

# Weekly Newsletter

WEDNESDAY 1 April 2020 | WEEK 10, TERM 1

From the Principal | Mr David Mezinec



## Shining in Times of Challenge

These are very challenging and uncertain times for us all but please be assured that we are here for you and your family. Tenison Woods College is committed to ensuring educational, spiritual and pastoral support for every child in our school, and supporting the fabric of College families, whether your child or adolescent is physically at school or at home.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacts every aspect of our life – our families, our work and our wellbeing. Every day there are new restrictions in place and many new questions. While there is much that we cannot control, I am delighted that we are working deliberately in those areas upon which we can impact.

## HHDL Four Point Plan

Thank you for your efforts in committing to our simple HHDL (Health, Hygiene, Distance, Learning) Four Point Plan. The victory is not in merely knowing the plan, but deliberately acting and taking responsibility as part of the College community, so I thank the College community for your efforts.

## The L of HHDL Four Part Plan - Learning

Last week our teaching staff commenced a period of preparation for the continuity of education, including working on online and remote learning options for the medium to long term. I am delighted with what I have witnessed in terms of staff efforts, but also the way students have responded positively to the changed learning situations.

I can ensure you that we are all working towards creating a continuous learning environment that will prepare our College for the future. We are also working with the government to ensure that – where parents need to work – that students can access schooling. More information will follow as soon as it is finalised.

Staff prepared carefully for the Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews, as well as delivering their normal lessons and providing care for your young in uncertain times. As such, you can imagine that it has been a very, very busy time for our dedicated staff. Teachers are also doing their best to forward work to students who have elected not to attend school as a precautionary measure. If there is some delay, please rest assured that work will come. At this time, I ask for your understanding and patience.

Thank you for your efforts in accommodating the revised Parent-Teacher-Student Interview process. Thank you for keeping conversations focused on the learning and development of your child. We received some positive feedback about the revised process, so we will use this feedback to assist us in planning for future Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews.

I appreciate the uncertainty and range of questions at this time. I remind you that any discussions regarding the medium and long term continuity of learning for students and the College should be directed to me, as Principal. I will also forward any updates from the Government and Catholic Education South Australia as soon as they come to hand.

## Fee Remission

Amongst all the worries that we have at this time – worrying about the payment of school fees should not be one of those things. Please be assured of our support for your family. If your family has lost significant income due to COVID-19 and there may be a need to freeze your payments, please contact Neal Turley, our Business Manager, who will assist you during this time. This can occur very easily for those families in need.

## From The Principal *continued...*

### Pupil Free days (6-9 April)

The Government has announced that the final week of this school term (Monday 6 April – Thursday 9 April) will be a pupil free week across all South Australian schools. This means that the last day of Term for students will be Friday 3 April.

During Week 11 teachers and school staff will prepare for the remote delivery of lessons.

Our OSHC service will be available during the pupil free period and the school holidays, with special support for children of parents who are serving in the essential services.

### Every learner has a place, every learner has a pathway, every learner will SHINE.

At this difficult time, I reiterate our steadfast commitment to you. Please be assured that your child matters to us, your family matters to us, and we will meet any challenges together, one step at a time.

Our absolute commitment is that we will support your child in their learning and wellbeing at this difficult time, whether they are physically at school or at home.

### Annual General Meeting of the Board



Given the current COVID-19 context and our commitment to mitigate the risks of the pandemic, the Tenison Woods College Annual General Meeting was live streamed from the PRC Lecture Theatre last Wednesday 25 March.

The meeting considered:

- Showcase of the industrial Bio Digester (Composter) at the College Waste Management Facility – Tom Linnell
- Viewing of the Poplars Inclusive Education Unit in the Gilap Wanga Learning Community – David Meziniec
- Gilap Wanga Learning Approach for 2021 and beyond – Scott Dickson and Nick Patzel
- 2019 Australian Catholic Youth Festival Presentation – Chloe Shanahan
- Communication in our College Community – Jessica Herring
- 2019 Annual Reports
- Ratification of the 2020 Board

The live stream meeting can be replayed and viewed on YouTube [here](#).

### Enrolment of Students

I am very pleased to see that the College is experiencing significant demand in relation to enrolments. To assist with our medium and long term planning I encourage parents to lodge an enrolment form with the school as soon as they have made a decision to enrol their child at the school. For some families this decision is made very early in the newborn's life and contacting the school at this time, no matter how early it may seem, will assist us to plan in the best possible way for your child's experience of education in our College community. Should you wish to discuss this further please contact our College Registrar, Tracey Davey (tel. 8725 5455, or [davet@tenison.catholic.edu.au](mailto:davet@tenison.catholic.edu.au)).

### Need a tutor? Studiosity is our free online tutoring service

I remind families that students of Tenison Woods College in Years 8-12 have access to a free online tutoring service. Students are able to connect to expert tutors for live, one-to-one conversations about homework, assignments and exam preparation from 3:00pm – 10:00pm Monday to Friday. Give it a try – I know you will appreciate the service offered by Studiosity!

God Bless,

David Meziniec | Principal



## From the Assistant Principal Student and Staff Development

As I write this last article for the term I am aware of the significant number of families who are self-isolating and educating their children at home.

During the last couple of weeks, all of our teachers have been upskilled in how to deliver online content to students which will be of the immediate future. Within the next week or so families will be provided with the protocols of online learning and information to support these lessons.

While some families and students will thrive in this new normal there will be others who will struggle with a whole range of aspects such as access to technology, time available, motivation of students, to name just a few. Please remember we are here to assist you so please make use of the support information that will be sent out. This is not only educational and technical assistance but our Wellbeing Coordinators and our very experienced counselling team are also available to chat with either you or your child.

From reading the advice from educational psychologists, the common thread seems to be to keep to a routine as much as possible so that your children get into the habit of doing school work at a certain time each day. This will also help them switch from relaxation to learning mode. Finally, within the bounds of social distancing, take the opportunity to spend some time with your children, individually or as a group. Play board games, read books, cook together, watch movies and just share some quality time together.

Stay safe everyone and I look forward to seeing you next term.

Jennie Sanderson | Assistant Principal Student and Staff Development

## CIM Team News



### Masses online

As Churches continue to be closed and public Masses prohibited, the Archdiocese of Adelaide is providing a weekly live stream Mass each Sunday from St Francis Xavier's Cathedral to support the faithful during this time. The mass is available each week [here](#).

While Sunday obligation for Catholics has been lifted, we are still encouraged to keep the Sabbath holy. See the Mount Gambier Catholic Parish Facebook page for plenty of tips that we can use at home with our family.

### Holy Week and Easter Services – Live Stream Masses from St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide

Palm Sunday: 10:00am – 11:00am

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Good Friday, Passion of the Lord: 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil in the Holy Night: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Easter Sunday: 9:00am – 10:00am

### Formed.org

Late last year, our Parish was able to gain parish subscription to FORMED. What does that mean for you? You are able to get FREE subscription under the parish membership. If you haven't already, now is a good time to do it and take advantage of all the wonderful content FORMED has to offer. There is something for everyone in the family. For younger children the Brother Francis series is a particular favourite of the Tenison Woods College Junior School students and would be a good place to begin. For older students and parents, search through movies, documentaries and a range of other resources.

It only takes a minute to join:

1. <https://formed.org/>
2. Click 'I belong to a Parish'
3. Type in 'Mount Gambier'

### Distributing Easter Eggs

Please keep in mind as we approach the Easter season that we are in Lent or Holy Week until Easter Sunday. Themes during this time are PRAYER, FASTING AND GIVING. On Easter Sunday we move into the joyful season of Easter which is 50 days of CELEBRATING. The giving of Easter Eggs is discouraged until Easter when we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. When considered in light of the school year, this means we would encourage students who would like to give something to their friends at school, to do so after the Easter break rather than before.

### Project Compassion Fundraising

As we approach Easter and Project Compassion draws to a close we thank all staff, students and families who have given generously to this appeal for Caritas through fundraising at school, in classes or in homes. We ask that Project Compassion boxes please be returned to the College as soon as possible and that they have the House Team of the family on it if you would like the points (1 point per \$1) to contribute towards the annual House shield.

Anyone wishing to make an online donation or to donate what is in their Pastoral Care box electronically is encouraged to go to the Tenison Woods College page on the Caritas fundraising page [here](#).

### We must help those most at risk with COVID-19, by working together.

In Australia, COVID-19 is presenting us with an immense challenge, but imagine how much harder it'll be for those experiencing poverty around the world. Communities that lack clean water, soap and basic hygiene to support prevention and control.

Please give what you can to Project Compassion [here](#) so that the most vulnerable have a better chance of making it through this extraordinarily challenging time.

Michelle Coote | Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission



## Fr Dean Address to Parish

The Tenison Woods College Public Relations and Events team had the honour of assisting Father Dean film and record an address to local parishioners of the Mount Gambier Catholic Parish, to stay in touch with both the Mount Gambier and Millicent Catholic Parishes during these times. To view the address please click [here](#).

To keep up to date with what is happening at the Mount Gambier Catholic Parish, follow their page on Facebook.

Michelle Coote | Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission



## Qkr! Payment App for School Canteen Now Available

Have you downloaded Qkr! Payment App? Order recess and lunch from the Canteen with this easy to use App. The use of the app is available from Years Reception - 12.



## Government Support For Businesses & Households Impacted by COVID-19

The Government is acting to cushion the blow from the coronavirus for businesses and households to help them get through to the other side of the crisis as the world deals with the significant challenges posed by its spread.

Below are quick links for small and medium businesses, sole traders and households under the \$189 billion economic support package announced by the Prime Minister:

- Business.gov.au support line: 13 28 46
- Small or medium business with reduced cash flow? [Here's what we're doing to boost your cash flow.](#)
- Is your business financially distressed? [This is what we're doing to support you.](#)
- Employ an apprentice or trainee? [This support is for you.](#)
- Are you a sole trader that has lost business? [This is what we're doing to support you and your business.](#)
- Household finances hit by reduced work? [Here's what we're doing to help support your family budget.](#)
- [Payments to support households.](#)
- For more information on Coronavirus and the Government's response, please visit: [www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus) or [www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au)



## Family Zone

In late 2019, Tenison Woods College installed an internet filtering network service named Family Zone. Initially aimed at students with BYOD (Years 8-12), it includes the option for parents of students to 'opt in' to an extended service at home.

Some parents may have received a 'new to Family Zone' activation email this week to create your Family Zone account and commence protecting your kids online at home.

If you need more information or help - head to our Cyber Safety Hub [here](#) or if you would like to see a LIVE demonstration consider attending their Getting Started with Family Zone - parent webinar tonight, Wednesday 1 April at 7:00pm [here](#).

Stay cyber safe!

Colin Langford | ICT Manager

## Are you an Old Scholar?

Old scholars are an integral part of the history, tradition and future of Tenison Woods College. We invite all old scholars, past parents, friends and former staff members to reconnect through our 'Friends of Tenison' committee.

Keep up to date with all the news in the College community. Register your details today, via our [website](#).



## Music Lessons Next Term

As the College works hard to learn new systems to support the students in online learning, we are trying hard to keep school life as normal as possible, even if it is based at home.

Students who currently have instrumental lessons will be contacted by their instrumental teachers to see whether online learning suits them and their families. I encourage these students to set up a regular practise routine and use the extra time at home to become more proficient on their instrument.

Ensembles and choirs for our older students will continue. Planning is underway to continue with the following ensembles; Big Band, Senior Vocal Ensemble, Concert Choir, Year 6-7 Band, Thunder Drum Corps, Wind Ensemble, Rock Bands, Small Jazz Ensemble and Brass Ensemble. Students will be contacted by their Ensemble Director about how these ensembles will be structured online.

Lessons will also continue for students involved in classroom music.

**Beth Creedy** | Head of Music

## OSHC Open for Student Free Days and School Holidays

Please be advised that Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) at Tenison Woods College will be operating during Week 11 and in the school holidays to support families who form part of our community's essential services and whose children are unable to be cared for at home over the student free days.

OSHC is run by Tenison Woods College and is located in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR), next to the Barrie Holmes Stadium.

Numbers are strictly limited.

For bookings and further information please contact Aleisha or Sarah on (08) 8724 4633 or email: [oshc@tenison.catholic.edu.au](mailto:oshc@tenison.catholic.edu.au).

**David Meziniec** | Principal

## Library Online Borrowing

Tenison Woods College students have access to our online digital libraries from home; Wheelers Books (Years 2 – 12) and Story Box (Reception – Year 5). This is a great way to give students access to a large number of books, audio books and videos for recreation and learning while they are at home in the holidays or during this time of remote learning.

Students can access the Wheelers digital platform [here](#) or download the Wheelers App. Once downloaded, select Tenison Woods College and sign in using student school login details. Books and Audio Books are able to be borrowed for up to 2 weeks and reservations are available.

Story Box has a large number of favourite Picture Books read by well know Australian actors and authors and includes resources and fun activities. Access can be found [here](#). Sign in details can be requested from the class teacher or the library staff.

Please contact me (Alexandra Nicholson) at [library@tenison.catholic.edu.au](mailto:library@tenison.catholic.edu.au) with any questions or concerns in gaining access to resources for your student.

**Alexandra Nicholson** | Library Manager



## Counsellor's Corner

Coronavirus is having an unprecedented impact on our daily lives, and will probably do so for some time. While keeping ourselves and our children healthy and safe is our main concern, it's also essential to address the anxieties of children and young people during these changing times. Here are some ideas to help inform, reassure and keep children and young people safe.

Build on what your children know. Children and young people have already been exposed to a great deal of information about Coronavirus through media, digital means and direct social contact. Their understanding will vary depending on their age and also the quality of their information sources, so you probably will need to help kids process what they already know. Casual conversations with teenagers and older children can be useful ways to glean their understanding. You could ask questions like, "What are you hearing about Coronavirus? Is there anything you're not sure about?" Younger primary age children may need a more direct approach with parents addressing their specific concerns without giving too much information that can overwhelm them.

Don't expose them to too many television reports, as the media can sometimes be about fear based reporting and this will keep them, and us, in our fear based reptilian brain. Be intentional about not allowing the overwhelming media reports to trigger their danger response, which will make them more anxious.

Check your own thoughts and feelings. Check your own frame of mind and emotions about COVID-19 before talking to kids. Most children are astute mood detectives and they'll gauge their safety by the way you communicate with them. If you tell a child, "You've got to wash your hands or you'll get infected," you are communicating your own anxieties, making it difficult for them to maintain a healthy state of mind. Have a think about how you can frame your instructions and their importance in a way that doesn't heighten your child's anxieties.

Acknowledge what you can change and what you have control over and give this message to children too. We all have the skill of choice and if we choose an intentional response which reacts to our values and not our fears, then this will help anxiety.

Stay informed. It's difficult to work out fact from fiction, correct from incorrect, information from exaggeration when the news is changing so fast. However, you need to educate yourself about the virus itself, including how it's transmitted and how to stay safe. Get information from trustworthy sources such as The Australian Government Health Department website and the current Federal Government Coronavirus information media campaign.

When we are stressed it's a lot harder to focus on the good and we find ourselves not clicking on the "happy" stories. Be informed but through these uncharted waters, look for the things that are going well and the opportunities that may come out of this challenging situation in an effort to reduce anxiety.

*Adapted in part from article by Michael Grose - Parenting Ideas*

**Josie Ashby** | Wellbeing Counsellor



See the Community Noticeboard for posters and notices of upcoming events within our College, and wider community. Please click [here](#) to view this page.

