

2018



# Easter Newsletter

Term 1, Week 9



## Easter Newsletter

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## Principal's Easter Message

Mark De Vries

Hello everyone,

We are fast approaching the end of a very busy, but enjoyable first term at Santa Sophia. It's been a wonderful start to our journey and already we've established some traditions and practices that will be part of our College for many years to come.

We are also approaching the end the season of Lent, and we turn our thoughts to Easter, which is the pivotal part of our Catholic faith. For us as a Catholic Learning Community, Easter represents a time of both sorrow and hope with the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Without Easter, without the Resurrection, we would face a future of darkness rather than the promise of eternal life. Easter is truly a time of celebration! We too are reborn with Christ on Easter morning and take a renewed spirit forward with us each day. I hope families have time to take part in the Easter ceremonies in their local area and enjoy some restful time together sharing joyful family moments over the Easter break.



## Bible Reading & Reflection

An Interview with Daryl Castellino from the OLA Parish Newsletter

How many people have read a gospel from beginning to end? Well, students at Santa Sophia Catholic College have started a daily Bible program. The program enables the students to read the whole of the Gospel of St Mark from beginning to end, in three terms of school. Each morning the students start their school day by reading a small

# Santa Sophia Catholic College



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

section of the Gospel of St Mark and writing their own personal reflections in their journals.

## Short Reflection from Danijela Prasnicki

At Santa Sophia, we have begun a journey of faith, by starting each morning reading a short passage from the Gospel of St Mark. These readings have taught me more about the lives of Jesus and Mary and the hardships and miracles they had to endure. By reading these short passages each morning, I feel it has opened my mind and heart, while strengthening my personal connection with God. Particularly during the time of lent, the readings have taught me to be thankful for all that I have been given, and to be patient.





## Open Day and 2019 Enrolment

Mark De Vries

We've had a fantastic community response to our Open Day last Wednesday, with a surge in enrolment inquiries for 2019. We will definitely go ahead with Year 7 (2019) and Year 8 (2019). We've also had a significant interest in Kindergarten for 2019. The Catholic Education Office is currently considering this interest and a decision is anticipated within the next few weeks.

## School Fees

Mark De Vries

There has been a delay in the process for the billing of school fees across the Parramatta Catholic Education system. This delay has been intensified by the fact that as a new school we require special permission from the Federal Government for our school to be able to issue fees. We anticipate that this permission would be received within the next week, and we'll be able to process the fees before the end of Term 1, or at the very latest, early Term 2. I apologise for any inconvenience this has caused to families in the interim period.

## Bus Transport

Mark De Vries

Earlier in the term, I submitted a proposal to the Catholic Education Office for the operation of a private bus service to our temporary school site in Schofields. I'm thrilled to report that this proposal has been approved, subject to the school providing three quotes from bus companies for the operation of this service. While the Catholic Education Office has agreed to start the service in the second half of the year (Term 3 onwards), I am seeking for the service to start next term. It is envisaged that the bus service will operate in both the morning and afternoon and will cover the areas of Windsor, Oakville and Rouse Hill. Students using the private bus service will be expected to pay a small fee for the use of this bus service. Again, I am hopeful of sharing the specifics of this service with you before the end of the term. It is expected that this service will continue to operate for the duration of our College being based at our temporary site in Schofields.





## NAPLAN

Mark De Vries

I've attached a letter to Parents regarding the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2018. Please make a note of the dates for the 2018 testing.

## Student Goal Setting

Mark De Vries

Since the beginning of the term, we've been gathering key literacy and numeracy data for each of our students in Year 7, in an effort to personalise the learning for each student. This data has been collated using both literacy and numeracy testing methods such as the MAI (Maths Assessment Interviews); PAT-R (Reading and Comprehension Test); and analysis of student writing samples. We've also analysed the students' Year 5 NAPLAN data. These data sets have been closely analysed by our staff and used to determine a Literacy or Numeracy goal for each student.

In PDHPE the students are currently studying a unit called 'Sense of Self' which helps students understand who they are, their purpose in life and how they can work towards their purpose. This process will help students identify key personal and or social attributes which could become their goal.

We believe that both parents and students need to be a part of this important conversation about your child's goals and working with the school on strategies on how these goals can be achieved. Our staff are currently finalising the process on how we plan to involve you and your child in helping us personalise your child's learning at Santa Sophia.

## Space Camp

Mark De Vries

A few weeks ago we received the good news that our grant application for \$22,000, from the Federal Government was successful. We also have 10 students who have expressed an interest in attending the Space Camp in the Term 3 school holidays. Santa Sophia is one of 5 schools in the Parramatta Diocese who have been successful with this grant application; The Catholic Education Office has decided to centralise arrangements for the trip between the 5 schools and are currently working to put in



place structures and protocols which I can hopefully share with those students and their families who have expressed an interest in attending the Space Camp. Hopefully I'll be able to share this information sooner rather than later with these students and their families.

## Australian Museum & Cathedral Excursion

Lisa Kalocsai

Year 7 recently visited the Australian Museum, where they learned about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander archaeology. Tools, weapons, middens, art and stories relating to the Dreaming were presented by a museum educator, and students were able to interact with the museum's many displays and artefacts. It was wonderful to see the students making connections with the museum visit to their History/English project about preserving the past for future generations.



After lunch in Hyde Park, we visited St Mary's Cathedral. The students explored the history of the Church, depicted in the artwork of the stained-glass windows. They



identified many connections within the church to the sacraments that they have been learning about in Project Faith and took some time for quiet prayer and reflection.

The students are to be congratulated on the positive way they represented Santa Sophia on this day.

## Swimming Carnival

Lisa Kalocsai

A big thank you to St John Paul II for welcoming Santa Sophia to their swimming carnival on Monday 5th March. It was a successful day, with excellent participation from the students. Special thanks to Mrs Lincoln for helping out at the carnival and for her work behind the scenes with the data to determine age champions and school records.

Santa Sophia's first Swimming Age Champions are:

Under 12 Girls: Tiarna Dalbon  
Under 12 Boys: Willem Machin  
Under 13 Girls: Maddison Morgan  
Under 13 Boys: Kurt Seget

Maddison Morgan, Jessica Bollard, Tiarna Dalbon and Kurt Seget qualified to represent Santa Sophia at the PDSSSC Swimming Carnival last Friday. Our four swimming representatives achieved pleasing results and some Personal Best times at the carnival. Congratulations!







## Upcoming Events

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
March	25	26	27	28	29	30 Good Friday	31 Easter Saturday
	1 Easter Sunday	2 Easter Monday	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13 Last Day of Term 1	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
April	29	30 Staff Development Day					
May			1 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Term 2	2	3 Parent Formation Day	4 PDSSSC Cross Country	5



## Attachments

**An Easter  
Message from  
Bishop Vincent**

<https://parracatholic.org/bishop-vincent-longs-2018-lenten-message/>

**Parent Formation  
Flyer**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0-wfbCyxeC1RHVmcFJvR2d6VUUh4Zk5mRE1kVWRSVXNhMIJz/view?usp=sharing>

**NAPLAN Letter**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0-wfbCyxeC1NzAtOGtKR1FVdVotdXo0YUxTVjJiRGIxX1Ij/view?usp=sharing>

**International  
Family Day**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0-wfbCyxeC1ZzdMS28xQ1IKZWx0aUpWb0ItbnI3NGIxUzIJ/view?usp=sharing>

**OLA Events**

<http://www.ourladyoftheangels.org.au/events/>

**OLA Parish  
Newsletter**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0-wfbCyxeC1LTEwLXRRCRVlwaV9udGRzcWh6cjNXTmZvSWhV/view?usp=sharing>

**CEDP  
Communication  
re School Fees**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0-wfbCyxeC1RXZLSjlaUESxVDVva1pvR2hVNE1jUHJNN3BZ/view?usp=sharing>