Dear Parents,

Thank you to the parents and students and the staff members who braved the stifling heat on Saturday evening to share in the commencing of the school year Mass. Every class was represented. The Beginners and their buddy classes; Rooms 5 & 12 and Room 4 & 14 presented posters reflecting their responses to our school motto “Respect for ourselves, others and our world” Rooms 7, 8 & 9 had also reflected on what it means to live our school motto and Rooms 1, 2 & 3 presented books of the prayers they have written for their morning prayer sessions.

This week Judy Harris and I will be interviewing year 6 students in response to their letters of application for student leadership positions. As there are 23 year six students, again this year, they will all be able to have position of leadership in one of the fields. Our enrolment is now 212. This year we increased one class with the third year 3/4 class in room 8. The projection is to increase another class with the addition of a third year 5/6 in 2016 and this would be our maximum. We plan for a maximum of 39 students at any year level allowing for two beginners classes with maximums of 20 and 19 and multi-age classes of years 1 & 2, year 3 & 4 and year 5 & 6 with a maximum of 26 in each. The only year level at maximum at the moment is year 2.

Our Open Day is on Wednesday March 19th. If you have friends who are looking at schools for enrolments in 2015 and beyond please mention that date to them. Flyers will be distributed to preschools and day care centres in the next few weeks. If you have children in either setting could you please help in this distribution by collecting a bundle of flyers from the office from next week. On open day volunteer parents assist me as tour guides. If you would be available to do this for part of the day please let the office know. I provide information and training for our guides. Tours run on the half hour from 9.30am – 2.30pm except during lunch with no tour at 1.30pm.

This week a parent contact sheet is being distributed to parents in Rooms 1, 2 & 3 and Rooms 7, 8 & 9. This enables parents to contact the parents of their children’s friends to arrange play dates and outings and if we need parents to contact others to organise support for families if required. It is also used to organise year level social events for parents. Supplying your contact details is voluntary and parents who have a contact list should treat it as confidential. Thank you Anna O’Toole for organising this. We also need a “Parent Rep’ or two for each classroom. The role of this person is to support the class teacher at times to organise for parent helpers for class events and to organise class specific parent get togethers. If you would like to volunteer for this role please let the class teacher know.

Numbers at Out of School Hours Care have risen significantly with Tuesday being our largest regular group. With the increased numbers we are in need of the playground earlier than previously. I need to ask any families who are having an after school play on the play equipment or the basketball courts to restrict it to 15 minutes and to leave when the next bell goes which is 15 minutes after the end of school bell.

ST VALENTINE’S DAY

I said a Valentine prayer for you
and asked the Lord above
to fill your heart and bless your soul
With the precious gift of love.

I asked Him for sincere love
The kind that’s meant to stay
Just like the generous love
You give to those you touch each day.

I prayed for love from family
And from every cherished friend
Then I asked the Lord to give you
His love that knows no end.
This bell is actually set to ring to end supervision of students by staff. This year the school is involved in year four of our school development and management cycle. This involves us reviewing our practices and policies and setting directions for the next four year cycle. In August we will be visited by an external reviewer who will discuss and validate our plans and a new school improvement plan will be developed. This process is undertaken in all schools in a cyclical process. The surveys parents complete each year contribute to this review of services. Testing of student performance we conduct regularly and the NAPLAN data for Year 3 & 5 students also informs the review. Parents will be invited to join focus discussion groups with the reviewer, Christine Wakeling, in August. A great deal of staff time will be involved in examining data and practices during term one to prepare our documents. Staff from the regional Catholic Education Office guide us in this process. Most of the time on the two school closure days in March will be used for review work. The work is being concentrated in term one because I will be on leave for all of term two and the first week of term three. I am joining some principals from Melbourne schools and other international students for four weeks study leave at All Hallows College in Dublin. This is sponsored by the Catholic Education Office Melbourne as part of professional learning for eligible principals. The program is Spiritual Renewal for Ministry. My husband will then join me for some travel in Europe as long service leave. Although we have travelled mostly in the Pacific and Asia with shorter holidays and five years ago a longer time in the United States, this is our first European trip. As we are involved in this review process and I think about long service leave being due to “long service” I personally reflect on my journey as a teacher and into school administration. My teaching career commenced at St Francis Xavier’s Box Hill in 1975. Yes, at the end of this year I celebrate 40 years in Catholic Education and the time away this year will be my longest break. Ss Peter & Paul’s School commenced in 1960 and so has been educating students for 54 years. The classroom and external walls of most of the building may still be in the same places they were then but what happens inside these rooms today varies greatly from the education in 1960 and in my year six classroom in 1975. It is staggering to think of how much learning teachers and all others in the workforce have done in those intervening years.

Ongoing professional learning is an essential component of the modern world. Sometimes teachers in leadership positions in the school attend professional learning to disseminate this within the school for whole school development while classroom and specialist teachers will also attend in teams or individually.

This week we have had teachers and teaching assistants at learning focussed on the needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and processes for Restorative Practices. Celebration of Children’s Birthdays: Any students with food allergies are invited to have their own home baked cup cakes in the freezer at school so they can eat one when their class mates celebrate birthdays. If you are sending food to school to celebrate your child’s birthday we prefer it to be cup cakes with small amounts of icing and hopefully all natural ingredients. Cakes are “sometimes food” and a great way to celebrate and we can keep them reasonably healthy. Please do not send lollies or bags of lollies which have very high sugar content and may also have lots of additives. Lollies on sticks should also not be at school because of the danger of going through the roof of the mouth if a child falls when eating them.

Some additional dates for your calendar:
Friday August 29: School Closure Day – Staff learning in the field of Religious Education
June 24th and 25th: Parent teacher interviews. These are 20 minutes in duration and follow mid year reports.
Dec 3 – 5th: Year 5 & 6 Bike Education Camp. Whitefriars’ orientation day is Tuesday Dec 2nd, Most Government schools will probably also be Dec 2nd although they cannot confirm that yet. Unfortunately Our Lady of Sion’s Orientation day is Dec 3rd. options can be discussed with those affected by this clash.

We would appreciate some parent volunteers to assist during the swimming program. If you can help please contact your child/ren’s classroom teacher direct. Please note that you need a current Working With Children’s Card.

District swimming notices will be sent home today for those individual children nominated to attend.

Contacting Parents
From time to time we need to contact parents on their mobile phones. Sometimes we only have the option of leaving a text message, which is not always suitable or reliable. We would strongly recommend that your mobile service offers a voice mail service for your peace of mind and our efficiency to contact you should we need to.

Have a great week.

Maria McIntyre
The first **P&F Meeting** of 2013 is Weds 19th Feb 7:30pm in the staff room; we hope you can join us to get 2013 off to a great start!!!

Welcome to all families within our school community. As always the P & F committee has already planned many activities for the year for the enjoyment of students and parents alike.

After the huge success of last year’s efforts our store room is looking a little bare! We would kindly appreciate donations of the following items:

**Sauces: Tomato (up to 8L), BBQ (around 2L) and Hot English Mustard (around 2L)**

**Paper towel (6 rolls) & Napkins** (we’ll use around 1500 serviettes this year for events!)

Disposible gloves (preferable medium and large sizes – we’ll use 300 - 400 pairs)

Spray cooking oil 2 bottles

If you are able to assist in any way please leave items at the office. Many thanks

**Bunnings BBQ** Sat 26th April at Nunawading is in need of a leader and helpers on the day – please help us kick off our fundraising efforts with your time – we normally earn around $2,000 from this fundraiser, and have lots of documents and support from past leaders available if you’re keen to try something new!

Grade 6 students fundraise for their end of year functions including their graduation evening and day outing through the sale of **Icy Poles & Pop Corn** known as the **ICE program**, supported by the P&F. Icy Poles are sold each day in term 1 & 4 and cost 50c. They are sold for the first 20 minutes of lunch; students should purchase and eat their Icy Pole prior to playing. Pop Corn is sold through term 2 & 3 and is also 50c a packet.

**Save the Date:**

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Please note Ss Peter & Paul’s School does not endorse any of the advertisements in the publication.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

CHOR

A warm greeting and welcome to the 2014 school year to all families.
The choir represents the school and as such all teaching staff are aiming to support membership from the whole senior population. Membership is open to year 4 and 6 with auditions offered to grade 3 students who show keen interest.

Choir is an opportunity for individuals with a passion for singing and music to join with like-minded children to focus on music making outside and beyond the classroom.

I would encourage you to support your child in joining and committing to choir. There are many benefits e.g. fun, sense of inclusion/team membership, skills development (learning to sing—how to project voice, pitch, warm up, sing in parts), reading music and developing performance skills.

Choir will rehearse in class time from 2-2.45pm on Tuesday.

Rachel Steimman
Music/Performing Arts Specialist

NO ASSEMBLY PRESENTATION
MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 2014
SWIMMING PROGRAM

FROM THE PARISH
ALPHA

The Introductory Night last Thursday was well attended. We had about 40 people in all. The second session will be this Thursday—13th February at 7pm in the Church. For more information or to join the Alpha Course please see me.

Father Bill

Edoucation Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or

Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or

Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is: $200 for prep students; $150 for students in years 1 – 6. $300 for year 7 students; $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.
Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

For more information about the EMA, visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx

To Parents,

During lunchtime at SSPP, Year 6s run a program called ICE. During the summer season we sell icy poles, during the winter season we sell popcorn. All products are 50 cents each. We are located outside Room 10 during lunchtime. If your child would like to purchase icy poles or popcorn, please provide them 50 cents. From your donation of 50 cents for an icy pole, the money goes towards the Year 6s end of year graduation. It also improves our knowledge of economics, we learn about profit and loss, high demand and low demand, and more.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Sincerely,
The ICE committee

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Achieving Together in Faith
Introducing a NEW

Childrens

Beginner Jazz/Tap Class

A new combined Jazz/Tap class is commencing in Term 1
A fun 60 minute beginners class
for children in Grade Prep & Grade 1
every Wednesday at 4.15pm
commencing 12th Feb 2014

FIRST CLASS FREE!!

A Great Way To Introduce A Child To The
Wonderful World Of Dance

Classes held at Ss Peter & Paul's Parish Hall
Leeds St. Doncaster East
Enq: Linette 0417 561 166 email: linette.louise@bigpond.com

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