



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Broken Bay Parents,

Term 2, 2021 was another fast term, it has been wonderful that schools had the opportunity to return to their wonderful events – Mother's Day breakfasts, School Masses, sports carnivals, welcome functions etc. Parents were allowed back on the school grounds, and we were slowly returning to our vibrant school communities.

What terrible and devastating timing for the Sydney lockdown to be announced at the start of the July school holidays. Now the return to school for Term 3 with Home-Based Learning (HBL) and uncertainty of how long the lockdown will last is a further stress for families. Looking forward, to when we finally can return to school, there will probably be a knock-on effect that will restrict parents back on school grounds and at the gate for drop off and pick up. (Hopefully this is short, but we can only wait and see!)

I hope all goes well for our families and schools in Term 3 particularly in the difficult lockdown circumstances. I would like to thank all our teachers for the additional work to prepare online learning and lessons for the next few weeks, hopefully we will be back in the classrooms soon. Parents please keep the great momentum going for strong parent engagement. Together as a team we will pull together for a successful term and work within whatever constraints or restrictions there maybe.

The Broken Bay Catholic School Parents have been busy focusing on our key areas:

- Wellbeing: supporting families during this difficult time and understanding what support is available through our school diocesan system.
- Governance for Parent teams: with our changing parents' teams and what works for our school's community.
- Inclusive Parent teams: do our parent teams reflect the wonderful changing cultural diversity of our school community? Are the voices of all parents heard?

The opportunity to keep meeting (even via zoom) is so important to keep effective communication going.

The Broken Bay CSP Leadership night was a successful and productive evening for parents and Principals to meet and discuss effective partnerships with Parent Teams/P&Fs/SAC. We held our Leadership Evening slightly later in the year, however, with the everchanging restrictions and other constraints it was worth the wait for this to be done in person and not via zoom! Discussions were amazing, there has been so many ways for schools to adapt with COVID restrictions and the amazing ways schools and parents can still partner in their child's education journey. It was great for Danny Casey to participate in the evening with the unique opportunity to talk with parents and Principals together. In a first, Bishop Anthony sent a video message of support and echoing the important themes of parent engagement and parents as first educators with the partnership of schools. I would like to thank Carmel Hewitt, Michal Brenchley, Rebecca Burrell, Melissa Garland and Jo Spek for their hard work and contribution to a successful evening.

The **Towards 2025 Parent Forum** will be pushed back to later in Term 3, September 14th. This will be a unique opportunity to hear from Danny Casey, the Director of Schools presenting the **Towards 2025 Strategy** and the important partnership of Parent Engagement for its success. This strategy was launched on 25th June 2021 at the Catholic Schools Staff Development Day.

Finally, I would like to thank Melissa Garland for all her hard work and focus on the Wellbeing team. Melissa has been the Co-Chair focusing on the Secondary schools, she has decided to step down from the role.

God Bless

Necola Chisholm, *Broken Bay CSP Chair*

TERM 2 WRAP UP

CLUSTER MEETINGS

We have again continued over Term 2 with having our Cluster Meetings via zoom but now also combining the clusters for both Primary and Secondary and had very good attendance with also welcoming Principals & Vice Principals to attend.

Although we do understand the importance of meeting in person and having that personal contact, we do feel that the attendance is stronger by having the meetings continue via zoom and then look at holding alternative workshops / forums in person.

During the Term 2 Meetings discussions came up in regards to the following for both the Primary & Secondary Meetings: The BBCSP is continuing to action the discussion points:

- Communication structures e.g. FB Groups & Processes
- Fundraising Guidelines to align with new CSBB financial processes
- Email Address Process to obtain a dbb account
- Possible New CSP Management Team Structure – Project Based
- Need to improve COMPASS in its parent engagement processes and teacher training in its use
- Progress Reports / Fact Sheets regarding Facilities and Asset Maintenance program in the Diocese

BBCSP 2021 LEADERSHIP EVENING 'PLANNING IN PARTNERSHIP'

We held our Annual Leadership Evening "Planning in Partnership" on June 16th at the Caroline Chisholm Centre where we had 23 of our 44 schools in attendance including Principals, Vice Principals and Executive Staff of the Catholic Schools Broken Bay.

The goal of the evening was to discuss the current context of Parent Bodies and provide opportunities for Parent Teams to spend time together looking at their strengths, challenges and plan future directions. The evening was also an opportunity to collect feedback and discuss the Review of Modelling of Parent Bodies in Broken Bay. This review will be finalised in 2022

On behalf of Broken Bay Catholic Schools Parents and Catholic Schools Broken Bay we would like to thank those of you that attended the evening and would appreciate any feedback that you have from the evening that will help us in future planning of events on the following link <http://padlet.com/BBCSP/epd54e6wp15vhn8u>

If you would like a copy of the presentation forwarded to you, email catholicsschoolparents@dbb.org.au



TERM 3 EVENTS

Please find a list of all Broken Bay Catholic School Parent Events for Term 3 below. Please note these dates in your diary and Zoom Invite links will be sent to your school CSP Rep. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, please contact your school CSP Rep.

- Combined Secondary Cluster Meeting 2nd August 2021
- Combined Primary Cluster Meeting 4th August 2021
- Parent Retreat - Postponed
- Towards 2025 Parent Forum – 14th September 2021, 7pm (details to be confirmed)
- Head Space Parent, Carer and Community Member Mental Health Education Sessions
July – September 2021 Register via <https://bit.ly/2Nm5cRh>

If you require any additional information on any of the above events, please email catholicsschoolparents@dbb.org.au

STAYING CONNECTED DURING COVID

We know from our experience in 2020, that staying connected is vital to ensure parents, students & families are coping and maintain their wellbeing.

How can you, as a Parent Team/P&F, stay connected during this time? Continue to connect to your parent community via your usual online channels and consider some new ones to reach and support your parents at this challenging time.

PARENT TEAM MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

Unfortunately during lockdown no P&F meetings can be held at school, but you can still host a meeting via Zoom or other online meeting tools. It is important to connect with your parent community and give parents an opportunity to dial in to connect with other parents. I'm sure they would also love to hear from the school Principal, discuss challenges, including what support parents need at this time, as well as discussing opportunities when at-school learning resumes, hopefully sooner rather than later!

Zoom is free although there is a 40-minute time limit on free accounts. You could also host via your school's Zoom account which has no time limit. Ask your school to set the meeting date and time and send to parents via compass <https://zoom.us/>

PARENT TEAM EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Stay connected with your Executive Committee to discuss how you will reach out and support your community at this time and beyond.

PARENT TEAM FACEBOOK GROUPS

Continue to connect with parents via your whole school P&F/Parent Team Facebook group. Make sure to follow [Broken Bay Catholic School Parents Facebook Page](#) and share anything you feel your parents will find valuable at this time. If your parent team does not have a Facebook group, now might be the time to set one up. If you need help, feel free to get in contact with us catholicschoolparents@dbb.org.au

YEAR FACEBOOK GROUPS

Again, if you don't already have year Facebook groups, now could be a good time to create some. They act as a tool for parents to connect online for year related topics.

They can be used to ask questions, share ideas, and generally support each other during this time. If your Principal agrees with Year Facebook groups being set up, the CSBB's Communications and Promotions Team can assist you, send an email to catholicschoolparents@dbb.org.au if you would like to know more and/or need support.

VIRTUAL COFFEE CATCH UPS

If you are missing your chats with other parents during drop off and pick up, why not host a virtual coffee chat for your parents. It might be best to do it by year group. Year Parent Coordinators could send out the zoom meeting request and see who turns up! Use these chats to share ideas and tips, parent to parent, about successes and challenges of home-based learning.

WHATSAPP

Some Parent Teams already use WhatsApp for year-based parent communications. If you don't, now might be a good time to give it a go. WhatsApp is more of an instant messaging tool, so you might want to work out if WhatsApp or Year Facebook Groups would suit your parent's needs better at this time.

COMPASS

Encourage parents to continually check your school's COMPASS App and to make sure they have the notification system set up. Schools use COMPASS as a major communication and notification platform.

STAY CONNECTED

You might be familiar with other tools that will also work to connect with your community depending on your situation, like House Party App, Google Hangouts, Microsoft Teams or Facetime.

Whatever tools you choose to stay connected to your parent community, the goal is to reach out and try to keep the community connected as much as possible during this time of self-isolation. Jump onto our closed Broken Bay Catholic School Parents P&F/Parent Team Facebook Group to see updated ideas and let us know how you are staying connected to your parents: https://www.facebook.com/groups/BBCSPParentTeams/?source_id=440783349637026

If you need any help with any of the above tools, please feel to get in contact with us at catholicschoolparents@dbb.org.au

HELPFUL LINKS & CONTACTS

If families are in need at any time of any assistance during the lockdown period or at any other time whether it be financial, wellbeing, student learning or any other need our schools, Catholic Schools Broken Bay and Broken Bay Catholic Schools Parents are here to support our families.

Links:

Catholic Schools Broken Bay Parent Hub
www.csoddb.catholic.edu.au/the-parent-hub

Catholic Care
www.catholiccaredbb.org.au

Beyond Blue
coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au

Headspace
<https://headspace.org.au/eheadspace/>



Contacts:

Catholic Schools Broken Bay
csoddb.catholic.edu.au

Fees Liaison Unit
schoolfees@dbb.org.au
Ph: 02 9847 0728

Broken Bay Catholic Schools Parents
catholicsschoolparents@dbb.org.au

Council of Catholic Schools Parents have some great resources available
csnsw.catholic.edu.au

COMMUNICATION MATTERS

Communicating with your child's teacher and school

	Schools have channels of communication e.g. Facebook, newsletter, email. Use them and check them regularly.
	Your child's teacher will let you know the best way to contact them during this time.
	Write down your questions as they come to mind. Where can I find this information? e.g. school newsletter. Do I still need to contact the teacher or school?
	Be respectful in your communications. Remember, office and teaching staff may also be working remotely and managing their home/work environment.
	Teachers may use different online platforms and virtual classroom spaces to communicate with your children. These may vary across a school as different platforms are more suited different age groups.
	Remember teachers will be communicating individually with many students and their families. Remind your child that they may need to be patient as teachers answer questions or give feedback.



Walking with Catholic School Communities across NSW



PO Box 20748, World Square NSW 2002 | (+61 2) 9287 1555 | csnsw@csnsw.catholic.edu.au | www.csnsw.catholic.edu.au | ACN: 619 593 369

