ENROLMENT OPEN FOR THE 2016 SCHOOL YEAR!

Enrolments opened for all St. Andrew’s Parish schools on Monday, 2nd March. The first intake of enrolments close on Friday, 27th March.

It is vitally important that any currently enrolled families wishing to enrol siblings into St. John the Apostle School submit an enrolment pack with all supporting documentation before this closing date.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK, 2016.

Each year to celebrate Catholic Education Week all Catholic schools within the Arch Diocese of Melbourne are invited to celebrate their Catholic identity in a mass held at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in the Melbourne CBD.

We have invited 10 students from Years 4—6 to represent our new Catholic school at this mass. The students will then be entertained by a concert in the gardens next door to the cathedral. We hope our representatives enjoy the day and feel proud of our exciting new school in Tarneit.

ST JOHN’S INVITATIONAL TENNIS OPEN

As we approach the final weeks of Term One, we see the conclusion of our first Physical Education skills unit “Hot Shot” Tennis.

The students from Years 1 –6 have been exposed to elite coaching from Jason and our specialist Phys Ed teacher Mrs. Louise White. During these sessions Jason has invited a number of students who have demonstrated advanced skills to participate in the St John the Apostle Invitational Tennis Open.

These 16 students will travel by bus on Tuesday, 24th to the Cambridge Tennis Courts on Barber Drive, Hoppers Crossing.

Parents are urged to come down to the courts and to encourage the students within this competitive setting.

We hope that the children have a great day applying their newly taught tennis skills as well as their exemplar sportsmanship manner.

Thanks goes to our coach, Jason for all his work with the children.

EARLY FINISH—LAST DAY OF TERM

An important reminder for all parents and carers that school concludes for the Easter holidays at 12:30pm on Friday, 27th March.

Please ensure that you have made the necessary arrangements for your child’s pick up on this day.
STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY—DAY 1, TERM 2.

Each year Catholic schools are able to allocate four pupil free days during the year devoted to the professional development of staff.

Our school has pre booked these days and listed them in the parent handbook in order to give families time plan for the care of their children.

Our first pupil free day is set for the first day back after the Easter holiday-Monday, 13th April.

SCHOOL MASS

Our next school mass is scheduled for Thursday, 26th March at 9am. We invite all parents to celebrate with us the Eucharist as a school as we thank Jesus for the wonderful term one we have had together in our new school.

CALL FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS.

Our recent volunteers forum was very well supported by our parents, however we are still a little short in the area of ground maintenance.

Come the end of March our landscape contractors handover the upkeep of the gardens to the school.

From then on we will need to keep weeds, lawns and garden beds under control by implementing a maintenance schedule. If you are willing to assist with these tasks please attend the volunteers meeting on Monday, 23rd March. The ground maintenance group will meet from 8:30pm in the Community Space.

We look forward to your attendance.

END OF TERM CLEAN UP.

Our learning spaces have been used extensively over this term by students. It is vitally important that these spaces are cleaned ready for the commencement of learning in Term 2.

On the afternoon of Thursday, 26th March, parents assistance is required to clean many areas that are not regularly cleaned as part of our scheduled cleaning by our facilities manager Toto Penafior.

If you are willing to assist please indicate this on the form attached so that we can allocate you a cleaning task.

Please bring a vacuum cleaner, mop and bucket if you are able.

NTH MELBOURNE F.C—HUDDLE PROGRAM VISIT.

St John the Apostle is partnering with the North Melbourne Football Club and it’s Huddle Program which aims to promote AFL football in the western suburbs.

On Tuesday, 24th March some North Melbourne players will be visiting the school, sharing with students insight on leadership and working together as a team.

This visit will be followed by a football clinic.

Our association with the North Melbourne football club will be further developed during the Huddle program.

RETURN OF TAKE HOME BOOKS

Our curriculum support group will be working hard over the Easter holidays to cover books from our school literacy resources.

Prior to the commencement of school we purchased $20,000 worth of book stock which was barcoded and catalogued by parent helpers over the summer. We now need to cover these books to ensure they withstand the trauma of being taken home in student school bags each night.

We ask that parents ensure that all take home books are returned to the school by this Friday, 20th March so that they can be issued to our parent volunteers for covering over the break.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ON THE WAY!

We are delighted to announce that student technology devices are now being purchased.

We delayed this until we were confident that the network infrastructure was ready to provide a problem free and secure connection for students.

The devices will be made up of Apple iPads and Lenovo laptops. Our school policy does not allow the use of student owned devices.

Students will sign an acceptable user agreement which outlines the correct use of the devices and the internet in the coming weeks.

PRINCIPAL’S AWARD WINNERS

This assemblies certificate was presented to Jordana Samartzis.

Jordana demonstrates a love of learning which is a great example to all students. She outwardly shares her enjoyment of the exciting learning she is involved in at her new school.

Well done Jordana and keep up the positive approach to everything you do!

Our final assembly for Term 1 will be held on the last day of term, Friday, 27th March at 9am. We hope to see many parents there.

HOMEWORK—"A BALANCING ACT"

Homework is often a sensitive issue amongst school communities. Homework in the traditional sense often does not fit comfortably in the busy routines of today’s working families.

Yet other families see it as an opportunity for their child to get “The Edge” in the competition for select entry schools and scholarships.

As school principal, I believe I have a responsibility to create a learning environment whereby each teacher’s time is used to maximise student achievement. This environment cannot be created if teachers are spending hours assigning and correcting homework when they should be strategically planning programs that focus on each student’s point of need.

Whilst we respect families who request extra homework, we expect that they oversee the assigning and correction of this themselves.

There are many resources online and commercially available that can assist parents in this area.

In the coming term our students will be issued some components of their homework using Studyladder, an online portal which is managed for primary aged students.

If for any reason your child is unable to complete their homework we ask for parents to write a written note requesting an exemption. This way we are able to enforce expectations fairly without placing undue pressure of students and families.
School Mass
Name: _____________________
We will be attending the School Mass, 26th March at 9am. Please place the following chairs for our family: _____ (insert number)

Signed: _____________________

Grounds Maintenance Volunteers Group
Name: _____________________
We are willing to assist with grounds maintenance and will attend the planning meeting on Monday, 23rd March at 8:30pm

Signed: _____________________

End of Term Clean Up
Name: _____________________
I am able to assist with the end of term clean up on Thursday, 26th March at 3:15—4pm. I am able to bring:

☐ A Vacuum Cleaner

☐ A Mop and Bucket.

Signed: _____________________