



St John the Apostle
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, TARNEIT WEST

NEWSLETTER 1

2nd February 2021

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Prep Rest Days:

- Wed, 24th February 2021
- Wed, 3rd March 2021

Year 5 Visit to Thomas Carr

Friday 26th February

Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 8th March 2021 – NO SCHOOL

Ride to School Day

Friday 19th March

School Photos

Tuesday 30th March

Parish Information

Parish Mass Times

Saturday Evening—6pm

Sunday Morning—8am, 9:30am, 11am.

Sunday Evening—5pm

St Andrew's Parish Church

105 Greave St Nth

Werribee, 3029

Ph: 9741 4144

Priests:

Fr. Albert Yogarajah (Parish Priest)

Fr. Dong Tran

Fr. Anton Aseervathampillai

Principal's Message

Last week saw us challenged again with the requirements of a government mandated lockdown. Thank you once again to families for your patience and trust. Staff spent Monday adapting their week's planned curriculum, ensuring it was suitable for online learning. On Tuesday we were able to work through a range of teething problems so that by the end of the day, all our students were able to access their 2021 Google Classrooms and attend the scheduled class meets.

We now feel confident we will be able to make a reasonably smooth transition across to online learning should we experience further lockdowns throughout the year. As we have recently experienced, these lockdowns can be announced with limited notice or during a time when the school is closed e.g. on weekends and during school holidays. The school will continue to keep families informed during these times via notifications on the school app.

The smooth transition back to school this past week has been testament to the flexibility and resilience of our students, their families and our wonderful school staff.

Families Testing Unwell Students

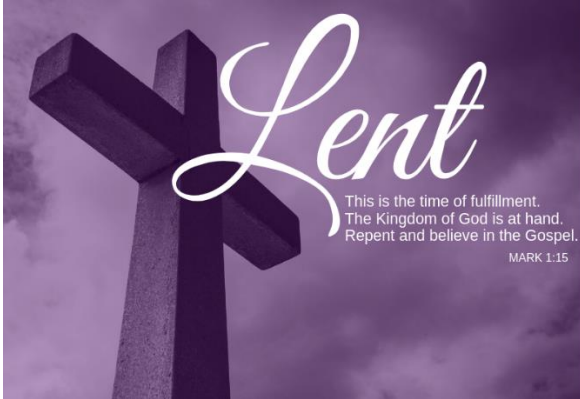
I would like to thank many families who have had their children tested for COVID 19 when they have shown signs of symptoms associated with the virus. Whilst we understand that getting the test and isolating until results are received can be inconvenient, it shows the care our school community has for each other to ensure we protect our school as best we can from any possible infections.

Icy Poles

\$1 Icy Poles are sold each Friday in Term 1. Here are some of our Prep students enjoying theirs last Friday.



Prayer for Lent



7 WAYS MAKE LENT MEANINGFUL

- Day 1 – Read the Bible each
- Day 2 – Do acts of service for others
- Day 3 – Read about the saint of the day
- Day 4 – Volunteer your time
- Day 5 – Talk to God in Prayer each day
- Day 6 – Read a biography of a saint
- Day 7 – Meet God at Mass

Before & After School Care Program

Due to last week's Stage 4 Lockdown, work on the hall floor was temporarily suspended. Currently, the Before and After School Program is relocated to the Community Space near the school office.

All going well we expect to have full use of the hall by the end of this week.

Sports Uniform Days

The school sports uniform is worn on a number of days during the week. For students in Years 4 – 6, the uniform is required on three days to enable the implementation of our Bike Education Program which is taken in small groups on a Thursday and Friday.

Students in Year Prep – 3 are required to wear the sports uniform on two days, one being their timetabled Physical Education day. The table below gives an overview of each year level's sports uniform days.



Year Level	PE	Bike Ed
Prep	Wed	
1	Thurs	
2	Thurs	
3	Tues	
4	Wed	Thurs or Fri
5/6	Tues	Thurs or Fri

Payment of School Fees

The first instalment for school fees is now overdue. We ask families who are not on a Direct Debit Plan to arrange prompt payment of this first instalment if you have not already done so.

Prep Rest Days

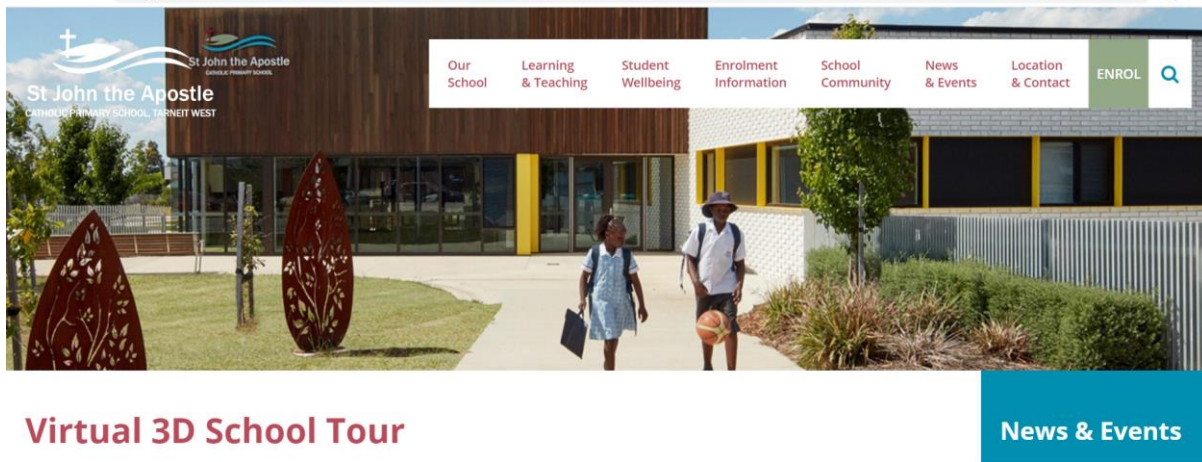
Our Prep students have made a terrific start to the term. To help combat the fatigue associated with starting school, the Preps have two remaining designated rest days, which are listed below:

Wednesday, 24th February 2021

Wednesday, 3rd March 2021

Parent Learning Tours

We are hoping to schedule more Parent Learning Walks for later in the term, when indoor gathering numbers are increased by the Government. Families are reminded that a Virtual Tour of the school can be accessed via the website. You could ask your child to guide the family through the virtual tour. They could show you what their classroom looks like and tell you their favourite things to do at recess and lunch time.



Morning Drop Off Procedures

In the mornings there are two options for student drop off. Please remember to wear a mask and practice appropriate social distancing, if you wish to enter the school grounds:

Option A

Drive through the carpark to the drop off zone and remain in your vehicle, while your child leaves the car. The School Carpark is not available in the mornings.

Option B

Park in a surrounding street and walk your child to their classroom door. The school grounds can be entered via one of several gates. Entrance Gates are located near the Portables, the Front Office and the Hall. A reminder that families are asked to NOT walk through the school carpark, for safety reasons and we encourage the use of the School Crossing located near the roundabout.

Afternoon Pick Up Procedures

In the afternoons, there are two options for student pick. Parents need to be aware that there are limited parking spaces available onsite and will most likely need to park in the surrounding streets. Please remember to wear a mask and practise appropriate social distancing, if you wish to enter the school grounds:

Option A

Meet your child at the classroom door. Families with multiple children need to be aware that we direct students to move to the classroom of the youngest sibling in a family.

Option B

Organise a meeting place with your child, in one of the nearby streets or at an exit gate. On the bell your child will leave the school and walk to meet you at the designated spot.

2022 Enrolment Information

Enrolments for Prep 2022 open on 1st March for all St Andrew's Parish Primary Schools. Unfortunately, no applications can be accepted prior to this date. An Enrolment Information Evening will be held on Tuesday, 2nd March starting at 7pm in the Community Space. This evening is open to all interested families who live within the school catchment area. **All attendees are reminded to wear a mask** and will be required to check in on arrival.

To reduce numbers at the meeting, families with children already enrolled at St John's do not need to attend. Older siblings are invited to collect an enrolment pack from the office.

Secondary School Enrolments

Enrolments for Catholic Secondary Schools must be organised by parents when students are in Year 5. Please contact either Thomas Carr College or MacKillop College if you have any questions regarding secondary school enrolments.

MacKillop College

Enrolments for Year 7 2023

Applications close on Friday 20 August 2021

Year 5 Thomas Carr College Visit

On Friday 26th February, our current Year 5 students will travel by bus to Thomas Carr College to experience a secondary school setting in action.

Children will be required in full school uniform and will need to bring a snack, lunch and a drink.

YEAR 7, 2023 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT



THOMAS CARR
COLLEGE

CELEBRATING **25** YEARS



Time: 7pm
Date: Thursday March 4, 2021
Venue:* Fr Tobin Gymnasium
Thomas Carr College

**Venue will be moved online should COVID-19 restrictions be in place*

RSVP: Please register your attendance by clicking or visiting this link to the Year 7, 2023 Registration Form
<https://www.thomascarr.vic.edu.au/Year7-2023-PIN-Registration>

Limited spots remaining for Year 7, 2022
35 Thomas Carr Drive, Tarneit. Phone: 8734 2444
www.thomascarr.vic.edu.au

2021 St Andrew's Parish Sacramental Program

Earlier this month, Fr Albert met with the Principals of all 6 Parish Primary Schools to coordinate potential dates for the Sacramental Programs of each school. This was a complex process, as a number of schools were unable to complete all their scheduled 2020 sacraments due to ongoing COVID Restrictions. Listed below is a table outlining our school's proposed Sacramental Program for this year.

RECONCILIATION	EUCHARIST	CONFIRMATION
YEAR 3 BAPTISED CATHOLICS	YEAR 4 & 5 BAPTISED CATHOLICS	YEAR 6 BAPTISED CATHOLICS
		
<p>INFORMATION & PRACTISE NIGHT</p> <p>Thursday 18th March 7:00pm Venue to be confirmed</p> <p>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Thursday 25th March 7:00pm Venue to be confirmed</p>	<p>INFORMATION & PRACTISE NIGHT <i>Students will be invited to go to Confession on this night in preparation for their First Holy Communion</i></p> <p>Thursday 10th June 6:30pm Venue to be confirmed</p> <p>SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST Sunday 13th June 11:00am Venue to be confirmed</p>	<p>INFORMATION & PRACTISE NIGHT <i>Sponsors are not required for this session. The Sacrament may be celebrated with students from Our Lady of the Southern Cross</i></p> <p>Wednesday 21st July 6:30pm Venue to be confirmed</p> <p>SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION Friday 30th July 6:30pm Venue to be confirmed</p>

The recent snap lockdown, once again highlights the uncertain nature of planning any celebration in this current climate. Last year two sacraments took place at school (rather than the parish church) and these celebrations were live streamed for extended family members. Please note that due to continued uncertainty, venues for each of the sessions and celebrations listed above, will be confirmed in the week prior to the event. This gives us greater flexibility when organising celebrations and reduces the likelihood of events having to be postponed. However, should Stage 4 restrictions be in place at the time of a scheduled meeting or Sacrament, these events will have to be postponed.

Staff Parking

To increase the car parking spaces available to parents at drop off and pick up times, we are trialling a staff parking area on the undeveloped section of the school closest to Embleton Avenue.

School Bike Enclosure

The finishing touches are being completed on the Bike Enclosure. In the coming week, the roofing will be installed to complete the construction. The enclosure will be officially opened on the Ride to School Day on 19th March. Thanks again to Mrs White for the time she spent on the Grant Application process.



Safety Update



The safety of every member of our community is a priority. With this in mind we thank parents for their increased vigilance with wearing of masks when onsite.



ICT Update

All students from Year 3 - 6 have now been allocated a device and a set of headphones. As these are school property they will remain at school. During periods of Online Learning, students will be able to take home a school device if needed. One-to-One devices are being finalised for Year 2 in the coming weeks. Additional devices will also be available for use at the Year 1 level.

Important Notes & Information

Just prior to the lock down, families received a set of annual permission notes. We thank everyone who has returned these notes and ask for any outstanding forms to be returned by Thursday. Also, we remind any families who have not yet discussed the Computer Use and Mobile Phone Agreements with their child, to please do so. These agreements were signed by students in class and can be found on the school app.

Sunscreen & Hats

A reminder for all students to apply sunscreen before they leave home in the mornings and to remember that hats must be worn when outside for play times or sport classes. Hats are available for purchase from the Office for \$15.00 each.

Homework Years 2 to 6

Homework has now started for all students in Year 2 - 6. We strongly recommend that families become members of the Tarneit Library. They have a wide range of material to borrow, along with an extensive catalogue of digital books. Access to these digital resources is very handy during snap lockdowns!

Take Home Readers

Take home books have been issued to students at a reading level less than Level 28. Once individual assessments have indicated Prep students are ready to commence a Level 1 take home book, these will be issued and changed on a weekly basis.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

A Fire Drill has been scheduled for Wednesday, 24th February. Another one will be scheduled during Term 2 when the Preps are more comfortable with the school setting.

2021 School Photos

School photos will be taken on Tuesday, 30th March. We ask that all students are dressed in their full summer uniform which includes either a vest, cardigan or jumper. No sports uniforms are to be worn on this day.

Details on how to place your photo orders will be given in future newsletters and letters.

Ride to School Day – Friday 19th March

NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

Friday 19 March 2021



St John the Apostle

**are excited to be celebrating National Ride2School Day
on Friday 19 March 2021.**

National Ride2School Day is the perfect opportunity to kick-start new healthy habits and promote the many benefits of active travel.

We encourage all students and their families to leave the car at home and give riding, walking, scooting or skating to school a go.

It's sure to be a fantastic day and we look forward to seeing you there!