



ST STEPHEN'S
Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

MONDAY 22nd OCTOBER, 2018 – Term 4, Week 3

Principal: Mr Richard Keele

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IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER

23rd – Prep Orientation Morning 3

26th – School Swimming

30th – Prep Orientation Morning 4

NOVEMBER

1st – All Saints Day

2nd – All Souls Day **Mass 11 a.m.**

5th – **School Closure Day**

6th – **Cup Day No School**

13th - Prep Orientation Morning 5

15th – 2019 Sacramental Evening
St Stephens 7 p.m.

20th - Prep Orientation Morning 6

26th, 27th, 28th, - School Camp

27th - Prep Orientation Morning 7

DECEMBER

4th - Prep Orientation Morning 8
Whole School Orientation

12th – **END OF YEAR MASS 9.30 a.m.**

14th – **Celebration of Learning Prep to 6
Christmas Raffle**

18th – **Graduation & Carols 7 p.m.
Last Day of Term**

Please put these dates in your Calendar

Community Playgroup 2018

Every Tues. 9.00 – 11.00

Office Hours

Mon to Thurs

8.30 am to 3.30pm

Uniform Times

Tues & Wed mornings

8.50am to 9.15 am

*Unforeseen events may cause
some dates to change*

Principal's News.....

Dear Parents

A belated welcome to term 4!

Again another very busy term looms. Our swimming program began in week one and will continue each Friday until the end of November. We are so fortunate to have the leisure centre close to be able to walk to the venue. Many schools simply can't afford a swimming program due to the cost of transport. A reminder that these lessons may help develop confidence and water awareness however ongoing lessons throughout the year is going to assist greatly in your child/s ability in and around the water. I would encourage taking up further swimming lessons outside what is offered at school.

Last week Jaimee Capuana (3/4) & Marline Modi (5/6) competed in the Regional Athletics Carnival. It was a fantastic effort by both girls to reach this level, Jaimee in the long jump and Marline in the 200m & 800m. Marline reached the final of the 200m and chose not to race in the 800m. She finished a very gallant fourth in the final. Jaimee competed against much taller and stronger girls but was still able to hold her head high after the event. Congratulations to both girls!

Summer uniforms should now be worn. Please make sure your child has the correct uniform each day and that a school hat is either kept in class or a school bag to be used whenever outside.

We are only selling icy poles on Thursday this term. I don't believe selling them each day is warranted either by cost or diet so making it one special day is going to benefit all!

Please keep an eye out for information relating to various school events coming up this term. A number of excursions, incursions, 5/6 camp and celebrations are planned.

This Friday morning we have parents and children from Keon Park Kinder and Good Start child care centre visiting our school in order to get a feel for the classroom and

other activities we can offer here at St Stephen's! Any parents who would like to stay and welcome these families are more than welcome from 9.30 -11.00.

We have started our Prep 4 Prep classes on a Tuesday morning with Mrs Brooke Madden taking our 2019 preps through an introduction to school. It has been a great success with most of the students attending each week.

Our prep intake for 2019 is looking more encouraging and I'm hopeful that we will be able to have a straight prep class reintroduced for the year. Again, if you know of any children not enrolled please give out our details!!

St Stephen's Parish is currently running a Stewardship program encouraging greater participation in the parish in many and varied forms. If you would like more information please speak to Grace in the office or myself to find out how you may be able to further support the parish into the future.

Don't forget November 5th is a pupil free day so you can plan for a long weekend!

Have a great week! (I'm slowly getting over the Grand Final result!)

Richard Keele

November 1st is All Saints Day
November 2nd is All Souls Day



This solemnity is a day that we honour all the saints — known & unknown!

Prayer for All Saints Day

Dear God,
Thank you for the example of the Saints.
I desire to join in their company, worshiping you forever in Heaven.
Please help me follow their footsteps, and yours, Jesus Christ.
Please help me to conform myself to Your image, seeking Your will in all things, as the Saints did.
Please help me to devote myself, and all that I do, to Your glory, and to the service of my neighbours.
Amen.

SWIMMING

On Fridays the children must wear their sport uniform and bring their swimming items to school in a small bag that is to be carried to the pool with them. If your child needs a small bag for swimming, the Excursion Bag is available from the Uniform Shop for \$10.

Parents are welcome to attend the swimming lessons but only parents with current 'Working With Children Checks' will be able to enter the change rooms to help supervise children. Children cannot be separated from the class to be changed by parents at the pool side or anywhere else at the centre. They must be under teacher supervision at all times.



Welcome to

Book Club



ISSUE NO. 7, 2018

All orders **MUST** be in on Wednesday, 24th October. Please ensure that the Scholastic Book Club Order Form and **correct** money are sealed securely in an envelope marked with your child's name and grade and given to the classroom teacher.

SCHOOL FEES

All accounts should now be paid in **FULL** (unless arrangements have been agreed to make regular ongoing payments of an agreed amount over a longer period) with the Principal.

FEES

There are a number of families that have not yet paid the Student Levy fee, Camp fees and the First Instalment of school fees. Could this please be done as soon as possible. There is the option of making payments online through internet banking, please make sure that you enter your account number (it is on the top right hand corner of your statement) or your child's name so that the payment is allocated to the correct family.

Account Details When making payments

BANK	BSB	ACCOUNT NUMBER
NATIONAL	083 - 347	143250728

SCHOOL FEES

All families who are still owing for Term 1, 2, 3 & 4 of School Fees are now due to be paid.

I thank families who have paid and are up to date.

All accounts SHOULD now be paid in full (unless arrangements have been made and agreed to with the Principal Mr Richard Keele).

(Cash or Cheque payment or via EFT transfer)

ALL SCHOOL CLOTHING MUST BE MARKED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME WITH A PERMANENT MARKER

REMINDER:

**MONDAY 5th NOVEMBER
School Closure Day and
CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
TUESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, 2018.
There will be NO school on these 2 days.
School resumes
Wednesday 7th November at 8.40am.**

DONATIONS

We are in need of Donations of any old toys, electronic gadgets, tools such as screwdrivers, pliers etc. for the Children to continue with the STEM Program investigating.

STUDENT ABSENCE

IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL EITHER SICK, APPOINTMENT OR LATE, THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO BE NOTIFIED BY 9 A.M. FIRST THING IN THE MORNING AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DAY. YOU CAN LEAVE A MESSAGE AT THE OFFICE THE SCHOOL NUMBER IS 9460 3566.

TAKING TIME OFF DURING SCHOOL TERMS

Parents please note that if you wish to take your children on a holiday or take time off during the term you must put this in writing to the school principal first. The government requires that all absences must be for valid reasons not simple excuses eg to go shopping.

LATE TO SCHOOL

There is still a number of Children who are late on a daily basis, this is an disruption to the teacher and the classes learning time. School starting time is 8.50 a.m. Children need to come to the office and sign in if they arrive after 8.50 a.m.

EARLY TO SCHOOL

There are a number of children arriving to school early, please be reminded that the school grounds are not supervised before 8.35 a.m.

CONTACT DETAILS

The School needs to have up to date contact details of family phone numbers, mobiles, addresses and emergency contact details. If your details have changed, please advise the office of the changes immediately.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2019

Parents who have older children already at St Stephen's and have a younger sibling who is ready to start in 2019 (needs to be turning 5 before April 30th 2019) need to have enrolment forms in. Acceptance letters have gone out to families with children starting in 2019. Don't forget to grab an enrolment form to fill out to secure your position.

STUDENT WELLBEING

Dear Parents,

This week I am sharing with you an article especially for our senior students and their families. The article, ***“Preparing your child for High School”*** gives some practical tips for families who will soon be preparing their child for this big step. No matter what age your child is now, it will be something all families will have to consider one day! The article also acknowledges that this is a big step for parents as well as students!



AUSSIE OF THE MONTH

This month, we have chosen Juliette in year 1 as our Aussie of the Month. Juliette has shown Persistence and Determination when problem solving in Maths. Well Done Juliette!



Preparing your child for high school

by Sharon Witt

Entering high school can be just as daunting for parents as it is for a child. It is a huge time of change, and coupled with the fact that starting secondary school often coincides with the onset of puberty, it can be quite a roller-coaster ride!

Spend as much time as you can reassuring your child that they do not have to face this change alone and that it will be, for the most part, a positive experience. Avoid sharing any horror stories you may have experienced as a teenager in high school – these will not help your child. Rather, recall any positive experiences you had, especially if you made life-long friends at high school.

Organisation is crucial to helping your child cope well with entering high school. Those students that are well organised have a much better chance of settling in those first few weeks of secondary school.

Here are 6 tips for preparing your child for high school:

1. Ensure your child has everything they need for high school well before school starts for the year

Having items missing at the beginning of the year will frustrate not only your child but the teachers. Ensure they have enough books to write in for each subject and always have spares on hand at home.

2. Practise using public transport if your child is using it for the first time

For many students, changing schools means they may now have to travel on buses or trains for the first time. Help them to familiarise themselves with the bus/train timetable and offer a contingency if they miss their transport. If possible, practise the trip during the holidays.

3. Set up a designated study space in the home

This tip is so important as so many children don't have a specific area set up to allow them to quietly complete their homework. The bedroom is not recommended as this is purely a space for sleeping and relaxing. Use any area that is reasonably quiet and well lit. Set up a desk with a computer, if possible, along with stationery items.



4. Set up a high school parent folder

This will be a place to file all correspondence so that you can know exactly what is happening for your child at high school, including important dates. If you know what is going on at school, you will be able to help your child feel in control and stay organised. I cannot recommend this highly enough. As a parent you really need to stay on top of school information, at least until

parenting * ideas

your child has established their own routine and systems for staying organised at school.

5. Encourage healthy sleeping patterns at least one week before starting high school

If your child has got into a holiday habit of staying up late and waking up at lunch time, they will get a rude shock come first day of school when their sleeping patterns are all out of whack! Get your child into 'school routine' for sleeping during the final week of the holidays.

6. Keep your child's high school in the loop

Inform your child's new school if they have special needs or learning difficulties. Teachers will benefit from being made aware of any particular needs or special circumstances that will help them in working with your child. If there are any specific family issues that might affect your child's ability to settle into high school, communicate these to your child's class or home-room teacher as soon as you know who they are. Never underestimate the importance of keeping the lines of communication open with your child's school.



Sharon Witt

Sharon Witt has been immersed in teen world for over two decades in her role as a Secondary teacher, Author and Presenter. Sharon is one of Australia's leading book authors for young people. She has written 12 books for young people to help guide them through many of the issues they face in early years and help them develop key strategies in building resilience. www.sharonwitt.com.au

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