

NEWS from the HEART...

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School

10 McCann Crescent, Lenah Valley

#3 – 9 March 2022



COMPASSION - 'EMPATHY WITH ACTION'

"These hands, This heart
This voice, My God"



We often talk about a Catholic school as being a compassionate community... a community that cares for others and shows qualities of kindness, empathy, and thoughtfulness toward others. But is that what compassion really encompasses? Compassion helps us to connect with others, sustain relationships and move forward. It fosters emotional intelligence and wellbeing.

'Compassion takes empathy one step further because it harbours a desire for all people to be free from suffering, and it's imbued with a desire to help'.

(Mindful, Healthy Mind, Healthy Life).

During our Lenten journey, 'empathy with action' is a focus for our learning, doing, and believing. Project Compassion is an opportunity for students to learn about life in different countries through the personal stories of people who have participated in Caritas Australia-supported programs; the notions of our interconnectedness as one human family supporting our faith and own capacity for compassion. Last week, the eldest child from each family brought home a Project Compassion box to support Caritas Australia's fundraising efforts.

World's Greatest Shave - Crazy Hair Day

Speaking of compassion, today our very own action hero, Grazia Parodi, and her grandson, Oscar (Grade 1), shaved their heads to support blood cancer research and awareness.

Grazia's birthday present in 2022 - to give to others, raising over \$6000!



You are an inspiration Grazia!

Thank you to all our students, staff, and families for your support. A real heart lifter.

COVID-19 Update

Thank you to everyone for the combined efforts from all corners of the IHoMS community to ensure safety and wellbeing. Over the past week we have had a spike in positive cases and families isolating at home. Several classes are now subject to rapid antigen testing over a five-day period. This necessitated our need to move all our Parent / Teacher Interviews to ZOOM and postpone our Grade 3-6 Swimming Carnival this week.

Mask Wearing

In line with public health advice, masks continue to be worn in our school setting. This is compulsory for adults and optional for students.

Case Management

When a member of a particular class tests positive for COVID-19, that person (a confirmed case) is required to isolate at home. When we become aware of a confirmed case, we will contact the parents/carers of the other students in the class to inform them of the situation and to request that they monitor their children for symptoms. If these children are symptom free, they can continue to attend school.

Should the number of confirmed cases in a class reach five over a seven-day period we will notify Public Health of the situation. We will also contact the parents/carers of the other students in the class and request that they test their child using rapid antigen tests (that we will supply) on the day we contact them, then again two days later, followed by a third test three days after the second test. The classmates of the confirmed case can continue to attend school provided they return negative test results and are symptom free.

Should we have three or more classes over a seven-day period with five or more confirmed cases in them we will notify Public Health. We will also apply the three tests per classmate approach described above in the classes with five or more confirmed cases. In addition to this we will liaise with Public Health regarding any required additional testing. Additional testing requirements will be communicated to parents/carers and the necessary rapid antigen tests will be supplied. Children who participate in additional testing, and who test negative and are symptom free, can continue to attend school.

Learning @ home

To support students learning at home, a COVID-19 page on our website provides access to learning opportunities. Additional learning is being made available by classroom teachers via google classroom and Seesaw platforms.

Nurturing Hearts Birth - 4 Program

We are ecstatic that Nurturing Hearts (Birth - 4 program) will be resuming on Friday 18th March. As part of our COVID Safety Plan, we are asking interested families to please register their interest. This is simply to ensure we do not exceed number restrictions in our Kindergarten space.

[Nurturing Hearts Expression of Interest \(COVID SAFE\)](#)



Swimming Carnival - Postponed

The Swimming Carnival is one of the big events on the school calendar. Given our current COVID situation with the inability of many of our Grade 3-6 students to participate, this has been postponed (not cancelled) and will not go ahead tomorrow as planned. Our new date will be communicated as soon as possible.

The STCPSSA Interschool Swimming Carnival will still be held on **Friday 25th March**. Trials to select our school team will be incorporated into our swimming program which will be running over the next fortnight.

Learn to Swim Program

Our Learn to Swim program for Prep to Grade 6 will be held **Tuesday 15th March to Friday 25th March** at YMCA Clarence Aquatic Centre. Students will travel to and from the pool by bus and follow the timetable below.

9:30 - 10:00	Prep
10:10 - 10:55	Grade 1 & 2
11:05 - 11:50	Grade 3 & 4
12:00 - 12:45	Grade 5 & 6

Parking in McCann Crescent and Edge Avenue

Please obey the road rules in all areas around our school - each child's safety is our number one priority.

Adhering to Yellow Lines and No Parking and Bus Zone signs is the responsibility of everyone. We thank the families who already adhere to school safety requirements. Over the next few weeks, staff will be out and about to support traffic flow, compliance and ultimately the safety of each child.

Wishing you a wonderful fortnight.

Warm regards

Rachel Kelly

Acting Principal



**ENROLMENTS
FOR
KINDERGARTEN
IN 2023 ARE
NOW OPEN!**

**IF YOUR CHILD WAS BORN IN 2018,
WE WOULD LOVE TO WELCOME THEM
INTO OUR KINDERGARTEN IN 2023.**

*Please visit our School Office to collect an Enrolment Pack, or call 6228 3335 to arrange a guided tour.
Applications close **Friday 6th May 2022**.*

Calendar of Events	
Thursday 10 th March	Canteen Day
Thursday 10 th March	NO SWIMMING CARNIVAL - POSTPONED
Friday 11 th March	Grade 5 Mass in Chapel
Monday 14 th March	Eight Hour Day Public Holiday NO SCHOOL TODAY
Tuesday 15 th March - Friday 25 th March	Learn to Swim Program
Wednesday 16 th March	Uniform Shop open 2.30pm - 4.00pm
Wednesday 16 th March	Canteen Sushi orders due on QKR by 5.30pm
Thursday 17 th March	Canteen orders due on QKR by 8.00am
Thursday 17 th March	Canteen Day
Friday 18 th March	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am - 10.30am