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**St Paul's**  
Catholic College  
Booragul

8 May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

***Re: COVID – 19 Update No 27.***

I would like to make special mention of all our beautiful mums and grandmothers who this weekend will celebrate Mother's Day. Here is a short reflection about our mums.

**The Best Job in the World**

This job's a tough one, Lord,  
but the perks are beyond compare.

Who else but a mother  
knows the joy of satisfying  
a human being's every need?

Who else but a mother  
sees love come alive a hundred ways,  
from jelly-smearred kisses and  
diminishing sobs  
to crayoned valentines  
and soggy, shared suckers?"

Thank you so much for this  
priceless privilege,  
this role so few get to know.  
Inadequate as my training,  
inept as I might be,  
I know I have tenure for life.

Even so, I ask your assistance  
in making sure I deserve it.  
For a bad mother is the worst nightmare  
a child can ever know,  
and a good one  
a dream come true  
to curly up with for life.

from *A New Mother's Prayers*,  
by Jayne Jaudon Ferrer

Yesterday, you would have received copies of my Welcome Back letters that I sent to all our students. All our staff are looking forward to having our kids back next week. It seems a very long time ago that this all began. The number on top of this update tells us that it was 27 days ago (give or take a few!) That doesn't include weekends so the reality is we have been effectively apart for almost six weeks, not including the holidays.

We have worked hard to make the place a COVID – 19 Safe Work Place. It is now up to all of our community to work together to make this transition period successful. I would like to reiterate this very important point about students with any sign of illness.

**It is vital that you keep your child at home if they are displaying the slightest respiratory illness.** Runny noses, cough and itchy throats in the past might have meant that a student could possibly be okay at school, but in these testing times, students will need to stay home. Please do not be offended if your child presents at school and has any of these sorts of symptoms and you are contacted to take them home. We have taken delivery of personal protective equipment and laser thermometers from Catholic Schools NSW, the body that controls Catholic Education in the state. This initiative is in line with the initiatives done by the state government for our state school brothers and sisters. Clearly such initiatives indicate the seriousness of the need to keep our school staff and students safe as we move forward.

I also ask again to let us know 48 hours in advance if you intend to send your child to school on days that they would not normally be here. As mentioned before, if you intend to make it a regular occurrence, then one email to that effect will be all that is needed. As well, you may consider letting your child come for shorter periods of time. That would be more than acceptable.

Have a lovely weekend. To all our mums,



Go gently,

Mr Graeme Selmes  
**Principal**