

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I continue to pass on to all families the information that comes to me as a School Principal, and the initiatives and choices that I make as it pertains to our school. Our School Board is also very aware of the issues facing our school, and are considering how we can help both students, families and staff during this difficult time.

At a Press Briefing this morning, the Prime Minister announced a number of further measures in responding to coronavirus (COVID-19).

- **Schools will remain open** and respond to local issues as required and on the advice of health authorities
- All **international travel** must not be undertaken (due to level 4)
- **Mass gatherings of 100+** people are not to proceed; and
- Implement [social distancing](#) measures where possible
- No school groups should visit **aged care facilities**

Furthermore, the Department of Education has made the decision to cancel:

- **Representative school sport** programs which includes district, regional, state, national, interstate and international competitions
- Queensland School Sport team participation in any national, interstate or international events organised across Australia or internationally

As we receive more information regarding COVID-19, we are all having to continually adapt and respond as more information about the pandemic comes to light.

Culture of Care

We are already feeling the economic effects of COVID-19, as some parents face a season of unemployment or business downturn. I would encourage everyone, especially business owners to watch this space carefully in the coming weeks (Follow the link for more information about [Government Assistance](#)). If you are affected by unemployment or cut-backs due to COVID-19, please contact our Administration to discuss how the College can care for your family during this season of financial uncertainty. **Families at Parklands should feel safe that their child's enrolment is secure in the face of financial uncertainty**, and that our plan for the continuity of learning is well underway.

School Closures

It is possible that our school could be closed at some stage. Our teachers are planning right now to be able to maintain the continuity of learning and support families at home. The Heads of School will release information to students and their parents should this occur. Some families are choosing to self-isolate as a pre-emptive strategy to avoid or delay the virus. If you choose to self-isolate at this time, we would ask you to monitor your child's academic progress, which can be achieved in the following ways:

- Lower Primary please continue with Math seeds and Reading Eggs
- Upper Primary please continue with Math Pathways
- This could be a beneficial time to spend teaching your child skills that are best learnt outside of the classroom environment. These could include baking, cooking, creating a video blog, keeping a diary, helping with the daily chores or writing a movie review for friends and family
- Secondary students continue to follow their subject on Google Sites and email teachers as necessary

Students at Risk

As a gesture of care, home communication has been made to those families with children who are at high risk as identified on our database. Vulnerable children include those who have moderate to severe respiratory illness, auto-immune deficiencies and other illnesses which would expose them to greater risk due to the virus. Please ensure that any significant updates regarding your child's/children's health (especially in relation to these areas) are communicated to Student Services – 07 3380 4237. If you have not been contacted by the College and feel your child should be considered high risk, please contact us immediately.

Sickness

If your child is sick, please keep them at home. We do not assume that all students who are sick have COVID-19. However, if you think you or anyone in your family meet the criteria for COVID-19, you can go online and take the [COVID-19 Quiz](#), or call 13432584 to get more information. We are doing our best to keep our school clean and sanitised in accordance with Queensland Health advice. Please continue to pray for the health of everyone on our site.

A Prayer for Peace

During these new and uncertain times, it is easy to get caught up in the hysteria being passed around Facebook, chat groups and the media. People have many questions that sometimes can't be answered with accuracy. At Parklands, we don't have all the answers. We don't know if the Australian Government is going to impose more guidelines, rules or regulations around how we operate. There is much we collectively don't know, yet as a community we can choose how we connect and respond during this season. We can choose who we want to be during this crisis, and how we respond and serve. I believe that this season is an **opportunity to care**. I will empathise with school staff who are attempting to run classes, sports programs, learning support and specialist lessons, while they simultaneously prepare and plan for supporting students online, and change their programs every time a new Government Directive is issued. I commit to patience, and fostering peace so that others might find relief in a crazy time. *Let peace be your portion this day.*

Regards,

Mr. Gary Cully
Principal