

July, 2020

Metropolitan Schools Newsletter

Term 3, July 2020

Welcome to the Vinnies School Newsletter for Term 3

Welcome to the Vinnies School Newsletter for Term 3. We hope that you had a safe break and that you are ready to go for another term of tackling learning challenges in a COVID-safe era.

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Mini Vinnies Formation Program Launch

The Schools Engagement Team are excited to announce the launch of the **Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP)**. The MVFP will nurture students, who undertake the project, to be a light in the world, inspired by the spirit of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Gospel values.

The MVFP is open to ALL students from Years 4-6 (regardless of whether or not they are part of Mini Vinnies). Participation in the Program is voluntary and students will make their way through three awards: Bronze, Silver and ultimately Gold.

We thoroughly look forward to welcoming new sign ups to the Mini Vinnies Formation Program in 2020. For more information, please see the [Mini Vinnies Registration Information page](#).

Stay tuned for more information on the **Teen Vinnies Formation Program (TVFP)** which is currently in the development phase.



Important Announcements

- 1 Mini Vinnies Formation Program Launch
- 2 Retail Stores Now Open
- 3 Vinnies eBay Shop
- 4 Sacramental Programs

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Mini Vinnies

St Vincent de Paul Society

Mini Vinnies Formation Program



St Vincent de Paul Society
Metropolitan Schools Engagement Team
PO Box 5 Petersham NSW 2048
formationprogram@vinnies.org.au

Vinnies Metro Youth

1 minute with Vinnies Youth Volunteers

Why do Vinnies Youth love what they do? [Click here](#) to view a short clip of Vinnies Youth NSW volunteers and members. Learn why they give their time to support people in their local communities & what these opportunities mean for them.

Mission Australia Survey

Want to have your say?!? Mission Australia are running their annual Youth Survey for young people (15-19 years) to share their values, challenges and ambitions and to 'speak up' about the issues that they care about.

To access the survey, go to www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey and click the 'Take the survey!' button. Please use our unique organisation code **96609**.

Thanks for taking the time to 'speak up'



Announcements

Retail Stores are now open!



Have you been back to Vinnies yet? Over 140 of our shops have now reopened across the state with precautions in place to ensure customer safety. Check if your local Vinnies store is on the list [by visiting this link](#).

Please note: our shops are operating under adjusted trading hours, please check each individual shop for details.

Vinnies eBay Shop

If your local Vinnies Store hasn't reopened its doors just yet, or if online shopping is more up your alley, take a look at our new [Vinnies eBay shop](#). As per traditional Vinnies thrift shopping, you'll be sure to find an array of pre-loved goodies from the comfort of your own home! As always, the funds we raise from our online store will go towards serving vulnerable people and local communities.



Sacramental Programs



With Sacramental Programs resuming in some parishes, we invite you to book a complimentary half or full day Sacramental Retreat for your students through your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer.

No Child Left Behind

There are currently around 16,000 children in families seeking protection in Australia. Many people have lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19. People seeking asylum are not eligible for the JobSeeker or JobKeeper payments and have been left with nothing. There are serious concerns that many families seeking asylum have been left in a situation where they have no work, no income, and no way out. The Refugee Council are asking for your support.

If you would like to get involved, please sign the petition [here](#).



Sydney Van Services

Sydney Vinnies Vans Services (SVVS), Behind the Scenes and Sandwich Making Rosters are still on hold until further notice.

We are aiming to return to full operations by September though this will depend on the situation with COVID-19. We will send ample notifications to coordinators in the lead up to the resumption of our services and programs.

In the interim, SVVS are still accepting donations of bulk snack supplies and pre-packed snack packs (as per our 'Offsite Snack Packing Instructions Document') to our Lewisham or Liverpool Night Patrol bases. Many thanks to all students, parents and teachers who have already contributed - we are deeply grateful for your support.

ALL DROP OFFS MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE AS STAFF ARE WORKING AT REDUCED HOURS AND WILL NOT ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE TO COLLECT THE DONATIONS. PICK UPS WILL ALSO REQUIRE AT LEAST 10 DAYS NOTICE.

To book a drop off or pick up, please contact Christina Gilio on christina.gilio@vinnies.org.au



Parramatta Van Services

Parramatta Vinnies Vans are continuing on a 4 night a week roster in Western Sydney. The van provides support to people experiencing homelessness in Mount Druitt and Parramatta. Donations of pre-packaged single serve food items and winter woolies are still needed. If you would like to donate, please contact Penny Wood (Parramatta Van Services/ Penrith Hub) on (02) 88619770 or email penny.wood@vinnies.org.au if you would like make a donation.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and generosity!



Prayer for those experiencing homelessness

Lord our heavenly Father,

We pray for those who are experiencing homelessness. May they be helped to find a place where they are safe, a roof over their head, a companion to help them emotionally, a satisfying meal and something to drink and keep them warm during Winter.

May they find strength and healing in God during this difficult experience.

Amen.

By St Christopher's Primary School, Panania

Good News Stories

Family Winter Sleepout at Home



The St Vincent de Paul Society is extremely fortunate to have a long-standing relationship with Sydney Catholic Schools. We would like to convey our sincerest appreciation to the Development Officers of the Family Educator Project and their amazing support of the Society, especially during this time.

As part of their Outreach component, the SCS team has worked tirelessly to coordinate the #FAMILYWINTERSLEEPOUT@HOME initiative that invites Sydney Catholic Primary Schools to donate funds and supplies to the COVID Winter Appeal. With an initial goal of \$20 000, the initiative proved more than successful, having raised over \$67 000 to date! To all the incredible schools who participated, THANK YOU!

Head over to the [Fundraising Page](#) to take a look.

A Selfless Birthday Deed

Long-time Vinnies Youth member and volunteer, Dr Simon Lew has, for the third year, exhibited utmost selflessness. In the lead up to his birthday, Simon asked his Facebook friends to donate to a Vinnies fundraiser instead of giving him gifts so that the money could go towards people who needed it more. This year, Simon's Birthday Fundraiser raised a staggering \$2500! Thanks Simon!

If you or anyone you know is interested in starting a Facebook Birthday Fundraiser for Vinnies, please contact your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer.



The inspiring story of Lennie Gwyther

[Lennie Gwyther](#) was a nine year old boy who rode his pony from his home town in rural Victoria to Sydney to witness the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. He showed great Australian spirit through persistence, resilience, bravery, courage and hope.

Click on the following links to learn more:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3z7RyDu4Tk>
- <https://www.smh.com.au/national/the-nineyearold-who-rode-a-pony-1000km-to-sydney-20150121-12v3kq.html>





2020 COVID Winter Appeal

From the bottom of our hearts, the Schools and Youth Engagement team would like to thank all of the extremely generous schools who have contributed to the 2020 COVID Winter Appeal in Term 2.

With many individuals and families experiencing unprecedented hardship as a result of the current health and financial crisis, we had anticipated that this Appeal would be very different to those from previous years. To our amazement, this has not been the case.

We have been overwhelmed with the response to our COVID Winter Appeal thus far and for your incredible contributions, we are sincerely thankful. Now, more than ever, your continued support has gone towards making a great difference to people's lives who have been turned upside down.

To all schools who are launching/continuing their Appeal in Term 3, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude in advance. If you require any assistance with the launch, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer. You may also wish to use the video below when launching/completing your Appeal:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAfl11_hnU8&feature=youtu.be

