A FINAL MESSAGE - 2015

With the conclusion of our inaugural school year fast approaching, I would like to thank the entire school community for their support of the school over the year. Choosing to come to a new school particularly in its first year, whilst exciting, is a great leap of faith on the part of parents. You chose to partner with us without seeing a completed building, without meeting any staff, without seeing any educational resources which would support your child’s learning. We are very pleased to say that recent data gained from the 64 families who completed the Insight SRC Parent Opinion Surveys during the year shows that parents and students are delighted with the service the school has provided over 2015.

Our school has already created a reputation within the community which makes it a sort after educational facility. It is viewed as being a place which places students at the centre of all we do. It provides a culture whereby all students are known by all staff, and gospel values of welcoming, service and compassion are experienced in the everyday running of the organisation.

It places high expectations on students in regards to presentation, behaviour and academic outcomes. It assists students in building a positive image of themselves and having pride in their school.

The school we have created together as a community could not be done simply by the school staff alone. The assistance parents have given, the way they have talked positively about the school, their children and the wide community is a crucial factor in building the culture we have achieved.

Our school, whilst currently small, will over time grow to a relatively large learning environment. Our challenge as a staff, parent and student community is to safeguard this culture so that those who join us in the future assimilate to and embrace the core values we would never compromise.

I wish all school families a peaceful and restful Christmas break with family and friends. We look forward to the year ahead and achieving the new goals we have set for 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE - SERVICES WILL CONTINUE FOR 2016!

Thank you to families who responded to last newsletter’s request to register for out of school hours care for 2016. We are very pleased to announce that Quantin Binnah Community Centre is willing to continue the service for 2016 based on the registration numbers to date.

Our partnership with Quantin Binnah has been a very positive experience. They provide high quality care for our students and embrace the values of our school. If you wish to arrange care for 2016, please contact the office at Quantin Binnah on 9742 5040.

END OF YEAR DATES

A reminder that end of term dates have been finalised. Please consult the guide below and make any arrangements regarding the care of your children over these days.

**Wednesday, 16th December:** Last day of school for students Year Prep—6 (3:15 Dismissal)

**Thursday & Friday, 17th & 18th December:** Staff Professional Development Days

Care is available through Quantin Binnah community centre on these days. Please call to book your place if required.

SCHOOL FEES—DIRECT DEBIT

Direct debit setup for the 2016 school fees can now commence. This will enable families to take advantage of regular deductions towards their school fees over the year.

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The form required to register for this service can be collected from the office or simply contact the office and we will arrange the forms to be sent home via your child.

Direct debit arrangements must be finalised prior to December.

SCHOOL TAKE HOME READERS—DUE BACK

Please be aware that all school take home readers should now have been returned to the school for cataloguing ready for reissuing for 2016. The school has recently tripled its stocks of take home book titles in the aim to provide students with take home reading materials next year. It is vital that these books are not lost or damaged.

We ask that any families who have not yet returned their books please do so immediately.

SUNSHINE ONLINE & SUNSHINE CLASSICS – AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES IN 2016

In addition to the traditional take home books, the school is also pleased to announce the subscription to Sunshine Online and Sunshine Classics for 2016.

This subscription will provide each child with a log in account, giving them access to 870 home reader titles with supporting interactive activities. This web-based resource is accessible by a computer, iPad or other tablets. It includes audio and a recording facility which is accessible by the teacher so that student progress and time spent on the site is monitored.

This resource is not compulsory for families to use, but will provide many families with another means of partnering with us in the development of their child’s literacy skills.

ADVENT PRAYERTIMES

The students are continuing their Religious Education Units on the Church Season of Advent this week.

Each morning the students will gather in the Community Space to light the candles of the advent wreath as we prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas.

This week we will light the third candle on the wreath.

Parents are welcome to join each morning to pray. The prayer times will commence at around 9am each day.

YEAR 1—6 (2016) TRANSITION DAY

Last week’s transition day proved to be a very positive experience for both our students and teachers.

This day gave opportunity for our students to meet their teacher and class mates for 2016. We also were able to begin the induction of our new students from Year 1-6 into the school.

All the new students embraced the positive culture of St John the Apostle School and I am confident they will meet the high behavioural and academic expectations we place on our students.

Our new teachers also commented on how pleased they were to be a part of creating a new school. We look forward to working with them as part of the team in 2016.

The school structure for next year is as follows:

- **Year Prep**: Miss Alisha Keogh
- **Year 1**: Mrs Jenny Fenech
- **Year 1**: Mrs Kathleen Warr
- **Year 2/3**: Mrs Nicole Tottie
- **Year 2/3**: Mrs Leah Jozeljic
- **Year 2/3**: Mrs Cinzia De Luca
- **Year 4/5/6**: Mrs Angela Anderson
- **Year 4/5/6**: Mrs Ann Raj
- **Specialist Physical Education**: Mrs Louise White

**END OF TERM CLEAN UP—TERM 4**

The end of Term 4 clean up is scheduled for the last day of school, Wednesday, 16th December at 3:15pm.

The support that families have given this initiative each term has been greatly appreciated by the staff.

Currently we have 6 volunteers helping on that afternoon. In order to clean all areas within the 1 hour time frame we require 12 volunteers in total.

We would also like to assign 1 or 2 people to spray weeds and mow the front section of the school during the clean up time. The school now has a mower onsite and will also provide the sprayer.

Mowing can be done any time between now and the end of Term. If you can help please let us know using the return slip on the newsletter.

**YEAR 4/5/6 SLEEPOVER**

To celebrate and acknowledge the fantastic contributions of our inaugural school leaders the school held a school sleepover for these students on Friday, 27th November.

The aim of the sleepover was to provide students with a bonding experience which also gave insights into their local area. During the day the students hiked up to the summit of the You Yangs National Park. They also toured Werribee South and Wyndham Harbour.

The students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Teachers were particularly impressed with the students’ manners and attitude towards the day. We hope to repeat a similar experience in 2016.

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Some parents have advised us of a need for a long sleeved option for protection from the sun during summer and the cold during winter. Now that this is available, no children should be wearing long sleeved undergarments under the short sleeved shirts.

SCHOOL NATIVITY SCENE
Our Life Size Nativity, which is on display in the front windows of the school is lit up from 8:30—10:30pm each night between now and Christmas day. We encourage all school families to visit this scene as they prepare for Christmas. Please take a photo of your family by the windows and email it to the office at office@stjatarneit.catholic.edu.au. We will add these images as they compile to our school website.

The Nativity Scene is another way of retelling the Christmas Story. In the centre of the display is the Holy Family. Visiting the baby Jesus, are the Three Wise Men and a Shepherd. The Christmas story can be found in the Bible at the start of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL
Over the Advent period, in preparation for Christmas, the school would like to partner with the St Vincent De Paul Society in supporting their Christmas Appeal.

This appeal provides food and toys for families in need over Christmas. This can often be an extremely difficult for various reasons. It you have an non perishable food items or an extremely difficult for various reasons.

ST JOHN’S FEAST DAY- MASS & LUNCH
We encourage all our school families to come and celebrate the graduation of our year six students with a Mass on Tuesday, 15th December at 9am.

This Mass will also celebrate the feast day of our school patron saint, St John the Apostle, which occurs during the holidays on the 27th December.

Please note that this date has changed from the last newsletter as it clashed with another parish mass.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of our Year 6 students in our inaugural year by taking them to lunch after the Mass at De Caprio’s Family Restaurant in Hopper Crossing.

LONG SLEEVE SPORTS TOP FINALISED
From the commencement of school next year, a long sleeved version of the sports T-Shirt will be available from Rushford’s Schoolwear.

Some parents have advised us of a need for a long sleeved option for protection from the sun during summer and the cold during winter.

UN-NAMED UNIFORMS
We have a number of un-named uniform items in the office. Named items handed into the office are immediately returned to their owner.

Unnamed items places us in a very difficult position as we are reluctant to give items to just anyone who claims them. If you have lost a cardigan, long sleeved jumper or school logo raincoat please contact the office to try and identify them.

We have had very few issues with lost uniforms this year, we ask that parents however please check that clothing items are named and renamed if the original has faded.

MERCY PLACE— AGED CARE CHRISTMAS CAROLs
Today our Year 2/3 students travelled to Mercy Place aged care facility in Werribee to celebrate a Christmas Mass and sing Christmas carols.

The students were fantastic ambassadors for our school and are to be commended for how well they sang. The residents were delighted with the visit and enjoyed meeting the students.

ACADEMIC REPORTS, DECEMBER 2015
The December academic students reports were sent home via our child last Friday.

We ask that parents sign and return the slip which acknowledges that you have received the report. It is important that these reports are kept for future reference as they may be required when enrolling for secondary school.

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End of Term Clean Up

Name: _________________
Child’s Name: _________________
I am willing to assist with end of Term clean up on Wednesday, 16th December
Signed: _________________

End of Term Clean Up—Mowing & Weed Spraying

Name: _________________
Child’s Name: _________________
I am willing to assist with mowing.
I will come in on:
Day: _________________
Time: _________________
Signed: _________________

St John the Apostle
Community Masses 2016
(Held at 5pm in the Community Space)

- Saturday, 27th February
- Saturday, 23rd April
- Sunday, 15th May (Pentecost Sunday—Held in St Andrew’s Sports Centre)
- Saturday, 23rd July
- Saturday, 27th August
- Saturday, 22nd October
- Saturday, 26th November