

Adjusting to a New Normal...

Ahh, 2020. A new year, a new decade, a new set of experiences to be made...

Well, that was the plan anyway. I am sure we all had great ideas about what our 2020 experience would be like. Not necessarily what happened.

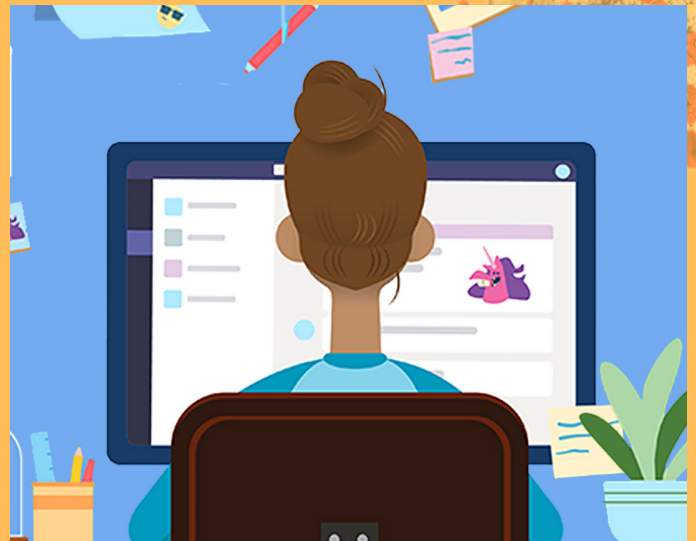
2020 really threw everything at us. First, we had the devastating bushfires that tore across the country, then the worldwide pandemic that left us all isolated in our homes and the Black Lives Matter protest which has dominated America and around the world. What a year it has been, and it isn't even over!

The coronavirus really has tipped the world upside down, and our school has been no exception. With the introduction of Zoom lessons, home learning and isolating in our houses, there was a lot to get used to.

We all had varied experiences of our times in isolation - some have thrived, some have hated it and some have mixed feelings. While I cannot speak for everyone, I can speak about my experiences and what I encountered in my time during home learning.

I actually thoroughly enjoyed my time at home. I enjoyed being able to relax and not worry about travelling to places, which saved me a lot of time in the morning and in the afternoon when I was meant to have activities. It also wasn't that hard to adjust to my surroundings since I created a space for my work and often left that when trying to relax, therefore I found that I was able to distance myself from schoolwork.

Although, despite being able to talk to my friends through Facetime and



messaging, the hardest part of adjusting to covid was not being able to see my friends every day.

Which, like many people, I'm sure is the best thing about being able to come back to school - being able to see friends again. And so far, despite certain setbacks, life is slowly returning to how it was. Let's get ready to readjusting to normal life.

What was COVID like for you?

"Home was fun and interesting, though could get boring."

"It was nice to stay home but it was bad because I couldn't see my friends in person."

"It was interesting to experience a different way of life."

"Realised I need to appreciate everything I take for granted."

"When I was home, I enjoyed the freedom that I got during the school day."

"Some parts were nice, we could sleep more..."

WAIT A MINUTE- WHERE'D CHAMPAGNAT WEEK GO?

BY CAITLIN BRAND

Champagne week. For many of us older years, this uncomplicated week brings innumerable amounts of fond memories of games and splurging a bit too much on junk food.

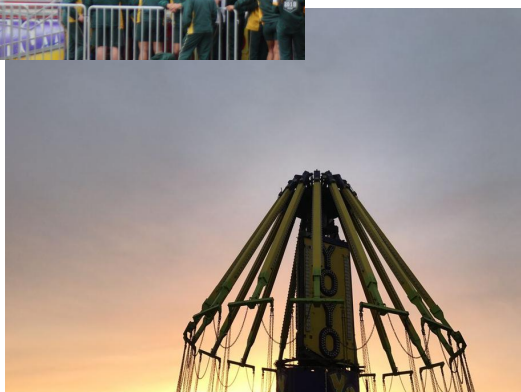
However, the history behind this week is forgotten and fractured. History encompasses us. As a school, we commemorate these small moments in our rich history through unbroken traditions like Champagnat week and Walkathon fundraisers.

For the first time in our Dundas history, our ovals stand empty and barren. But, why exactly is this tradition so important to our school?

Marcellin Champagnat and the Marist Brothers

At this point, every single grade has become desensitized by the story of Marcellin Champagnat. Oftentimes, we forget exactly where our school started and its deep history.

Marcellin Champagnat, the founding father of our school, was born into poverty. As he grew, Marcellin struggled with his formal education, especially with the way students were taught and disciplined.



So, while still at the seminary, he took a chance and formed the Marist Brothers who followed and taught in the Way of Mary. His goal was to ultimately change the lives of young people by being a better teacher. Marcellin's story ended in 1840. However, by the time of his death, there were 280 Brothers already changing the younger generation.

The Brothers spread themselves all over the world, keeping Marcellin's message alive in the hearts of millions of students. They moved to Australia in the colonial era of 1872. They set up their first school in the Rocks.

Our school building was a double-storey on Harrington street, the Rocks. The first students to arrive in our school history were 130 primary schoolboys. In 1875, it finally became a high school. We became known as a primary, secondary, intermediate, business and evening college. We made the move to Dundas in 1962 and only introduced coeducation in 1985.

The importance of the past

These are the direct roots of our school, they are its foundation and it's especially important for younger years to understand this history. The sacred tradition of both Champagne week and Walkathon were built on transforming the world around us. To make a new change and inspire the young people to continue to make the world better.

Stepping forward to the future

Over the past year, the injustices of the black and aboriginal community have been brought to the forefront. We are at a crucial moment in our nation and school community. For Year 12s especially, they have missed out on most of their senior year. This is the time we must band together as a community in support of them. We are at a place where we now can create a new history. Where we celebrate the diversity of each other and our community everyday with new traditions.

So, St Pat's, how are we going to lead our school into tomorrow?

ELIZABETH HOGAN + CHELSEA KING

THE COMPOSITION OF OUR LIVES

English, French, Spanish, Italian. All across the world, we communicate in different languages. Since the days of cavemen, our ideas, feelings and opinions have often been expressed orally.

Even today, our main form of communication is from word of mouth, for the majority of us, this is done by speaking english. But the question is, how are we supposed to communicate our feelings to those who do not comprehend our language? Even as our civilization has advanced, we are often challenged in our ability to express our feelings and emotions.

Music offers a gateway to people of all nationalities and cultures which is why we believe music is a universal language. In musicals, video games, movies and television shows, music is a vital component to convey emotions to the audience. Music has the ability to go places that words can't, a simple phrase of notes sounded by a soothing piano, mellowing violin and a calming flute can deliver the same message that would take hundreds of words to explain.

Music is like a dream, that never ends... without it, life wouldn't exist in its true sense. Music is the soul to the universe, the wind which blows the autumn leaves, the sun which heats up the golden sand, the rain which bounces down onto the harsh concrete roads. Music is a language that anyone from all areas of life can comprehend, it doesn't matter if you have learnt music from a young age or only listen to it in the car.

Music is indeed part of the smallest things in our life. We wake up to the sound of our beating heart, the ticks and tocks which make up a clock, the voices which speak the words of a sentence, the footsteps which are sounded from our feet. Music is all around us, it begins from the most minimalistic things in life, sounds



ST PATRICK'S SPORT



ANOTHER GAME, BUT ITS NOT THE SAME

by Catherine D'Heureux

After 15 weeks, the early Saturday mornings have started again and people are finally back playing netball, but it's not the same anymore. There are no gatherings around the court, no parents on the side of the court, no congratulations at the end and no spirit

The netball courts have lost the passion they once burned with. It is leaving a lot saying why bother? But to me it says how can we fix and change this. We as a community need to get people excited about not just netball, but all sports and exercise in general. When I go to netball I think about the positives such as seeing my friends and playing a game I love. I am sure many others love this too, but then we see the news. "New Covid hotspot", "14 people died today in Melbourne", "There is looking to be a second wave", "Prime minister prepares us for possible restrictions". Recently the news only features Covid articles which is really getting people down. This is putting an overbearing mental strain on some people which they just can't handle, they fall into depression and don't want to leave home leaving them in an everlasting cycle.

It is scientifically proven that that exercise releases endorphins which gives you a sense of happiness and empowerment. So we need the netball community to train and play just like they did last year, with passion and love. We as a community need to participate in sports and support others so that we make it through this time together. I know me, myself and others are afraid of the second wave that could shut down sport once again. Instead of thinking about this we should be enjoying netball while we can be social and talk to each other online or maintain a safe distance.

