ST VINCENT DE PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

"As a Catholic School, St Vincent de Paul School is a place where an individual is part of a caring nurturing and supportive community which continues to develop in people, the faith, qualities and values in the Gospel."

Number 2
11th February 2014

St Vincent de Paul Primary School

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Today is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes

In 1858 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous), a humble 14-year-old French girl in a grotto near the town of Lourdes in France asking for, among other things, prayer and penance for sinners.

During the ninth of her 18 different appearances to Bernadette that year, our Lady of Lourdes, as Mary became known in association with these events, had the girl dig up a spring of water where none had been found before. The water flowing from this spring, although pure, did not have any extraordinary scientific or medical properties. It has nonetheless been the source of countless miraculous cures for 150 years!

Bernadette herself entered the convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Nevers in 1866, serving our Lord with dignity, grace, and love in what was left of her short life. She passed away from tuberculosis in 1879 and was canonized as a saint in 1933.

St. Bernadette once said of the spring she discovered that "one must have faith and pray; the water will have no virtue without faith." Let us all be inspired by the faith of St Bernadette as we pray:

Our Lady of Lourdes, watch over us.
St Bernadette, pray for us.

Please join us when we celebrate our first school Mass to celebrate the beginning of a new year. It will be held on Thursday 20th February at 10am at St Vincent de Paul Church.
Dear Parents,
All parents and adults that access the school at pick up and drop off time are advised that new parking restrictions have been implemented in both Woodland St and Rosebank Ave since the start of last week. As part of last years ‘Better Moves Around School’ program a review of parking restrictions was undertaken to attempt to improve the safety of children during the critical pick up and drop off times of the day. Please check carefully the maps on today’s newsletter as these changes are now being enforced by Moonee Valley by laws officers. All drivers are asked to put safety before convenience when driving and parking in the vicinity of school to ensure we avoid any chance of a serious accident.

THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER WILL NOW BE PUBLISHED ON A TUESDAY EACH FORTNIGHT.

General reminders

Now that we have had a few days to settle in to the normal routine, I would like parents to assist with a few important procedures that will ensure the safety of all children:

1. Car parking in the tennis club car spaces or the church car park is not permitted from 8.15am to 3.50pm each day as this is a pedestrian access only.
2. Play equipment in the junior yard is out of bounds to children before and after school for safety reasons.
3. Supervision of the children in junior yard commences at 8.30am and concludes at the end of the day 3.45pm. Children needing supervision outside these times should access the Before and After Care Programs.
4. Prep children are dismissed from the round grass area under the shade cover section of the junior yard at 3.20pm. All adults are asked not to stand on this area so teachers can fully supervise the collection of each child. It is extremely difficult to manage this pick up system if adults are mixed in with children. Please allow the prep teacher to get all children seated in this pick-up area and to safely supervise hand over of each child.
5. Have clear family instructions about pick-up points at the end of the day.
6. Observe all parking restrictions and school zone speed limits around our school.

It would be greatly appreciated if these procedures as well as parking restrictions could be passed on to all adults that access the school during pick up and drop off times.

PLEASE NOTE:
CORRECTION OF SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY 2014
WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST

PREP ENROLMENT FOR 2015

Preparation is now underway for enrolment for Prep in 2015. It is very important for existing families that they collect the enrolment package NOW AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE and return with all necessary documentation by Friday 14th March.

UPDATE CONTACTS

As part of our school’s duty of care, it is imperative that all student records are accurate and up to date. However, if over the holidays there have been any changes to any contact details i.e. work or mobile numbers, change to address, student details, etc. Please contact Julie/Annie immediately so that any necessary amendments can be made ASAP......
AWARDS INFORMATION

Please find listed below the names of those children receiving awards at Friday’s Assembly 1st March in the Hall at 11.30 am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREP BLUE</th>
<th>PREP GOLD</th>
<th>THREE GREEN</th>
<th>Mikaela Bates</th>
<th>Jack Viola</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Scavo</td>
<td>Declan Rafter</td>
<td>THREE GOLD</td>
<td>Harry Johnston</td>
<td>Remy O’Rourke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Michelin</td>
<td>Molly Leahy</td>
<td>FOUR BLUE</td>
<td>Daniel Nettleton</td>
<td>Sienna Premier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP GREEN</td>
<td>Stirling Garvey</td>
<td>Alannah LoGiudice</td>
<td>FOUR GOLD</td>
<td>Samuel Koster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE BLUE</td>
<td>ONE GREEN</td>
<td>ONE GOLD</td>
<td>FIVE BLUE</td>
<td>Noah Hewitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mikey La Verde</td>
<td>Benjamin Murphy</td>
<td>Scarlet Pitt</td>
<td>William Anderson</td>
<td>Sam Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE GOLD</td>
<td>TWO BLUE</td>
<td>TWO GOLD</td>
<td>SIX BLUE</td>
<td>Maeve Langston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE GREEN</td>
<td>Joshua Hannan</td>
<td>Keira Farrall</td>
<td>Lauren Marino</td>
<td>Jesse Raso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THREE BLUE</td>
<td>THREE GOLD</td>
<td>THREE BLUE</td>
<td>Matthew Cantone</td>
<td>Isabelle Swift</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PERSONAL PROPERTY
Parents and children are advised that any items of personal property (especially toys/games/cards) brought to school is done so at your own risk. Items lost, damaged or that go missing are the responsibility of the individual that brings them to school.

CURRENT SCHEDULE OF SCHOOL FEES & LEVIES

School Fees for 2014 (Billed over 3 Terms)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term One</th>
<th>Term Two</th>
<th>Term Three</th>
<th>Maintenance Levy</th>
<th>Capital Levy</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$490</td>
<td>$490</td>
<td>$490</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$1770</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLUS
Individual Student Levy (Covers classroom requisites and excursions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Year Three</th>
<th>Year Four</th>
<th>Year Five</th>
<th>Year Six</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$345</td>
<td>$345</td>
<td>$345</td>
<td>$345</td>
<td>$345</td>
<td>$345</td>
<td>$395</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARISH NEWS
As we commence the year we are all invited to reflect on ways we are able to assist and a support our community through various ministries. Through our generosity we are able to give a little to each other. I am most appreciative of the assistance through the numerous areas of support for our liturgies each weekend and those who clean the Church and linen and provide flowers on the Sanctuary.
I invite you to consider offering to participate through the various ministries outlined on the attached form.
Explore the possibilities, and if you are not sure of what is required then speak with me or someone already involved.
I particularly would appreciate assistance with Baptism preparation. It is very important that we walk with the families who present their children for the first Sacrament, through the preparation evening, the Rite of Reception and the celebration of the Baptism.
Please take the form with you and return by 12th FEBRUARY to the boxes in the porches of the Church, School Office or Presbytery.

Fr Peter

OPENING SCHOOL MASS
The Opening School Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 20th February at 10.00am. It is always a very special celebration and it is great to see the whole school community gathered together. At the Opening School Mass the Prep children will be formally welcomed and the student leadership team and staff will be commissioned and blessed by Fr Peter. All Parents are welcome to attend.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILDREN DO ONLINE?
Tony Richards is back! We are offering another AFTERNOON session for all the new families and parents who missed out on the informative Cyber Safety information session run by Tony Richards.

This information session will explore the issues and implications arising from new technologies, particularly in terms of child safety and wellbeing. Parents will be provided with a firsthand look at what your children can access online. If you want to have a better understanding of what your children do and want to be better informed then you cannot afford to miss this session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Do u know wot your kids r up 2 online</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When:</td>
<td>Monday 24th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>2:00-3:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please fill in and return the attached form to the school.

☐ Yes - I would like to register for the session at 2:00-3:30 Monday 24th February

☐ No - I cannot attend the session
ST VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH

PROGRAM FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2014

RECONCILIATION:
Parent meeting: Thursday 20th February at 7.30pm
Commitment Masses: Saturday 22nd February and Sunday 23rd February
Celebrations: Wednesday 12th March and Thursday 13th March at 7.00pm

CONFIRMATION:
Parent meeting: Thursday 1st May at 7.30pm
Commitment Masses: Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May
Celebrations: Friday 30th May at 7.00pm and Saturday 31st May at 6.00pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:
Parent meeting: Thursday 31st July at 7.30pm
Commitment Masses: Saturday 2nd August and Sunday 3rd August
Celebrations: Saturday 30th August, Sunday 31st August, Saturday 6th September and Sunday 7th September

Financial Assistance - Information for Parents

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:
- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

For more information about the EMA, visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx
ST BERNARD’S JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
All welcome for a great season of Junior Football
Registration for 2014 Season
U9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16
Sunday 16th February 2014 11.00am – 1.00pm
Friday 21st February 2014 4.30pm – 6.00pm
St Bernard’s College Oval
All enquiries please email: junioradnim@stbernardsfc.com.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL – CHESS CLUB
Term One starts 3rd February
Time: Monday Lunch time for Term One and then Term 2-4 Wednesday
Cost: $10.50 per session ($84.00 for the Term)

CHESS REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

CALENDAR 2014 – ST VINCENT DE PAUL

February
11th  Parent Teacher Conferences
12th  Parish Education Board Meeting
14th  SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY – TESTING
17th  Rotational Activity day
20th  OPENING SCHOOL MASS – 10.00AM ALL WELCOME
      Reconciliation Parent Meeting – 7.30pm
21st  Year 6 Assembly 11.30am – Hall
      Prep/Year 6 and New Families Welcome BBQ – 6.00pm
22nd  Reconciliation Commitment Mass
23rd  Reconciliation Commitment Mass
24th  Cyber Safety Parent Information Session 2.00pm-3.30pm (Hall)
26th  Year 6 Mass
27th  Whole School Swimming Carnival
28th  Hockey Clinic Year 3 and 4

March
3rd  School Photos
     District Swimming Sports 11.30am-2.30pm
4th  Shrove Tuesday
5th  Ash Wednesday
7th  Sports Gala Day - Year 5
     Year 4 Assembly
     Station of the Cross Prep – Year 1
10th  LABOUR DAY
11th  SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY – REVIEW
12th  Year 5 Mass
     Reconciliation 7.00pm
13th  Divisional Swimming
     Reconciliation 7.00pm
14th  Sports Gala Day – Year 5
     Stations of the Cross Year 2-3
18th  Year 6 Camp
19th  Year 6 Camp
20th  Year 6 Camp
21st  Year 6 Camp
     Year 5 Assembly
     Station of the Cross Year 4-5
25th  Regional Swimming
26th  Year 3 Mass
     Parish Education Board Meeting
     Station of the Cross Year 6

April
2nd  Year 2 Mass
4th  END OF TERM ONE – STUDENT DISMISSED AT 1.30PM
18th  Good Friday
20th  Easter Sunday
21st  Easter Monday
22nd  TERM TWO
Back to School in 2014! Be prepared for an Asthma Spike

What is the February asthma spike?

Throughout the year there are significant increases, or 'spikes', in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments. Approximately 1 in 10 children in Australia have asthma, and for children and adolescents with asthma these 'spikes' usually occur towards the end of holiday periods as they return to school and preschool. A significant 'spike' in asthma presentations and admissions to hospital of children and adolescents, experiencing severe asthma exacerbations, occurs throughout the first few weeks of February.

Why does the spike occur?

While there have not been direct links established, the February 'asthma spike' is believed to be largely due to children and adolescents coming into contact with asthma triggers that they have had time away from, as they are now returning to school. Forgetting to take their medication, and poor medication adherence, also places students at an increased risk of asthma attacks when exposed to triggers.

Triggers that can be encountered are:

- Dust and mould spores from poorly ventilated, or insufficiently cleaned school rooms
- Respiratory viruses, such as cold and flu viruses
- Cleaning products that leave behind strong smells, aerosols or airborne dust
- Anxiety and stress due to returning to school

What can we do to avoid asthma exacerbations in our school?

- Ensure your school has a sufficient number of Asthma Emergency Kits
- Ensure that each Asthma Emergency Kits contain fresh and in-date reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol or Alrometh), spacers, record sheet and instructions detailing the emergency procedure
- Ensure student Asthma Action Plans are updated and returned to school
- Ensure staff education and training is current, arranging a free staff asthma education session as required for all new and ongoing staff
- Ensure your school’s asthma policy is current for both onsite and offsite situations, and first aid posters are displayed in key locations
- Ensure staff are aware of which students in their class have asthma, and know where Asthma Emergency Kits are stored
- Ensure all classrooms are opened, cleaned and aired out in the weeks before students return to school. A helpful technique can be to turn on all fans, as well as any heating/cooling systems, to begin to clear dust before students arrive.
Parish Theme for 2014:  

Explore the possibilities

Each year we are invited to offer ourselves to participate in supporting our community in many different ways, for one year at a time. In that way your commitment is only year by year. Through our generosity we share our gifts, with each other in the spirit of the invitation given to us by our God. A summary of some of the areas, in which you might like to offer support, on the reverse side, are listed below. On behalf of each one of us I am inviting you to consider how you might share something of yourself, with us all, during this year. Fr Peter Ray.

Please return your form next weekend or during the week to the Church, Presbytery or School Office no later than by Wednesday 13th February.

- Parish Pastoral Plan
  As we continue to develop the Pastoral and Spiritual growth within our Parish family, by breaking open the "Parish Pastoral Plan", your participation is vital. When invited to participate your might like to consider how you will contribute.

- Care
  Short term Home Help and Support in times of need, through meals, light home duties, etc.. Volunteers are asked to indicate their interest. Further details of how you might offer support will follow, once you have indicated your interest. This area of support is coordinated via the School Committee

- Liturgy Team
  The Liturgical life of the Parish is vital. If you would like to express an interest in supporting the Liturgy Team in the preparation of the Liturgy please indicate your interest.

- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
  This is a process whereby we walk with those who would like to explore the Catholic Faith. Further information will be supplied if expressions of interest are received.

- Sacramental Preparation Team
  Helping children and families prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation, where they are not attending St Vincent de Paul Primary School. Teaching experience or Catechetical experience would help. Programme times to be advised, usually for one session per week over an eight week program for each sacrament.

- Baptism Preparation Team
  A group of parishioners walking with families presenting for Baptism and assisting me in the preparation before Baptism. The Team has various roles and none are demanding. We meet monthly in the evening usually on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

- GodStart
  GodStart acknowledges those who have been recently Baptised to celebrate their birthdays, from Baptism to age four, by delivering a card. It is a pleasant way to show that we are reaching out to the little one and their families within our community. All that is required is a willingness to share a little time, a smile and a Melway.

- Sunday Liturgy of the Word for Children
  Leading children during the 10.30 am Sunday Mass, with their own Liturgy of the Word. If you would be interested, we will help you understand the simple procedure that we are offering the children. This team guides the children through reading the Gospel and sharing. Materials and preparation will be supplied.

- Weekend Ministries
  - Lectors
  - Commentators
  - Special Ministers of the Eucharist
  - Carrying Offertory Gifts
  - Counting weekend Collections
  - Altar Servers
  - Church cleaning
  - Linen washing
  - Church flowers (usually on Friday or Saturday morning)
  - Music: If you can sing or play an instrument and would like to help us with our Liturgies we would love to have your support.

- Driving to Mass
  A roster of drivers to pickup and return parishioners for our weekend Masses, from around the Parish.
Please place the name of the family member in the column opposite the Ministry or use one sheet per family member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministries where you would like to offer assistance</th>
<th>Name of Family Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lector Reading the Scripture during our Weekend Masses</td>
<td>6.00 pm 8.30 am 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commentator Leading our Community as we gather during the Weekend Masses</td>
<td>6.00 pm 8.30 am 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Ordinary Minister of the Eucharist - expression of interest</td>
<td>6.00 pm 8.30 am 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping to distribute Holy Communion during Mass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Gifts Families carrying the Offertory Gifts during Weekend Masses</td>
<td>6.00 pm 8.30 am 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar Serving Assisting during Mass Year 4 and above boys and girls are welcome.</td>
<td>6.00 pm 8.30 am 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Liturgy of the Word for Children - expression of interest For children during the Sunday Mass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramental Preparation Providing preparation for the children not in our School for the reception of the Sacraments. (Teaching experience preferred)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piety Stall - Assistants Selling items in the Piety Stall after Weekend Mass</td>
<td>6.00 pm 8.30 am 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Ordinary Minister of the Eucharist to the Sick - expression of Interest Taking Holy Communion to those who are at home and unable to come to Mass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counting Collections Counting the Weekend Collections on Sunday morning (9.15 am - 11.45 am)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Instrument and / or Singer Providing music and leading during Weekend Masses: Musician Singer</td>
<td>6.00 pm 8.30 am 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drivers For Weekend Masses Driving elderly to Mass</td>
<td>6.00 pm 8.30 am 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Flowers Flower arrangements for weekend Mass on Friday or Saturday morning: Friday Saturday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar Linen Altar linen washing - pick up after weekend Mass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Cleaning Cleaning the body of the Church with a group - Friday or Saturday morning: Friday Saturday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care Support Emergency Home Help and Support in times of need: Meals, washing, cleaning etc., coordinated via our School.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMITTEES & TEAMS**

You are invited to express an interest in any of the following Committees & Teams. Fr Peter will follow up with you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Family Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy Ministry Planning our various Parish Liturgies during the year and on special occasions. Meets Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptismal Preparation Ministry Monthly preparation evening assisting those presenting their children for Baptism. (1st Wednesday of Month)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GodStart Team Distributing cards to children of Baptism families to the age of 4. An outreach group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Planning Committee Overseeing the maintenance of our parish plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - Candidate or Team Member Walking with those who would like to explore or embrace the Catholic Faith Team Candidate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of interest or gifts you have to share (not listed above):</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please return by Wednesday 12th February to the Church, Presbytery or School Office.*