



St. Mary's School, Altona

Newsletter 2020

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No. 3 February 28th, 2020

Dear Families,

This week marked the beginning of Lent and the children attended a prayer service and Ash Wednesday Mass. Both of these celebrations provided the opportunity to learn more about the significance of Lent in the life of the Church and understand that it is an opportunity to prepare for the coming celebration of Easter. I encourage all families to follow the Church's teaching on using this as an opportunity to *pray, fast* and *give* in service of others. The *Education in Faith* article following in this newsletter gives families more information about this season of the Church year.

My sincere thanks to the Parents and Friends' committee, school families, staff and Father Michael for the effort put into our Welcome Mass on BBQ on Saturday night. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet so many of you on the night. We were certainly blessed with a lovely evening and everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves. The highlight for me was the school leaders receiving their badges and, of course, the Year Prep song!

On Wednesday night the P&F held their first meeting for 2020. They are certainly a vibrant and dedicated group who obviously work very hard to support the school through their engagement with families and fundraising efforts. It was terrific that 2 new parents joined the committee and were made to feel very welcome. All parents are encouraged to become active members of this group.

As a result of their efforts in 2019, the P&F raised a significant amount of money. \$15,000 of this is going to be utilised by the school to purchase literacy resources that will be utilised across all class levels. Their efforts and enthusiasm are certainly appreciated as it provides the school with the funds to purchase additional resources in support of student learning. I'm sure all families are grateful for their contribution to life at St Mary's.

Our school community is looking forward to welcoming Bishop Mark Edwards on Monday when he comes to visit us. He will be visiting all classrooms and I'm certain he will be very impressed when meeting the students and staff of St Mary's. Please see the Parish Bulletin for opportunities for families to attend Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark and join him afterwards for an informal gathering.

As most of you would be aware, Patrice Cassar has managed the school's Uniform Shop for a number of years. She has done a wonderful job with this and has things well organised and functioning efficiently. As Patrice's 2 children are now in the Senior classes of the school, she feels it is the time to pass the reins over to a new parent who would be willing to take on this role for the next few years. Patrice is more than happy to work with this person until they have an understanding of what the task entails. The role requires the person to be available at the beginning of the school year for parents to purchase their requirements. Following that, it is generally approximately an hour per week. If you would be interested and willing to support the school in this manner, please leave your name at the office and we will be in touch.

Over the past week there has been some sad news for our school community. Nicole Singleton's father, John Simpson – but known as Pop to everyone, passed away on Tuesday and Alyce Myszka's mother, Jennifer passed away last week. Please keep them both, and their families, in your prayers at this time.

I'm happy to announce that we will have a new Learning Support Officer starting with us next week. Her name is Frances Fazio. We look forward to her joining our school community and are certain that her skills and expertise will further support the excellent work being done in the classrooms where she will be placed.

Regards.

Kerin Thorneloe
Acting Principal



BOOK FAIR:

Please feel free to come and browse for bargains at our Book Fair to be held next Monday 2nd March in the hall. Books will be available for purchase from 3 pm to 4 pm. As well as getting some engaging resources for your child, you will be supporting the school with their fundraising efforts.

SCHOOL PHOTOS:

School photos will be taken on Tuesday 3rd March. Envelopes were sent home last week for each of your children. Sibling photos will also be taken on the day. A separate envelope, available at the School Office, needs to be submitted for these. Instructions regarding the ordering process are on the envelope. Please return the sibling envelope to the School Office.



HEALTHY BREAKFAST:

Our Healthy Breakfast will be held next Wednesday 4th March from 7.30 – 8am in the hall. Muffins will be provided by parents from the school. We will also provide fruit and a drink of juice. Responses via Care Monkey are due today.

FUN & FITNESS:

Fun and Fitness starts again this week. It is held every Wednesday morning 8 – 8.30am on the basketball court. All students from Prep to Year 6 are welcome to attend. Parents and siblings are also welcome to stay and join in the fun.

CYBER SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION:

All families would have received a CareMonkey notification of our upcoming Parent Information session on Tuesday, 10th March commencing 6.30 pm. This session aims at providing parents and families with the insights and important information about popular social networking and online gaming platforms for young people today. For further information please see the notification sent out on Tuesday and be sure to RSVP.

SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS:

School fee statements were handed out to the eldest child this week. If you haven't received one, please check your child's school bag. If you hold a Health Care Card you may be entitled to the CSEF - camps, sports and excursion fund (see flyer attached to the end of this newsletter). This form was included with your statement. If you are experiencing any financial difficulties, please make an appointment with the school office to discuss with the Principal.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

There is currently so much happening at St Mary's that it is important to keep an eye of the school calendar to ensure you don't miss out on all the fun and action.



PRINCIPALS AWARDS WEEK BEGINNING 17th FEBRUARY, 2020

PREP D	Thomas C for his great attempts at listening for sounds in words when writing
PREP L	Alyssa F for trying hard to hear some initial sounds in words when writing
YEAR 1/2B	Chloe M for always being a kind, supportive and well-mannered student in 1/2B
YEAR 1/2G	Gracie B for working hard to find number patterns in Maths
YEAR 1/2S	Myla B for coming to school each day with a positive attitude
YEAR 3/4B	Kade F for staying on task and always following instructions
YEAR 3/4HK	Daniel S for his excellent application to his work and his willingness to help others
YEAR 3/4K	Judah D for writing an excellent 'sizzling start'
YEAR 3/4L	Ethan A for an amazing effort when reading with the teacher
YEAR 5/6CT	Lila B for consistently presenting her work to a high standard
YEAR 5/6H	Sarah C for her independent and organised work habits
YEAR 5/6T	Amelie C for her positive energy and proactive contributions in class

EDUCATION IN FAITH

2020 Sacrament Dates

Confirmation

Family Workshop: Wednesday 18th March. School Hall: 7 pm
Facilitated by Michele Linossier



Rite of Commitment Masses weekend:

2 May 9:15 am and 6 pm OR 3 May 8:30 and 10:30 am

Sacrament = Saturday, 12th September, at 6 pm (Week 9 of Term 3)

(The Sponsor must be a baptised Catholic over the age of 16)

Reconciliation

Rite of Commitment Masses weekend:

21 March 9:15 am and 6 pm OR 22nd March 8:30 and 10:30 am



Family Workshop: Tuesday 5th May. School Hall: 7 pm
Facilitated by Maria Forde

Sacrament by appointment with Archpriest Michael Kalka. Bookings open in Term 2.

Lent 2020

On Monday, we started our week with a prayer assembly in preparation for this Lenten season. Our acting principal, Kerin Thorneloe opening proceedings with the following message which I would like to share with you here:

“As she does every year, the Church calls us to begin our Lenten preparation for the greatest of all her feasts: the death and resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ that we celebrate in the season of Easter. Lent is a time to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts, and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into ‘the wilderness’ and grappling with the mysteries of life, as well as a time of preparation for Easter.”

During Lent, we are asked to do 3 things. Firstly, we are called to **PRAY**, to call on the Holy Spirit to guide us in making good choices. Secondly, we are called to **GIVE**. At St Mary's we do this through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Thirdly, we are called to **FAST** just as Jesus did when he was in the desert. For students, this may mean deciding to go without something as a form of sacrifice.

To support each child and class in our school to take action in some way over Lent, a set of cards was prepared for each classroom so that every day they will be challenged to do something for others, to show the same love, care and compassion that Jesus did for us.

On Monday, each class also received their Project Compassion box which will live in their classroom for the period of Lent. You may have already noticed the posters in the school foyer and the larger Project Compassion box near the sign-in/out book. All monies raised during this campaign go back to Caritas who work with communities across Australia and the world through the principles and practice of community development, supporting people to help themselves out of poverty, hunger and injustice to bring relief and aid to people whose lives have been devastated by natural disaster or conflict.

Weekly Class Masses

- *We look forward to Friday the 6th of March when Year 3/4L will lead the celebration of the Mass at 9:15 am.*
- *Following this, on Monday the 16th of March the 1/2 classes will lead the prayer assembly in commemoration of St Patrick's Day at 2:20 pm.*
- *We then look forward to Thursday the 19th of March when 3/4B will lead the celebration of the Mass at 9:15 am.*

We welcome you warmly to these events and would love to see you all there.



MEET THE PRINCIPAL
ST PAUL'S CAMPUS
Wednesday 4 March
Commencing 9.00am

Pursuing personal best ★



Emmanuel College
 LIFE TO THE FULL
 St Paul's Campus
 423 Blackshaws Rd
 Altona North
 Ph: 8325 5100
www.ecmelb.catholic.edu.au



**MOUNT ST. JOSEPH
 GIRLS' COLLEGE**
 Virtue Courage

**THE MSJ COMMUNITY IS PROUD OF
 ALL OUR VCE AND VCAL GRADUATES**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
 OLIVIA VELLA
 ATAR 98.35
 DUX OF 2019**

TOP STUDY SCORE MIA PALADINO 50 for Outdoor & Environmental Studies	10-35% Study Score were above 40 IN THE TOP 8% OF THE STATE	16% of students with ATAR above 90
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Educating Today, Shaping Tomorrow

TEL: 8398 2000 **www.msj.vic.edu.au**




**MOUNT ST. JOSEPH
 GIRLS' COLLEGE**

Open Morning

Thursday 19 March
9:15am - 10:30am

Visit our website to register your intention to attend: www.msj.vic.edu.au

Learn music here at school

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard or guitar here at St Mary's.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from \$17.00 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1.

Interested parents should call Brenda during office hours on 9818 2333 or email brenda@creativemusic.com.au

 **Creative Music**
www.creativemusic.com.au

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit
www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2018, you do not need to complete an application form in 2019 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2019 or you did not apply in 2018.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2019.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

