



# STELLA MARIS NEWSLETTER

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*from the Principal*



## Reflection

*'When the storms of life assail us, our first temptation is to quit life, to be delivered from "this vale of tears". We have no time for darkness, no love for doubt..... (but) when we realise that storms are part of life, not interruptions of life, we can live from one to the other with real equanimity, growing stronger all the time.*

Joan Chittister,  
*Aspects of the Heart,*  
2012

*Dear Stella Community*

### Welcome back to Term 2

It was wonderful to connect with the Stella community this week through our online assembly. I was truly impressed by our Year 12 Leaders who shared messages of support and courage with the wider Stella community. School Captain, Ella McMahon encouraged everyone to adopt a positive attitude to our current circumstance, to be flexible and remember to help other people. Ella's key message was **Focus on Gratitude** – and she invited us to show gratitude for those whom we remember on Anzac Day and those fighting COVID in our world.

The Year 12 Leaders also reminded everyone to stay connected. Our Social Justice Prefects, Annabelle Gilbert and Lia Sison, encouraged everyone to contribute to helping our local shelters during this difficult time. On the following page you can see the list of items that can be dropped off to help this effort.

During this last term break I reread a book about the impact of the plague on a small village in England. *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks tells the story of the courage of a young woman to survive and find a way to get through the challenging year. Another more recent novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, follows the story of a young girl named Kya as she grows up, isolated in the marshland of North Carolina and the challenges she faced during this time.

Both these novels remind us that courage is needed to manage difficult times and we should be comforted by the fact that we have a strong and supportive community to help us during these unprecedented times. Neither protagonist in the novels mentioned above had that.

Ella's message to focus on gratitude remains a clear guide for us all.

I give thanks for the Leadership Team for their clear and consistent messaging to the community with regard to our current period of remote learning and our plans for the return of the students to the College. The Maintenance Team have used the term break to repurpose the old library area, ready to take classes when students are back. We continue to increase our mitigants to ensure both staff and students are safe at school.

Finally, during this Easter Season I would like to share with you part of Sr Cath McCahill's reflection in the most recent *Good Oil*.

*Perhaps, the greatest blessing for the human community of this crisis is the deepening sense of community. We are all in this together: person by person, family by family, nation by nation. We depend on each other. We need each other to maintain good hygiene, to "stay home", to provide health services, to provide food and essential services, to teach our children. We need each other to maintain social connection in a time of unprecedented physical separation.*

*As we set out on our road to Galilee, we are invited to notice the risen Jesus. We know the darkness and we have seen glimmers of the resurrection.*

*Here we sing Alleluia in hope, as pilgrims on the way.*

*Let us sing then, as travellers sing along the road.*

*Sing with one another.*

*Sing loudly*

*Lift your spirits by singing together.*

*Sing up – but keep on walking. (St Augustine)*

To read the entire article [click here](#)

### P&F Meeting Cancelled

Considering of the current COVID-19 restrictions and implications on gatherings and events, please be advised that the P&F Meeting scheduled on Monday, 4 May has been cancelled. The P&F will review the situation and reschedule the meeting to a later date. Watch this space for updates!

*Elizabeth Carnegie, Principal*



*inclusive innovative inspiring*

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# Reaching Out

With the current climate of today it is important that we come together as a community to be able to help those who need it the most. With panic buying and more people in need of basic resources food banks and shelters have been struggling to help the people who need it. We are looking for donations to help out our local community!!

## Vinnies, to be dropped off outside the Finance

- Soft muesli bars – no nuts please
- Individual serve packets of chips
- Fruit cups
- Powdered soups / noodles
- Small cans of tuna
- Savoury / sweet biscuits
- Cheese dip-its
- Small packets of sultanas / dried fruits
- Cheese sticks or any long life cheese
- Poppers
- Medium sized zip lock bags or paper bags

## Northern Beaches Women Shelter, to be dropped off outside student reception

- Self Care Items
- YOGA MATS, new or used
- Beauty products
- Warm knits
- Canned non-perishable food items

ANNABELLE AND LIA • SOCIAL JUSTICE PREFECTS !!!

## Below is the Year group organisation plan for Week 3

	Year group organisation for learning days 6-10				
'Campus'	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Benedict	12	12	12	12	11
Main	10	7	11	9	8
Home	7,8,9,11 on MS Teams	8,9,10,11 on MS Teams	7,8,9,10 Work from the PORTAL	7,8,10,11 on MS Teams	7,9,10,12 MS Teams

In these strange Covid-19 times, many more families than usual are using our shared paths.

This is a very positive thing to do, for so many reasons; exercise, getting out of the house and mental health being some of those reasons.

However, the extra people means that we have to take extra care with our etiquette on shared paths, so that we reduce the risk of injury to ourselves and others.

Can you please promote this short Shared Path video, that is on the Northern Beaches Council YouTube channel.

Please note that everyone can still maintain the required 1.5 metres separation while keeping the Shared Path etiquette, such as walking single file in order to keep to the left and allow others to pass in both directions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrevqKZzGvU&feature=youtu.be>

