

ST HELENA'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - ELLENBROOK

Christmas Tree Blessing

Lord Jesus,
Encircle this tree with your blessing.
May its twinkling lights remind us of the hope and promise of your coming.
May we find joy in the memories we share in its tinsel and trimmings.
May the presents we place beneath it give rise to an appreciation for the
gift of your presence among us.
We ask this in your holy name,
Amen.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Community Members

Welcome to week 9 of Term 4! We have "two more sleeps" until the school year ends. Who can believe it??

As I write my last piece for the Newsletter in 2020, I write with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for all that has been accomplished in 2020.

As in previous years, this school year started with great enthusiasm and excitement. As a community we regathered to continue the great story that is St Helena's Catholic Primary School. No one could have predicted the challenges that were ahead of us.

The sudden loss of our much-loved Mrs Bannatee left us all shocked and devastated and questioning why. Simone was an integral part of the fabric of our school community and she showed us the true meaning of what it is to "do something beautiful for God" each day. She stands as an inspiration to each of us and will be forever loved and remembered.

The impact of COVID-19 was felt at every level across our school and, indeed, our world. Life as we knew it took on a new face. What was once certain and comfortable, became unpredictable and surreal. As we continue to negotiate our way through the disruptions and restrictions associated with COVID-19, we need to celebrate our coming together as the St Helena's Catholic Primary School community to support and strengthen not only our children but also one another throughout the pandemic.

As Principal, I have never been prouder than I have been in 2020. I want to state very clearly that our staff team is extraordinary. They always go above and beyond, but never more so than in 2020. I have said it many times and in many arenas, St Helena's "did" COVID-19 as well if not better than any other school, in large part due to our staff; and they did it all while balancing considerations for their own family and personal needs. We owe them a great debt of gratitude.

I especially want to acknowledge our Assistant Principals, Peter Merry, Sascha Saulsman and Victoria Rowland. Their commitment and unwavering support in 2020 have been truly remarkable. Our passage through 2020 has been made easier and smoother because of them.

It is with appreciation that I thank each School Board member for their efforts in planning for the growth and sustainability of our school. In these challenging financial times, the Board has worked hard to ensure that our families are fully supported and that our educational program is funded appropriately, and our facilities remain up to standard.

Throughout the year, the P&F Committee has worked tirelessly to support our school and families. I extend thanks and appreciation to the St Helena's P & F Executive for the amazing work they have undertaken in 2020 to raise funds and build community.

Thank you to our St Helena's parents and caregivers for supporting our children and staff. You are amazing!

I thank all those who help our school in whatever way they can. St Helena's is very much a community school and many people help to build our community. Your generosity in assisting in a myriad of different ways has not gone unnoticed nor is it not appreciated.

As we draw close to the end of the current year, we prepare to farewell many members of our community. To those families /students who will leave us, we wish you the very best as you journey on from St Helena's. To our graduating Yr 6 students, my hope is that you will take our school motto with you wherever you go and that you will heed the words of St Teresa of Calcutta and do 'Something beautiful for God' every day. To our departing staff, Peter Merry, Victoria Rowland (for 2021), Rae Haywood, Kelly Fraser, Nicole Kirry, Heather Macdonald-Rudez, Caterina DiCarlantonio, Maddie Ciullo, Aine Walsh (for 2021), Tegan Back, Wendy Jacques and Sonia Truini, in the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament, Ruth says to her mother-in-law, Naomi, "Wherever you go, I shall go". As you depart St Helena's, remember these words for, indeed, wherever each of you may go in the years ahead, the spirit of St Helena's will go with you. This community will always be grateful to you for all you have contributed.

The road travelled this year has certainly been challenging. Without doubt, the year has seen the St Helena's Catholic Primary School community at its strongest, rallying together to carry one another through deep sadness and supporting one another to stay connected during a time of physical disconnection – a time of cancellations, postponements and restricted access to school. As Principal, I continue to be incredibly proud to lead this great school and feel so very grateful to do so alongside our wonderful students, staff, parents, caregivers and community members.

As the year draws to a close, I extend blessings to all and wish each member of this special school community a joyous, safe and holy Christmas.

Wishing you God's blessing.

Lina Bertolini

Pupil Free Dates for 2021

- 26 February 2021
- 4 June 2021
- 8 June 2021
- 19 July 2021
- 23 August 2021 (Catholic Day)

School resumes for students on 1 February 2021.

2020 VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

*You can help a family
put food on the table at
Christmas*

Donations of
non-perishable food
items are being
collected in classrooms.

The
St Helena's community
has been incredibly
generous in the past
with supporting those
in need in our local
community, so please
keep it up by donating
to the Christmas Appeal
this year!



St Vincent de Paul Society
(WA) INC
good works

CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

DONATION IDEAS:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Large Christmas Cake | • Tin Ham |
| • Small Christmas Cake | • Christmas Bon Bons |
| • Large Fruit Tin | • Large Beetroot Tin |
| • Small Fruit Tin | • Small Beetroot Tin |
| • Custard | • Large Corn Kernels Tin |
| • Fruit Mince Pies | • Small Corn Kernels Tin |
| • Tin Salmon & Tuna | • Tea & Coffee |
| • Cereal | • Milo |
| • Savoury and Sweet Biscuits | • Juices and cordials |
| • Chips | • Jams, vegemite |
| • Lollies (no chocolates) | • Pasta sauce |
| • Popcorn | • Pancake mix |
| • Longlife Milk | • Pasta |
| • Cake mix | • Rice |
| • Jellies | • Large Christmas Pudding |
| | • Small Christmas Pudding |

Please ensure all foods are IN DATE

PERTH SCORCHERS SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM



JOIN THE EXCITEMENT OF THE BBL
AND LEARN TO PLAY THE SCORCHERS
WAY AT THE ICONIC WACA GROUND!
COME DOWN FOR A FUN DAY OF CRICKET
BLAST GAMES AND ACTIVITIES.

WED 13 & THU 14 JANUARY 2021
9AM - 3PM
BOYS & GIRLS 5-11 YEARS OLD
\$110 ENTRY



REGISTER HERE

perthscorchers.com.au/holiday-program



ST HELENA OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH

Priests: Fr Bona & Fr Kenneth

25 Alderley Avenue
Ellenbrook

Email: sthelenas@holycross.wa.edu.au

Phone: 9296 7088

Mass Times: Please visit sthelenasellenbrook.com for information relating to Masses and times.