

## WRITING ON THE CARDS AS SCHOOL SENDS LOVE



*St Mary's Swan Hill prep students creating cards for healthcare workers and schools in Melbourne*

Students at St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill warmed the hearts of fellow students and healthcare workers in Melbourne doing it tough during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kate Quin, School Principal, said students across the school created seven to eight hundred cards over the span of two weeks. The cards were filled with messages of hope and positivity for the students and teachers, also acknowledging the "great work" they are doing this year.

Kate said the gesture followed the Josephite message and saying of Mary MacKillop "never see a need without doing something about it." It shows the students what they can do to make a difference and cheer up someone's day," Kate said.

Kate said we never know how a simple gesture could make a positive difference to others. "In speaking to friends and colleagues in Melbourne since the announcement they would return to remote learning, they were concerned about the morale of staff and students," Kate said.

"It made our staff think about what we as a Josephine school could do to make even a little difference." Kate said the school has connections to metropolitan Melbourne with family members and colleagues residing in the capital city.

Kate said the schools who received the cards were selected at random and that some students have also chosen to create cards for health care workers in metropolitan hospitals in Victoria, who were experiencing fatigue and anxiety.

*Article courtesy of the Swan Hill Guardian. Text and top photo by Lillian Altman*

*Further to the story:*

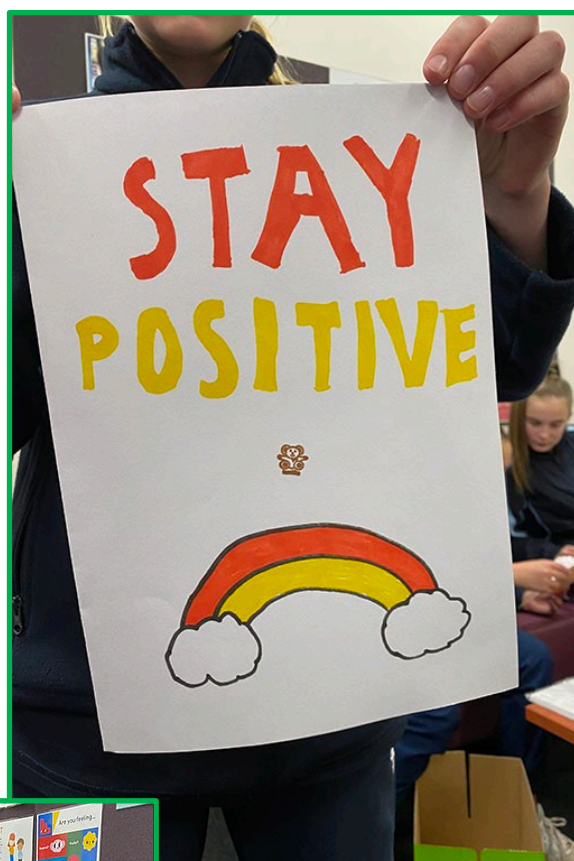
Our card making idea was an inspiration to many. When we came back to school at the start of Term 3 (before we were even thinking we would be in remote learning ourselves down the track!) the children wanted to do something that made a difference to the lives of others in lockdown so wrote and created lots of cards with messages of staying positive to students and staff in schools in Melbourne.

This was an optional task but more than three hundred cards were made in lunchtimes in the art room or if they had some spare time in class. These were sent with a cover letter to twenty random Catholic schools across Catholic Education Melbourne.

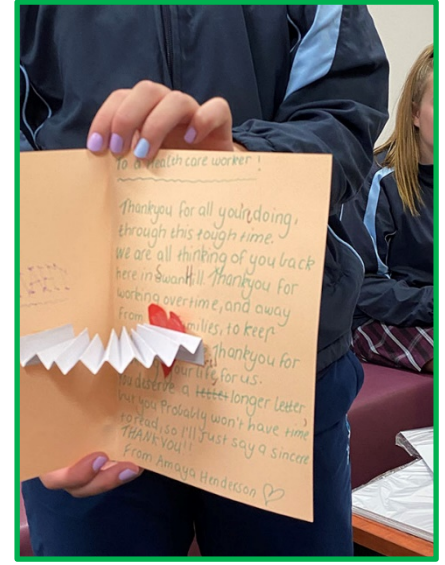
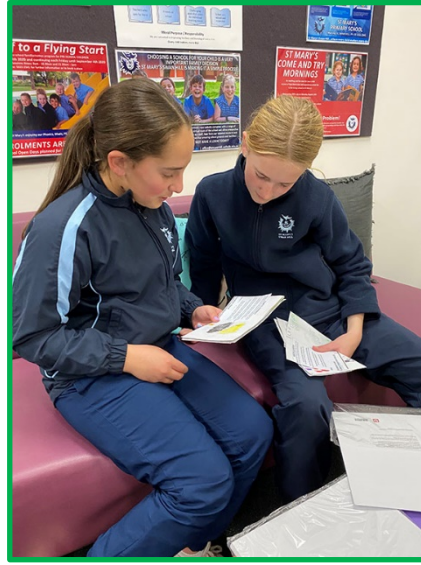
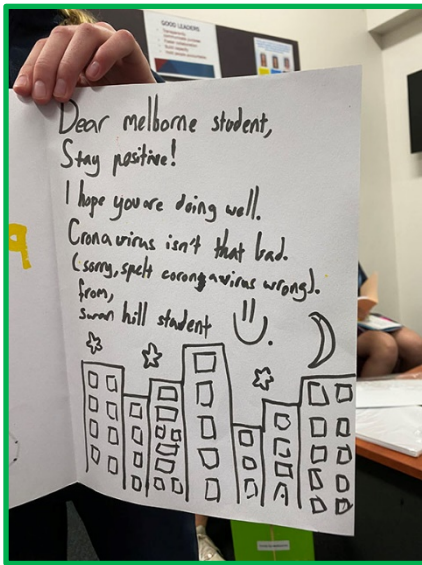
The children made some real connections to their faith and our Josephite heritage through this practical way of bringing a message of hope to others and many talked about St Mary MacKillop's message of "never see a need without doing something" as their motivation for making the cards and writing their messages to strangers.

What was unexpected was the ripple effect with to date most of those schools contacting us - phoning to share their appreciation, sending back letters, videos, photos of the cards on display and mentioning the school in remote assemblies or in some cases principals even making a video of thanks and sending it to use. The school captains sorted the cards to send off to the schools on the day before we went into lockdown in August ourselves.

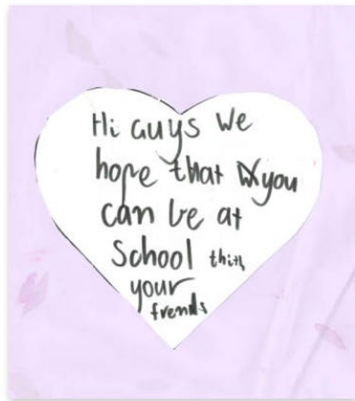
*Kate Quin – Principal*







## Newsletter, August 14 2020



### We move forward with joy and gratitude

Dear families and friends,

You would be aware that our whole-school inquiry unit this term is exploring our sense of Community, how we can stay connected as a community and how **we** can contribute so that everyone can flourish. The learning outcomes across all levels that the children have created, with your support, has been remarkable.

Thank you for your creations that have contributed to the two Art installations at Estia Heath and St Andrew's Aged Care, our two local facilities that are so vulnerable at the moment.

But these acts of kindness are not limited to the local area. We were delighted to receive a number of cards made by the children of [St Mary's Primary School in Swan Hill](#), hoping that we stay safe and that we would be able to return to school very soon. Their Principal, Kate Quin said "The children wanted to do something. They decided to reach out to students in remote learning as they remembered how much they missed their friends and being together and how, even though their teachers made it as much fun as they could, it wasn't the same as being at school." Some of the cards are featured

throughout this newsletter, they are beautiful. [We made a little video of them for you here](#). Kids, if you have to practice social distancing up in Swan Hill, our very own Matteo has some tips to keep you safe!

We started 2020 with the theme of *Moving Forward with Joy and Gratitude*, and while there are times when all of us stop and think where is the joy, the children lift our spirits, thank you kids!!!! Couldn't think of a better examples of how we can contribute to our communities so that all may flourish.