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KEEPING OUR CONNECTIONS

Friday 14th March 2025

Dear Families & Friends of St. Paul's,

Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the Church's Season of Lent, a 40-day period of reflection, repentance, and preparation for Easter. On Ash Wednesday, Catholics receive ashes on their foreheads as a symbol of humility and repentance, reminding us to, "Turn away from sin and be true to the Gospel". It is a day on which we are called to reflect on our sins, seek God's forgiveness, and renew our commitment to living a Christ-centered life.



Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Catholics often give up something meaningful, such as certain foods or habits, to grow spiritually. It's a time to focus on deepening our relationship with God through acts of love, charity, and self-discipline, as we prepare for the joy of Christ's resurrection at Easter. And so, as we begin our Lenten Journey, my hope & prayer for our St. Paul's 'family' is that we will journey well through Lent, thinking about those who are less fortunate than we are and working hard to become better people through prayer, fasting & giving.

Denis.
Denis J. Daly
Principal

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

On Wednesday night, we held the last of the 2025 Parent Information Meetings for our Year 6 parents, guardians & carers. The meetings were an opportunity for level teachers (Prep to Year 6) to provide parents with information about their child's level for 2025. Teachers provided parents with their slide decks after each information meeting. Should parents have any further questions, they are encouraged to email their child's teacher or send them a SeeSaw message.



NAPLAN

NAPLAN is well underway for our Year 3 & Year 5 students. Yesterday both Year 3 & Year 5 sat their Writing Test, today Year 5 sat their Reading Test and tomorrow Year 3 will sit their Reading Test & their Language Conventions Test and Year 5 will sit their Language Conventions Test.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

In 2025, Catholic Education Week will run from Sunday 16 March to Sunday 23 March.

Catholic Education Week is an opportunity for all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to celebrate their Catholic identity, the pivotal role they play within their local community and the strength of the Catholic school sector.

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2025 is 'Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you (Isaiah 60: 1)' which draws from the motto of the Holy Year, the Year of Jubilee, and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival's theme - 'Pilgrims of Hope'. As part of Catholic Education Week, our Student Representative Council members, along with Mr. Pantalone, will represent St. Paul's at the 2025 Catholic Education Week Mass; the Mass of St. Patrick for Schools will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral, next Friday March 21.



MACS ANNUAL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL DINNER

Next Wednesday March 19, MACS will hold the 2025 Annual School Advisory Council Dinner, at the Park Hyatt Hotel, in East Melbourne; the dinner will be preceded by Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, for all School Advisory Council Chair Persons. As Chair Person for the St. Paul's School Advisory Council, Marc Farrugia (Georgia Year 5 SD) will represent St. Paul's at the Mass & dinner.



WORLD HARMONY DAY

World Harmony Day, celebrated on March 21, 2025, is an annual event in Australia that recognizes and celebrates our country's rich cultural diversity. Established in 1999, it promotes inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for all Australians, regardless of their background. The day encourages individuals and communities to participate in various activities, such as wearing orange—a colour symbolizing social communication and mutual respect—to show support for cultural diversity. Events like festivals, concerts, and educational programs are organized to foster understanding and unity among Australia's diverse communities. This year's World Harmony Day theme is, "Harmony, We All Have A Role To Play." At St. Paul's we will commence to celebrate World Harmony Day on Thursday March 20 with a Harmony Day Mass at 9.30 am, in St. Paul's Church; then on Friday a 'Special Food Day' has been organised by our Comm8unity Partnerships Team, as well as a lot of World Harmony Day activities.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

This year's school photos will be taken by Arthur Reed Photos, on Monday March 24. Students must be in full summer uniform – school shoes / no runners / hair tied back in a ponytail or plait / no makeup. Families will be provided with details for ordering school photos on the Monday; orders are to be placed online.

BUNNING SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Tomorrow, Saturday March 15, we will hold our 2025 Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, at the Taylors Lakes store. Please let family & friends know and come along to buy a sausage or two, as well as some tasty baked goods.



1ST RECONCILIATION FAMILY EVENING

Next Tuesday March 18, Year 3 families are invited to a 1st Reconciliation Family Night, in the hall, starting at 6.30 pm. This will be an opportunity for families to be provided with information about the sacrament and the ceremony.

Year 3/4 Dance Program

As part of the Year 3/4 Community unit, the students have been learning dances from instructors from Footsteps Dance. The students have been learning dances from different countries around the world. Have we found the next Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire?

Find out what some of our students thought!

**We love learning different kinds of dances from around the world.
When we are dancing together we are all happy! It was fun to dance and learn.**
(Lily and Mia in 3/4AM)

**We love learning about different cultures and the dances they do.
We love feeling the freedom to dance. Ashley and Rhiannon are just lovely dance teachers.**
(Elijah & Alexandra in 3/4ST)

**We love dancing with our friends because it is fun and we laugh a lot with the different moves.
We have been loving the dancing experience and it's ok to make mistakes.
Ashley and Rhiannon are very nice. They model and explain the dance steps for us.
They are both funny too.** (Alessia L & Oliver in 3/4CR)



*Check out the answers to this question from some of our new Prep students.
What do you love at school?*

- I love learning about lots of stuff! (Pia)
- I love everything ... like playing with toys & looking at the books in the classroom. (Sebastian)
- I love Buddy Time. My buddy is Lyanna. (Lena)
- I love playing with my friends on the Prep playground. (Damien)
- I love playing with Lexie and her sister Chloe. (Alana)
- I love my friends playing with me. (Helena)



2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

2025 TERM DATES

Term 1: Tuesday January 28 to Friday April 4

Term 2: Tuesday April 22 to Friday July 4

Term 3: Monday July 21 to Friday September 19

Term 4: Monday October 6 to Monday December 15

TERM 1 CALENDAR

TERM 1: MONDAY JANUARY 29 - THURSDAY MARCH 28

Tuesday January 28: Staff return

Wednesday January 29: Staff First Aid Training

Thursday January 30: Students testing (by appointment)

Friday January 31: Student testing (by appointment)

Monday February 3: Student Testing (by appointment)

Tuesday February 4: Students return (Preps start at 9.30 am)

Wednesday February 5: No Preps / Parent-Teacher Conversations

Thursday February 6: Beginning the School Year Mass

Friday February 7: School Crossing Awareness Day

Tuesday February 11: Safer Internet Day / Prep Information Night (6.30 pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday February 12 - Friday February 14: Year 6 Camp (Lady Northcote Camp, Bacchus Marsh)

Wednesday February 12: Parents Group Annual General Meeting

Friday February 14: Year 3 / 4 Assembly

Wednesday February 19: No Preps

Thursday February 20: Parent Webinar, 'Raising Kids In A Digital World' (7.30 pm-9.00pm)

Friday February 21: Year 6 Assembly / 2025 WELCOME PICNIC (5.00pm-8.00pm)

Wednesday February 26: No Preps / Year 3/ 4 Parent Information Night (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday March 5: No Preps / ASH WEDNESDAY / Year 5 Parent Information Night (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Friday March 7: Year 1 / 2 Assembly

Monday March 10: Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday March 11: Preps begin fulltime

Wednesday March 12 to Monday March 17: NAPLAN

Friday March 14: School Volunteer Workshops (8.30am, & 2.30pm) / Prep Assembly

Tuesday March 18: 1st Reconciliation Family Night (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Thursday March 20: World Harmony Day Mass (9.30 am)

Friday March 21: Year 5 Assembly

Thursday March 27: 1st Reconciliation (12.00pm-1.00pm)

Friday March 28: SCHOOL CLOSURE - Reporting

Tuesday April 1 to Wednesday April 2: School Dental Van

Friday April 4: TERM 1 FINISHES



DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE HOME INTERNET?



If there is a school age student at your home and you don't have an nbn connection, you could qualify for free home internet until 30 June 2028.



School Student
Broadband Initiative

An Australian Government Initiative
Powered by nbn[®]

FREE HOME INTERNET FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

nbn is implementing this Australian Government program that is offering 30,000 families and carers who look after school age children and are struggling to pay bills free home internet.

To apply, follow the four steps below:

- 1** Contact the National Referral Centre on **1800 954 610** Monday - Friday, 10am - 6pm (AEDT) or visit angllcarevlc.org.au/student-Internet
- 2** They'll ask you some questions to see if this offer is right for you.
- 3** If you qualify, you'll get a voucher.
- 4** Use the voucher to connect through your chosen participating internet provider. Use your voucher before the 30,000 places are taken.*



LEARN MORE

Scan QR Code to learn more.

THE BEST PART IS



Free home internet until 30 June 2028



The Wi-Fi router is free and you can keep it



There is no lock-in contract



Assistance provided by the National Referral Centre



Callback, webchat and interpreting are available

* Applications close when 30,000 places are reached. Being issued a voucher does not reserve your place in this program and you must use your voucher before the 30,000 places are taken otherwise it becomes invalid.

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An Australian Government Initiative

