



St Patrick's College Silverstream

No 29

Monday 4 May 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

Hope you are all safe and well during Alert Level 3.

Later this week we will receive instructions of how the College will operate under Alert Level 2. I will inform you of this when we have the information. Remember this information comes from the Ministry of Health.

A warm welcome to the following staff who have joined the College:

- Gemma Lorenc-Lafou, HOD Music
- Nofo Ueese-Lalau, Teacher of Samoan
- Sam Julian, Physical Education

We farewelled Carlin Linklater, Physical Education teacher, who has gone to Cambridge High School. We thank Carlin for his services to Stream and wish him and his family well.

I hope that distance learning is working well. Our staff and senior management are working hard to ensure this. I am sure it is having challenges for you at home while some of you balance work and also caring for the family.

We have had a total of 7 students return to the College this week.

We have closely followed the **public health measures** that have been put in place for Alert Level 3. These were set by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to minimise spread in the unlikely event that someone in our community is confirmed with COVID-19.

This means our small school bubbles are in place, our staff and students are staying 1 metre apart inside and 2 metres outside, our cleaning programme fully aligns with Health guidance, only essential visitors are coming into school and we have systems in place similar to supermarkets and dairies, to prevent those people from congregating.

We have hand sanitiser in classrooms and lots of reminders to students and staff to undertake good hygiene practices such as good cough and sneeze etiquette, and washing hands frequently. Most importantly, the children on site are enjoying being back with their peers, even though it is in quite a different way.

Just to remind you also that COVID-19 is not an illness that impacts heavily on children and young people. An article by Dr Gary Payinda in the New Zealand Herald highlights this:

- The young are less likely to get infected, less likely to get seriously ill, and less likely to spread the infection to others.
- When children are affected, the illness is almost always mild. Luckily, unlike flu or many other infectious diseases, children with COVID are not super-spreaders.
- COVID's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone.
- Make hand hygiene a habit – more than being scared of runners passing by, touching groceries, or standing in queues at the supermarket, we should be afraid of our own hands.

Enrolments 2021

Due to the College being closed we have had to cancel Open Day. If you know anyone wishing to attend the College in 2021 the enrolment information is on our website under enrolments.

Reports

You should have received your son(s) report. These are available through the portal. If you have any issues please contact Mr Martin Burrows for assistance on burrowsm@stream.school.nz.

Stay safe and I will update you with more information about Alert Level 2 as it becomes available.

Prayer

God, your word is a light to our steps
and without you we are lost and disorientated.
Enlighten us so that, through your word, we may walk your path.
May our churches crave your guiding, consoling and transforming presence.
Give us the honesty we need to recognise
when we make it difficult for others to see your light.

Ngā mihi

Sectare Fidem

Grahame Duffy
Rector