



# St Patrick's College Silverstream

No 24

Thursday 2 April 2020

## Vision Statement

*St Patrick's College, Silverstream is a boys' school of excellence, founded on Catholic and Marist values and traditions where students develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which enable them to become compassionate, just and successful citizens. Our students are challenged and motivated to achieve personal excellence in an innovative learning environment enhanced by tradition, superb facilities, quality teaching and a supportive College community*



Tēnā koutou katoa, Greetings everyone

I hope you are all keeping safe.

As by now you probably realize we are in the first week of the School holidays. It does not feel right that we are on holiday but restricted in what we can do.

The holidays officially end on the Tuesday (inclusive) after Easter as the Tuesday is a public holiday. We will begin the term with online learning and further information will follow.

For the Boarding School a separate newsletter will follow as to the set up going forward. I know a lot of you will have questions around start up and costs.

The BOP (Board of Proprietors) are meeting next week by phone conference and there will be outcomes going forward from this meeting.

I want to thank Jane Hambidge and Martin Burrows and all the staff for working with our students online.

Please see below the information from the Ministry of Education regards online safety while in Lockdown. The increased use of Social Media does also add to the increase of vulnerability.

### From the Ministry of Education

Technology is great whether it's for information, learning, keeping connected or for games, music and videos. This bulletin provides a reminder about how to keep young people safe in an online world where, unfortunately there are some predators.

### Keeping on line safe

You may want to encourage your parents, caregivers and whānau to discuss internet safety with their children - of all ages. They should agree with their children what they can do online including sites they can visit and appropriate behaviours including:

- reviewing and approving games and apps before they are downloaded
- reviewing privacy settings of sites and applications
- checking children's profiles and what they are posting online
- check the sites your child is accessing
- reminding children that anything that is posted online will be permanently on the internet
- taking the time to understand what sites they are visiting and who they are talking with and check in regularly

- some social media sites have age restrictions to join, check these before letting your child use them or join them
- monitoring a child's use of the internet and consider having them use it in an open, common area of the house
- making sure your children know to report any activity they don't feel comfortable with to parents and caregivers straight away.

There is a unique opportunity during the lockdown of families going out together, albeit it close to home, but if your child is going out on their own it's still important to check where they are going.

- Netsafe continues to be available to provide you and your parent and caregiver community with support for online safety. They have information for parents and caregivers and have pulled together their top tips for online safety during the lockdown. To report an incident To Netsafe - <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/reportanincident/>
- If you think a child in your care is the victim of online exploitation or abuse, report it to Police - if you or a child are in danger or a crime is being committed, call 111 or visit your nearest Police Station immediately.

If we all work together to make sure children are safe online, we can make the internet a great tool for people of all ages.

Shared below is a reflection from Father John Walls our College Priest. I am sure he is fine for me to share this.

Please take care of your loved ones and I ask for God's blessings at this time. I am sure the College will be stronger for this experience.

The theme this year is Unity and we need that more than ever. Please check with your son/ward that he has an avenue to talk to someone for support be that you or another family member. We must maintain not only our physical well-being but also our mental well-being at this time.

The Irish Poet, Kitty O'Meara, has an interesting take on Lock-downs...

And the people stayed home  
 And read books,  
 and listened,  
 and rested,  
 and exercised,  
 and made art,  
 and played games,  
 and learned new ways of being,  
 and were still.  
 And listened more deeply.  
 Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.  
 Some met their shadows.  
 And the people began to think differently.  
 And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways,  
 the earth began to heal.  
 And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again,  
 they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images,  
 and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,  
 as they had been healed.

Sectare Fidem  
 Grahame Duffy, Rector