made for some interesting conversations among the shelves. The year started like the others with students receiving textbooks and laptops. Borrowing books for enjoyment also started day one and it was great to see so many familiar faces wanting to read. Year seven students were just as keen to start borrowing and reading. Lunch times see the library swamped with students working, socialising, reading or playing games. It is heartening to see so many students enjoying our library's facilities.



Our visiting author James Roy spoke to the year seven's and eight's about writing and reading. He was a great storyteller and held the students captive with his antics. We were joined by a small group of girls from St Monica's who participated in the seminar and workshop on offer.



For the last few weeks of term we ran our 'Caught Reading' competition (anyone caught reading in the library goes into a draw to win a small bag of goodies) and our 'Flash Fiction' competition (write a one sentence story on a picture provided as stimulus). This term's Caught Reading winner was year eight student, Tully Smith.

### Flash Fiction senior winner - Stefanie Meaney:

"As gusts of icy wind blew in their faces, they pulled each other up determined to find the secrets this magical mountain held at the top."



### Flash Fiction junior winner - Kyla Jones:

"Rocks jab into my side as I struggle along the cliff face, one wrong move and then I'll be falling into the great, cloudy abyss, nothing but air and rock below me."

## TERM ONE IN THE LIBRARY

Students have been stocking up with reading material and taking advantage of our unlimited loans for the holidays and foreseeable future. Staff have also received their Easter reading material. Reading is a brilliant way to escape day to day stress and to help relax the mind.

Remember to use the library website for help with continuity of learning. Students will need to log in to access the LearnPath Guides (see recent emails from library staff for directions or email Mrs Gillies – [sgillies@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sgillies@cns.catholic.edu.au) - for help). These guides have links to resources which help with assessment (assignments and exams), mental health (stress and anxiety) and ebooks among others.

Have a safe Easter and we look forward to seeing everyone back as soon as possible.

### Mrs Simone Gillies

Teacher Librarian

Email: [sgillies@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sgillies@cns.catholic.edu.au)

### Mrs Suzanne Assenheim

Library Assistant

Email: [sassenheim@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sassenheim@cns.catholic.edu.au)



## COVID-19: STUDENT MESSAGES



## ST STEPHEN'S ALUMNI



Joseph Nastasi attended St Stephen's Catholic College from 2009 to 2013 (President of Student Representative Council). Joseph is currently employed at the University of Queensland as a Research Assistant and is undertaking a Post Graduate PhD - Doctor of Philosophy and is expected to complete this in 2023.

His qualifications include:

- BSc Food Science and Technology
- BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology Class 1 Honours
- President of the UQ Food Science Club 2018
- Vice President of the UQ Food Science Club 2019
- UQ Future Leader
- UQ Young Alumni
- School of Agriculture and Food Science Honours Scholarship in Food Science
- Food Science and Chemistry Tutor
- UQ News Bushfood Masterchef Competition Winner
- Shortlisted for University of Queensland 2019 Future Superstars Honours Award
- Patent Pending from Honours Research - Native Australian Bushfood known as the Bunya Nut.
- PhD Research - Australian Bushfoods and the unique compounds they contain and their applications

Joseph is now working closely with indigenous professionals to help understand the potential of Australian Bushfoods and how we can commercialise them to benefit the industry using ethical principles.

# ST STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE ENROL NOW for 2021

Enrolment packages can be obtained from the College website or from the College office.

Our process is:

1. Complete the application for enrolment.
2. Attach the necessary documentation.
3. Return the application and the enrolment fee by Friday 24 April 2020.
4. Enrolment interviews will occur in term two.
5. Confirmation of your child's enrolment will occur in term three.

**Closing date: Friday 24 April 2020 - Limited Places Available.**

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Scholarships for academic, sport and culture for year seven in 2021, are now available.

Application forms are available from the College website or from the College office.

**Closing date for scholarship applications: Friday 24 April 2020**



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PO Box 624 Mareeba Qld 4880

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