



ST STEPHEN'S
Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER

MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY, 2020 – Term 1, Week 2

Principal: Mr Richard Keele

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**Community
Playgroup 2018**
Every Wed. 9.00 –
10.30

Office Hours
Mon to Thurs
8.30 am to 3.30pm

Uniform Times

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2020!!

I hope you were all able to enjoy a relaxing time with family and friends and that all the students are ready and eager to begin the school year! It always comes with some trepidation of a new class and possible new teachers but I can assure you, school staff have similar feelings but they also look forward to the challenge of working with a different cohort of students. I look forward to the work every student presents in whatever shape or form that may be!

We welcome our thirteen new Preps and other students who are starting with us in 2020. I hope their journey through St Stephen's is one of excitement, adventure and learning, setting them up as lifelong learners!

We have a few new staff members with us this year. We welcome **Ms Angelique Barbuto** who will be teaching Year 1/2, **Mrs Rita Torrelli** who will be supporting the teachers in the P-2 classrooms and **Mrs Valli Lorenzin** who will be teaching Italian. We welcome them all to the St Stephen's Community.

I look forward to catching up with you all over the coming weeks. Please don't hesitate to make an appointment if you have any concerns or thoughts about the school. I would, however always encourage you to meet with your child's teacher first if there is a concern relating to your child.

Specialist classes this year will be **Physical Education, Italian and Visual Arts**. Visual Arts will either be held on a Tuesday or Wednesday with PE and Italian on Friday. Class teachers will notify you if they require students to wear sports uniform on another day during the week.

At this stage we are assessing the viability of **Year 5/6 interschool sport** as the last two years have seen many different arrangements put in place but not too much playing of the games. We still intend to offer cross country, athletics, swimming as well as full day sports carnivals hosted by secondary colleges or Darebin council which ultimately give students a greater chance of participation throughout the year.

There is a number of **school and parish celebrations** planned for this term so please mark relevant ones into your diary so as you are able to support the school and parish community. Our first celebration will be on, **Tuesday 11th February with a Welcome BBQ** and Tabloid sports planned from 5.30pm – 7.00pm. Please make every effort to support this informal gathering as it is a great way for new families to get to know current families as well as being able to chat to staff. A separate information sheet will be sent during the week to gauge numbers and food preferences.

This Wednesday we will have our Welcome Mass at 9.30am so I would encourage any family members to attend if you are able. **Parent, teacher, student 'chats' are scheduled for Tuesday 18th February** so please keep a look out for further information in relation to times etc.

Please take note of dates for school Masses, sacramental celebrations and workshops that are all pencilled in for this term.

A few reminders regarding times, the first bell goes at 8.50am and students are asked to be at school by 8.40am ready for the beginning of the day. If your child is going to be away please let your classroom teacher and /or the office know of the absence otherwise you will be getting a call to see if everything is okay.

Afterschool Care has started up again this term in the hall. Please make sure you register with Youth Leadership Victoria and let them know of your requirements. We do need to support this service in order to keep it viable throughout the year. We will also be looking at a before school program however we do need to make sure the afternoon sessions are supported!

Please remember with the hot weather still very much on the radar every **student needs to wear a school hat when outside during term one.** If your child can't find it from last year please see the office to purchase a new one.

Please note a **Parents & Friends meeting is Tuesday evening** in the community centre at 5.30 pm. Please make an effort to attend as we will be discussing various functions and fundraising initiatives for 2020 at this meeting.

I look forward to the challenges and celebrations that lie ahead and have every confidence that together we can all make a difference!

Have a great week!

Richard Keele

PRAYER FOR THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin
a new school year.
Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



IMPORTANT DATES

Please put these dates in your Calendar

TERM 1 2020

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 4 th February	5.30 pm	Parents & Friends Meeting
Wednesday 5 th February	9.30 am	Beginning of School Mass
Tuesday 11 th February	5.30 pm	Welcome BBQ & Tabloid Sports
Tuesday 18 th February	2 pm to 7 pm	Parent Teacher 'Chats'
Thursday 20 th February	7.00 pm	Sacramental Evening at St Gabriel's
Sunday 23 rd February	10.00 am	Presentation Mass St Gabriel's
Wednesday 26 th February	11.00 am	Ash Wednesday Mass at St Gabriel's
Thursday 27 th February		Dentist attending School

MARCH

Thursday 5 th March	7.00 pm	Preparation evening First Reconciliation
Monday 9 th March	NO SCHOOL	LABOUR DAY
Saturday 14 th March	9 am to 12 pm	OPEN DAY
Tuesday 17 th March		St Patricks Day and Concert
Tuesday 24 th March	7.30 pm	First Reconciliation at St Gabriel's

Unforeseen events may cause some dates to change

CLASSROOM REQUIREMENTS



Please ensure your child has their coloured pencils, textas, pens, etc. for use in the classroom every day. Please put your child's name on these items. Could each child also bring a box of tissues per term for use in their classroom.



Thank-you.

ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

If your child is away parents **MUST** notify the office in the morning before 9am.

LATENESS and EARLY DISMISSAL

Any child who is late to school (after 8.50am) or needs to go home early for whatever reason **MUST** have a parent come to the office to sign the 'Late/Early Dismissal Book'.

EARLY TO SCHOOL

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.

SCHOOL FEES STATEMENT

The School fees statements will be going out in the next week.

SCHOOL ENTRANCE

The School entrance to the School grounds in the morning and afternoons should be the Front School entrance and the back double gates. The electric gates to the Church carpark is not to be used as a walkway for children into the school as this entrance is used for cars only.

SCHOOL DROP OFF

The School drop is **ONLY** to be used as a drop off, not a parking bay.

SCHOOL FEES

School Fee Statements will go out this week, Student Levy fee need to be paid as soon as possible, Camp fees need to be paid by 14th March and the First Instalment of school fees by end of Term. Could this please be done as soon as possible? Outstanding fees of 2019 will need to be finalised. 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 the correct family. We have **Direct Debit now set up**, if there is anyone interested please see Mrs Forde in the office.

Account Details When making payments

BANK	BSB	ACCOUNT NUMBER
NATIONAL	083 – 347	143250728

UNIFORM

All children **MUST** be in their correct school uniform at all times (which can only be purchased here at the school).

They **MUST** wear their school hat each day in Term One or they will be required to sit in the shade at recess and lunchtime.

Black school shoes **MUST** be worn with the school uniform and runners are to be worn only with the sport uniform. The class teacher will let you know which day their class will be doing sport.

Jewellery is not part of the uniform but children may wear watches, studs or small sleeper earrings and religious medals (underneath the uniform).

Children are also not to wear nail polish.

Children (boys and girls) with long hair must have it tied up securely every day.

PLAYGROUP 2020

We have our Community Playgroup in the hall every **WEDNESDAY** morning between 9.00am-10.30am commencing 5th February for pre-school children. If you are interested in joining the playgroup please come along on that day and speak to Christine (Parent in the school). All are welcome😊

CSEF (Camps, Sports, and Excursions Fund) ELIGIBILITY

Some parents have already applied to receive CSEF funding this year. CSEF is \$125 per child and this funding will only be applied to camp, swimming and excursion expenses. To be 'eligible' for this fund a parent or legal guardian of a student must be a current holder of a Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCAA) and must be successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of Term 1 30th January, 2020. For more information you can go to the website: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. If you have not filled out a form already please come to the office to collect one. If you have any questions please see Mrs Forde in the school office.

SACRAMENTS 2020

The dates for the sacraments in 2020 are: Presentation Mass 23rd February 2020, ALL Sacrament Students are required to attend. Reconciliation: Tuesday 24th March 7.30 p.m. First Communion: **St. Stephen's** children Saturday 22nd June, 6 pm. **St. Gabriel's** children Sunday 23rd June, 10 am. Confirmation: Sunday 19th May 3.00 pm at St Gabriel's.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (WWCC)

Parents who wish to assist in the school must apply for a WWCC. These forms are available from the Post Office or Online. Parents coming into the school for Tuckshop, classroom assistance, cooking classes, etc **MUST** sign-in at the office on arrival and sign-

out when leaving. Please make sure that your WWCC card has not expired if you currently have one.

MOBILE PHONES, IPODS, ETC.

The children are not permitted to bring items such as mobile phones, iPods, etc to school at any time. The students are here to work during class time and to interact with others during their recess and lunch breaks. There is no reason to make or receive phone calls during the day. We will take no responsibility for these items if they are brought into the school against the rules and then lost or damaged. We will confiscate any of these items if they are brought into the school and require parents to collect them from the school office.

*If a student walks to school alone and a parent wishes them to carry a phone for safety then you must inform the Principal and the phone **must be left at the office for the day** and collected when leaving at the end of the day.*

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

St Stephens would like to announce that a School Counsellor will be working at the school this year.

The name of the School Counsellor is Alice Swing and she will be available at the school on Wednesdays between 8.30a.m. and 4.30p.m..

The School Counselling Program is a confidential service offered free of charge to all students.

The School Counsellor will be available to discuss child-related issues such as:

- Behavioural concerns, both at school and at home
- Emotional problems such as anxiety, grief, depression, low self-esteem
- Family issues such as separation/ divorce, parenting difficulties, parent-child or sibling relationships
- Peer and social issues including bullying, peer relationships and social skills
- Developmental and academic concerns where appropriate

Counselling may involve a number of therapeutic methods including play and art therapies, individual/small group/class programs, skills training, as well as consultations with parents and teachers.

Students may be referred by school staff, parents or other professionals (e.g. family doctor) or students may refer themselves. Written parental consent is required for all children prior to commencement of counselling.

Further enquiries should be directed to either Alice Swing, School Counsellor or Barbara McKenna, Head of Wellbeing.

AFTERSCHOOL CARE

As you would be aware **After School Care** is being offered in 2020 and I would urge **ALL families to sign up on the Youth Leadership Victoria** website under St Stephen's and also fill out Centrelink details in order to receive any rebates that you may be entitled to. If every family is signed up at least that way if you are running late or something has required you to make alternate arrangements then your children can be accommodated in the afterschool care program. If there is enough interest we can also look at a **Before School program** commencing. Please also remember that afterschool care is provided not just for working parents as it is a different avenue for children to interact with quality activities being offered five nights a week until 6.30pm. Website: www.ylv.com.au Email: admin@ylv.com.au Contact Details: Rita 0412 958 601 or email rita@ylv.com.au

ST MONICAS TOURS & MORNING TEAS with the PRINCIPAL

TERM 1

Friday 28 February 2020

Wednesday 4 March 2020

All Tours commence from the Augustine House College Administration 9.30am.

To make a booking online visit www.stmonicas-epping.com

For further information please contact the College Registrar,

Mrs Enza Sinopoli on 9409 8444

ENROLMENTS

Enrolments are currently being accepted for Year 7 2021 – 2023.

Please note that **2022** enrolments will close on **Friday 21 August, 2020**.

PARADE COLLEGE OPEN DAY

MUSIC

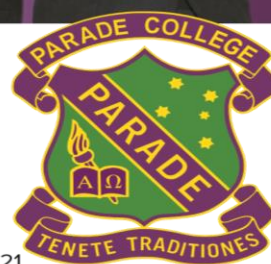
Our new music provider for 2020 is Genesis Music, if anyone is interested in having your child do or continue with music in the school program or are interested in enrolling as a new student could you please fill out the appropriate form and enroll.



10am - 2pm Preston Campus 8 Clifton Grove
10am - 2pm Bundoora Campus 1436 Plenty Rd

- Talk to our Principal and all our staff
- Watch the awesome Science Show
- Listen to our College bands
- Pick up an information pack with a special gift for your son
- Enjoy our free BBQ and café
- Listen to the Principal's address at 10.30, 11.30 & 1.00.

Year 7 2022 Enrolments Now Open!
Limited places at Preston available 2021.



Instrumental Lessons at School



Learn to play an Instrument :

Develop co-ordination, enhance listening skills and improve self-esteem.
Music changes lives!



Online enrolments at genesismusicschool.com.au or contact Genesis Music School Direct on
0421 426 674.
