Newsletter 1

WELCOME AS WE EMBARK ON OUR 2ND SCHOOL YEAR!

Our school community extends a warm welcome to all new families who have joined our school community in 2016. We have 38 new prep students and a number of new students in Year 1-6 bring our numbers this year up from 108 in 2015 to 156 this year.

We were delighted with the way our transition program allowed a smooth start to the school year for these new children, they have clearly already embraced our school values and culture.

As a school we meet for the first time as one last Friday. We discussed our school mantra “At St. John the Apostle we respect and cooperate to achieve.” It has been making this statement reality which has made our school highly regarded within the local community and a sought after school for families wishing to enrol their children in a learning environment which is embedded within a Catholic ethos.

We welcome to our school three new staff members, Mrs Cinzia DeLuca, Mrs Nicole Tottle and Miss Ann Raj. These new teachers have all expressed their excitement about being part of establishing our new school embracing the challenges and opportunities it presents.

The year ahead proves to be an exciting one. We have the construction of our stage two building which will commence over term 2. This area will provide a third learning space, an art and craft room and extensions to our office and administration area. We will also have all the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation celebrated over the year, continuing the initiation of our baptised Catholic students. St John’s will also join the other 4 parish primary schools in employing Che Vincent as a family/School partnerships facilitator. Whilst Che’s office will be located at St Andrew’s Primary School, she will be present regularly at each of the schools developing relationships within each of the school communities.

We look forward to partnering with you all over the year in developing your children academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. In the coming weeks we will be doing our best to get to know each student and their parents. We ask that if you have any queries or issues, please let us know and we will do our best to assist you.

www.stjatarneit.catholic.edu.au
AFTER SCHOOL CARE - SERVICES CONTINUE

We are very pleased that Quantin Binnah Community Centre is willing to continue the service for 2016.

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.

SCHOOL FEES – DIRECT DEBIT

Direct debit is an option many families choose so that regular deductions towards their school fees are taken out at regular intervals over the year.

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.

Please note that to make the first deduction deadline direct debit arrangements must be finalised by this Friday, 5th February.

STUDENT LEVIES

The student levy of $290 per child is now due. This fee covers the costs of each students learning resources including, stationery, technology, art & craft, sports equipment and excursions.

We encourage families to finalise the payment of this over the coming week.

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 of 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.

Individual student log in details will be issued in the coming weeks.

HOT SHOTS TENNIS COACHING

This week students from Years 1–6 will commence tennis clinics facilitated by Jason, a coach from the Cambridge Tennis Club. Jason will join us for a series of 8 clinics run each Thursday over term 1.

The students will be introduced to the skills and rules of tennis in a modified version of the game. We hope to target students who show exemplary skills by running an offsite ‘St John the Apostle Open’ at the Hoppers Crossing courts.

All the equipment including racquets and nets will be supplied by the school. Students who take lessons may bring their own racquet if they prefer. Hopefully we have a future Australian Open winner amongst our students!

UNIFORM DAYS

Thank you to all families for the way students were presented on the first day of school. It is obvious that families have committed to maintaining the exceptional presentation of our students.

Uniform days are:

**Sports Uniform:** Tuesdays & Thursdays

**Normal Summer Uniform:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Please ensure all uniform items are clearly named, particularly jumpers and hats. Named items can be immediately returned to their owner when found.

A guide to the school uniform expectations and answers to frequently asked questions can be found and downloaded from the school website.

OFFICIAL SCHOOL TIMES

A reminder to families of the official school times.

8:30—8:50am: Students Arrive Onsite. (Students may enter the building to prepare for the days learning at 8:40am)

11am—11:30am: Recess

1:30—2:15pm: Lunch

3:15pm: Dismissal

Please note:

Students should not be onsite before 8:30am as before this time the carpark is not supervised. (Before school care is offered for students needing to be at school early)

Where possible we encourage parents collecting students for appointments to do so outside of the recess and lunch times.

SCHOOL STAFF, 2016

**Year Prep** - Miss Alisha Keogh
**Year Prep**- Mrs Jenny Fenech
**Year 1** - Miss Kathleen Warr
**Year 1** - Mrs Nicole Tottle
**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
**Part Time Teacher—Mrs Annette Palma**
**Learning Support:** Mrs Alison Holmes
**Facilities Manager:** Mr Toto Penaflor
**Office Administration:** Mrs Janet Belir

**Deputy Principal, Head of Student Services & Religious Education:** Mrs Rosalie Baldwin.

**Principal:** Mr Simon Dundon

This staffing structure maintains our class sizes at a low level in all levels across the school, providing students the assistance that need and a culture which allows them to build positive relationships with their teachers.

SCHOOL CAR PARK SAFETY

Our school carpark is only a part of the car parking in the master plan. It has a 20 car capacity, so we urge parents to use the street parking along Cottesloe Blvd & Kingbird Ave to ease the carpark traffic.

A note of safety – pedestrians should not enter the school through the car park entrance gates. Please walk along the paths at the school entrance and enter the school grounds via the smaller pedestrian gates near the flag pole.

Parents should walk students from the car to
their class using the zebra crossing. At the end of the day, we ask that students do not meet you at the carpark as no students will be permitted to enter this area without the supervision of an adult.

If you would like your child to meet you at the car, you will need to arrange a meeting spot in the street parking areas.

A gentle reminder for drivers to take note of the directional arrows on the carpark. We understand that at this early stage parents may be unsure of which direct to exit the parking area. Time will assist us in fine tuning this matter.

The drop off zone is used only in the mornings. It is not available as a pick up area at the end of the school day.

We ask that parents respect these guidelines to ensure student safety both before and after school.

**PREP TRANSITION REST DAYS**

To assist Prep students in coping with the fatigue which is associated with commencing school, the first six Wednesdays of Term One are designated rest days for Prep students. To assist parents with arranging care for their children on these days, the dates are listed below:

- Wednesday, 3rd February
- Wednesday, 10th February
- Wednesday, 17th February
- Wednesday, 24th February
- Wednesday, 2nd March
- Wednesday, 9th March

During these days Prep teachers will conduct assessments of students from P-6 and engage in curriculum planning. They may also arrange extended formal meetings with some parents regarding their child’s progress.

**ANAPHYLAXIS**

A reminder to families that our school has some students who suffer anaphylactic reactions to nut based foods.

Whilst we do not ban high risk foods, we encourage families to seek other food options if possible. Should your child have a high risk food in their lunch box we ask that your child learn to inform the class teacher so that arrangements can be made to minimise contact with students with allergies.

Some high risk foods include:
- Nuts (peanuts, almond, cashews, etc)
- Nutella
- Peanut Butter

**IMPORTANT FORMS COMING HOME THIS WEEK.**

Being the start of the school year we have many important pieces of correspondence coming home with your eldest child this week. They include:

- **Student ICT Agreements:** To be signed by parents and student if under Year 3
- **School Nurse Forms (Prep Only)**
- **Family Details Verification:** (To confirm that our administration software has your correct current details)
- **Short Walk Permission Form:** (Allows the school to walk to local parks for rewards and provide students with climbing equipment.)
- **Healthcare Card Notification Form:** Notifies the school if you have valid Healthcare Card, entitling you to government assistance towards school excursions, camps and sporting activities.
- **Food Celebrations Permission:** (Allows the school to serve your child food on special school days. E.G: Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, Anzac Biscuits, Principal’s Morning Teas, Sausage sizzles, etc.)

Please tend to these as soon as possible and return them to your classroom teacher or the office.

**FOOD GUIDELINES**

**Hot Food**

Over last year the school reviewed its approach to students heating their lunches in the staff microwave.

This situation raised some safety concerns and as a result we ask that students do not bring lunches that require heating.

**Health Fruits Snacks**

During the literacy block, students may have a health fresh fruit snack at 10am if they wish. We ask that if your child does come with a fruit snack it should be:

- Small (eaten within a 3 minutes)
- Manageable (Pre cut up wedges and pre peeled fruit)

**Please note:** No yoghurt, juices, fruit tubes or muesli bars are permitted, only fresh fruit.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday the school supplies platters of apples which have been donated by a local green grocer, Western Fresh Fruit & Veg.

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