



A Blessing for Our Journey

Bless us, Gracious Companion,
With the fire of love
As we commence our journey of the year ahead.

Enliven us with:

- + *the compassion of God to motivate us;*
- + *the justice of God to inspire us; and*
- + *the mercy of God to encourage us.*

Bless us with listening ears and open hearts to the
needs of each other,
And responsive hearts and hands that reach out
with care.

May the blessings of our God
Surround us always
So that we may enjoy the fullness of life.

Amen

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2021 school year!

*Optimise the
learning and
wellbeing of
every child*

I am full of optimism for the year ahead and look forward to what will hopefully be a year without disruption.

No matter what the year ahead may bring, you can be assured that our commitment will be unwavering as we seek to optimise the learning and wellbeing of every child in our care. This is because, as a school staff:

- We honour the sacred dignity of each child.
- We are driven by a deep belief that every child is capable of successful

learning.

- We share a commitment to achieving the highest standards possible for each child to ensure maximum progress and growth.

- We understand that although children are at different stages in their learning and may be progressing at different rates, every child is capable of learning successfully if given the appropriate learning opportunities and necessary support.
- We understand the importance of working in partnership with parents and families.

We Welcome New School Staff

This year we also welcome the following new and returning staff members to our school:

Margie Hough - Year 6 Red Home Group Teacher. Margie is a very talented teacher, who brings with her a wealth of experience. We are blessed to have her join our community

Jo Sculli - Year 4 White Home Group Teacher. Jo is a very familiar face as she has worked at Good Samaritan in a number of roles in recent years. It's great to have her back on staff.

Tom Watson - Child and Family Psychologist. Tom's role is a new addition to our school. An experienced psychologist, Tom joins us for one day per week.

I am sure that you will join with me in making everyone feel welcomed and part of our wonderful community.

A COVIDSafe School

Included with this bulletin is a copy of the school's COVIDSafe practices.

Please note that there are a number of changes that reflect the current reduced risk of community transmission. While that is the case, it is still important that we are all vigilant in following the community safety measures that are in place.

I ask that you carefully read the guidelines so that you are aware of your responsibilities and that of all families at the school. Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

2021 School Fees

Thank you to all the families who have returned their 2021 Fee Agreement. Every effort has been made to continue to keep our fees and levies as low as possible as I have been mindful to take into consideration the impact of COVID and the economic environment that we currently experience.

Each year the Australian Government determines a figure called the *Capacity to Contribute (CtC)*. The CtC is the amount expected that each Catholic school will charge as the family fee. It is based on the government's calculation of each local community's *Direct Measure of Income*.

The CtC for Good Samaritan in 2021 is \$1734.0 - this is what we should be charging you as our family fee.

I have continued to keep our fees well below the level of the CtC to ensure affordability for every family.

This means that we are providing all families with a discount of at least \$234.00 on the Family Fee. Families who qualify for the CSEF also receive an additional Family Fee discount of \$100.00.

As always we will continue to support any family requiring assistance with the payment of fees and levies due to hardship. Should you have any question about the payment of fees and levies please contact our school Business Manager, Linda Eaton (E: accounts@goodsam.catholic.edu.au or T: 9308 6177)

We're Still Building a Better School

I am very pleased to announce that in December I received notification from Senator the Hon Jane Hume that our school has been granted a \$824,000 Australian Government Capital Grant for the construction of the new junior toilet block and the refurbishment of the hall.

It is hoped that construction will commence in the second half of this term and be completed by the commencement of term 3. This project will continue our focus on modernising our School facilities to ensure that they are all fit for purpose.

School Canteen

From the commencement of this year, we will no longer be operating a school canteen at Good Samaritan. This decision was made as it is no longer financially viable to operate a canteen. For the past four years the canteen has been operating at a loss, requiring it to be subsidised through the allocation of school funds. This is not a sensible or sustainable position for our school to maintain.

Through 2021, we will offer special days for the children where they can purchase treats.

Before and After School Care

As you would be aware, BASC services have for many years been provided by *Good Samaritan Care* which was operated by Our Lady's Parish. Due to changes in governance arrangements in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Our Lady's Parish is no longer able to operate BASC programs and has been required to close the service.



This year we welcome *Village OSHC* as the new provider of before and after school care (BASC) services at our school.

VillageOSHC partners with schools Australia-wide to keep children safe and happy outside school hours as parents work or study. They specialise in providing high quality, affordable and safe options for families who need Before School Care, After School Care and School Holiday Programs. In their program, VillageOSHC is committed to ensuring children make new friends, build on old friendships, get exercise, eat healthy food, embrace their imagination, and have loads of fun in a safe and respectful environment.

Further details regarding the Village OSHC service and the booking process can be found at the end of this bulletin.

Uniform Shop

A reminder that the Uniform Shop is now open each week of the school term at the following times:

Monday 2:30 - 4:00pm

Wednesday 8:30 - 10:00am

Family Handbook

Next week all families will receive a copy of the 2021 Family Handbook. This Family Handbook will also be made available from the school website (<https://www.gsroxburghpark.catholic.edu.au>).

The Family Handbook will include the calendar of planned events for the year as well as detailed information about school procedures and structures.

As always, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at principal@goodsam.catholic.edu.au or call 9308 6177.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the term.

God bless,

PAUL SEDUNARY
Principal

COVIDSafe GUIDELINES FOR FAMILIES



The following directions detail the measures that have been put in place to protect the health and wellbeing of all members of our school community.

They reflect the current health advice provided by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria.

These guidelines will change from time-to-time to ensure they reflect the most current advice provided by Victoria's Chief Health Officer.

SICK OR UNWELL CHILDREN



STAY HOME
If you are unwell

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, **they must not attend school.**

Unwell children must remain home and seek medical advice if required.

Any child who presents at school as either sick or unwell, no matter how mild their symptoms, will be sent home.

VISITING THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR LEARNING VILLAGES

If you need to visit the School for any reason please:



wear a face mask (*must cover nose and mouth*)



sanitise your hands upon arrival



keep your distance



Register your attendance

MORNING DROP-OFF



8:30

The school gates are opened at 8.30am

Children are not to be at school prior to 8.30am.

Any child who arrives at school prior to 8.30 will be sent to before school care and the child's family will be charged the full session amount.

Parents and family members are now permitted to enter the school grounds and go to classrooms - ***face masks must be worn at all times.***

Keep your distance – stay 1.5 metres away from people where you can.

AFTERNOON PICK-UP



3:10

The school gates will open at 3.10pm.

Parents and family members are now permitted to enter the school grounds and go to classrooms - ***face masks must be worn at all times.***

Keep your distance – stay 1.5 metres away from people where you can.

Avoid gathering in groups while waiting for your child.

DRINK BOTTLES

Every child must have a water bottle to use throughout the day at school. Due to covid safe health measures, the drinking fountains in the school yard have been turned off.

Drink bottles need to be clearly marked with your child's name and grade.

School drink bottles are available for purchase from the School Office. The cost of a bottle is \$5.00.

WASHING AND SANITISING HANDS

The children will be required to wash/sanitise their hands:

- Upon every entry to the classroom (for example: at the start of the day, after going to the toilet , after delivering or collecting the office tub).
- After each specialist class.
- After each activity where shared equipment (eg: blocks, counters, scissors etc) has been used.

The children will be supervised by a member of staff when they wash/sanitise their hands to ensure it is done correctly.

Hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes are available in all learning areas and office spaces.

Parents/carers are encouraged to supply their child with a small bottle of hand sanitiser (50ml) for their personal use.



HAYFEVER, ATHMA AND CORONAVIRUS?



Hay fever or asthma can produce symptoms similar to coronavirus such as a runny nose, cough or shortness of breath, and while good management can help prevent these, it is critical to get tested for coronavirus if these are different to your child's usual symptoms.

DHHS recommended that children with asthma, and particularly those with mild asthma, should see their GP to develop or review their asthma action plan and make sure any associated hay fever is well managed during the pollen season.

If your child suffers from hayfever it may be worth seeking advice from your GP or local pharmacist. Your doctor or pharmacist can give advice on which medication may be best for your child.

Should your child be diagnosed with recurrent hayfever, please provide the school with a medical certificate from your child's doctor.

TESTING SITES

You and your children can get tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) at either of the following nearby locations:

| | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Roxburgh Park Youth and Recreation Centre | 75 Lakeside Drive Roxburgh Park | Open Monday - Sunday 9am-5pm. |
| Northern Health - Craigieburn Centre | 274-304 Craigieburn Road Craigieburn | Open Monday - Sunday 9am-7.30pm |



For daily updates from the Department of Health and Human Services, visit: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) updates](#)
