



**ST STEPHEN'S**  
Catholic Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

**MONDAY 17th FEBRUARY, 2020 – Term 1, Week 4**

Principal: Mr Richard Keele

71 Whitelaw Street, Reservoir East 3073

Telephone: 9460 3566 Fax: 9462 3404

Website: [st.stephens@ssreservoir.east.catholic.edu.au](mailto:st.stephens@ssreservoir.east.catholic.edu.au)

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

**Office Hours**  
Mon to Thurs  
8.30 am to 3.30pm

**Uniform Times**

Dear Parents,

What a great turnout for our **Welcome BBQ** last Tuesday! Most of our families were represented and it was great to see (beyond the smoke of the BBQ!) everyone participating in the tabloid sports before sharing a meal. Thank you to the staff and parents who assisted with the preparation and organisation of the night.

For those who were not able to be present at the Welcome BBQ, I would like to inform you that I have taken up the opportunity to work flexible hours this year. Rosetta Rametta will be sharing the Principal role with me. I have requested this change to my

employment as I work towards retirement. I have great support from the staff at St Stephen's and we are all firmly committed to promoting our great school in the local area. I firmly believe that our **school community**, is best promoted by those that work with in it and are part of it, so whenever you get a chance, promote our **wonderful school** with the residents of Reservoir, as you make a great difference.

With this in mind we will shortly be calling for **volunteers to drop off advertising flyers** to the local community promoting our school **OPEN DAY on March 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please see if you are able to help if asked over the next few weeks.

Tomorrow (Tuesday) we will be running our **Parent / Teacher 'Chats'** from 2.00pm. This year we have asked that you fill in your preferred time online. Please make sure you keep to your allotted time. If you have not been able to get online please speak with your child's teacher ASAP so that they can slot you in to an available space. These 'chats' are important to allow the sharing of more information now that we have settled into the new school year!

I am sure our new **Preps are looking forward to starting this week as full time students** as they stay until 3.30 each day from today! Another reminder to parents that it should only be for necessary appointments that your child is picked up before 3.30pm. It can be very disruptive for classes if children have to pack their bags while school work is being completed by others in the class!

A couple of important events are coming up for our **2020 sacramental candidates**. A sacramental evening is to be held for the students and parents of all students who will be making their first reconciliation, first communion and confirmation this **Thursday at St Gabriel's @ 7.00pm**. Also on **Sunday 23 February these candidates** along with both schools staff will be presented to the parishes of St Stephen's and St Gabriel's at **10.00am Mass again at St Gabriel's Church**. Please keep these students in your prayers as they prepare to receive the various sacraments in the coming months.

Please also keep **Father Hocter** in your prayers as he has been unwell for the past few weeks.

Over the next few week's staff, **Year 5/6 students** and **parents will be asked** to complete a survey titled, "**Enhancing Catholic School Identity.**" These surveys are conducted every four years before schools are reviewed (St Stephen's 2021) Information will be sent

out shortly for you to complete online or alternately Mrs Rametta will run a **session in the library on the 27<sup>th</sup> February @ 9.00am** for those who would like assistance. She has promised morning tea will follow!

These surveys assist in gaining a meaningful insight into how your son or daughter school views on catholic identity today **may shape catholic identity into the future**. Please make every effort to complete the anonymous survey over the coming weeks.

So that you do enjoy your week (and weekend) please note that the council has notified the school that **parking inspectors** will be out around our school over the coming weeks booking cars illegally parked across driveways or in no standing or kiss and go areas.

Richard Keele

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY

“As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear:

Our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the

Good-conscioous way.

Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race,  
colour or creed.

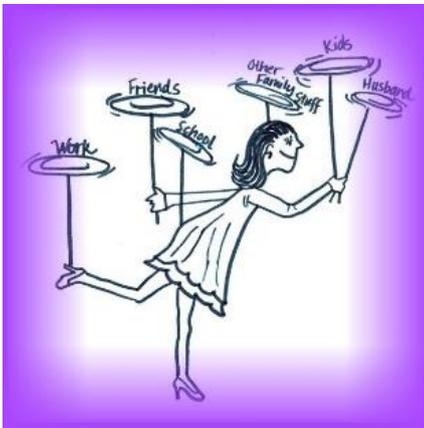
Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts  
and to chant God’s name each day. Let us lead the world  
from darkness to light,

from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all,  
discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love.  
May God’s blessings shower upon you and bestow upon  
each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.”

Amen.



## IMPORTANT DATES

Please put these dates in your Calendar

### TERM 1 2020

#### FEBRUARY

Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	2 pm to 7 pm	Parent Teacher ‘Chats’
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00 pm	Sacramental Evening at St Gabriel’s
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	10.00 am	Presentation Mass St Gabriel’s
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30 am	Ash Wednesday Mass
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February		Dentist attending School

#### MARCH

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Preparation evening First Reconciliation
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	NO SCHOOL	LABOUR DAY
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	9 am to 12 pm	OPEN DAY
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March		St Patricks Day & Concert Student Leaders
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30 pm	First Reconciliation at St Gabriel’s
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March		Easter Raffle
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March		End of Term 1

*Unforeseen events may cause some dates to change*

## MEDICATION TO BE ADMINISTERED AT SCHOOL

For legal reasons if your child requires medication to be administered during the school day e.g. antibiotics, a form must be filled out advising us of what the medication is, the dosage and the time required for this medication to be administered. The medication must be in the original packet or bottle. The forms are available from the school office and must be signed by a parent and a staff member.  
Medication must be brought in to the school office for safe keeping and/or Refrigeration if necessary.

### 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.

### 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 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. For more information you can go to the website: [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef). If you have not filled out a form already please come to the office to collect one, with a copy of your Concession Card. If you have any questions please see Mrs Forde in the school office.

### PREP CHILDREN

The Prep children this week will be full time and finishing at 3.30pm.

### DENTAL FORMS

Dental forms have gone out and if you wish your child to have their teeth checked the forms need to be returned by 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Next week 27<sup>th</sup> February your child will have the opportunity for a **Government Funded** dental check-up, treatment and dental plan at Our School, provided by Semper Dental.

The service provided **has the convenience of being carried out at the School**, makes it easy for you to access this program with the funding for the treatment free under the Federal Government's Child Dental Benefit Scheme. More Information is provided in the documents sent home, including some forms for you to complete should you wish to take advantage of this offer.

### 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.** No children should be at school before 8.30 a.m.

**NOTICE FOR PARENTS OF THE YEAR 5/6 CHILDREN**  
**- Enrolments for Year 7, 2021/2022**

Parents wishing to send their child to a Catholic Secondary College next year must have their application into the college. You will need to collect them from the secondary schools.

If you are not sure about a Catholic or Government school please put in an application to the Catholic school as you can always decline the position later in the year.

**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 ENTRANCE**

The 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, BE AWARE infringements may occur as enforcement officers have been seen in the area, and we have NO control over notices.

**SCHOOL FEES**

School Fee Statements went out last week. All Curriculum Levies, Student School Levies and Swimming Levy, need to be paid by 26<sup>th</sup> February. Camp fees need to be paid by 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 and First Instalment of school fees by the end of Term. Could this please be done as soon as possible? Outstanding fees of 2019 will need to be finalised. Thank you to all those families who have already paid. 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. We have **Direct Debit now set up**, if there is anyone interested please see Mrs Forde in the office.

**SCHOOL FEES**

**Term 1 fees and Levies need to be paid by end of term. I thank families who have paid and are up to date.**

***(Cash or Cheque payment or via EFT transfer)***  
***If you have not yet PAID these levies please do so before the end of this week.***

**Account Details When making payments**

BANK	BSB	ACCOUNT NUMBER
NATIONAL	083 – 347	143250728

**PLAYGROUP 2020**

We have our Community Playgroup in the hall every **WEDNESDAY** morning between 9.00am-10.30am commencing 5<sup>th</sup> 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☺

## SACRAMENTS 2020

The dates for the sacraments in 2020 are: Presentation Mass 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020, ALL Sacrament Students are required to attend. Reconciliation: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 17th 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.

*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](http://www.ylv.com.au) Email: [admin@ylv.com.au](mailto:admin@ylv.com.au) Contact Details: Rita 0412 958 601 or email [rita@ylv.com.au](mailto: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](http://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**.