"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 1
3rd February 2015

ST VINCENT DE PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

St Vincent de Paul Primary School

What Matters Most in 2015

Welcome to our new school year. As we begin to ponder on our school motto for this year, ‘What Matters Most’, let us look at scripture for guidance and inspiration. The story of Martha and Mary has great relevance for us in 2015 as our lives become increasingly busy. Please take some time to read this story and reflect on its meaning in your own lives as we leap into a year filled with new challenges.

At the Home of Martha and Mary

Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

On Thursday February 12th, our school community will celebrate Mass for the beginning of the school year. Please join us in this joyful occasion to celebrate our hopes and dreams for the year ahead.

RECONCILIATION

Also, the Reconciliation parent meeting is coming up on the 19th February at 7:30. Further information for those families will be given at a later date.
Dear Parents

Welcome to the start of the 2015 school year. I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday break and are ready for all that 2015 has to offer. We extend a special welcome to those children and families who are joining the St. Vincent de Paul School community for the first time.

Not only do we have new children joining the school but we also have a number of new staff. We welcome Adam Bremner, Tim Kirkpatrick, Stephanie Sullivan, Caitlin Elliott, Rachel Caruana and Monica Fazzari. We also welcome back Dacia Obilubek, Jo Bradshaw and Natalie van Zuiden.

As you are aware the children in each class were involved in a maths interview with their new teacher. This was to gain very important information about your child's strengths and needs in mathematics. We also gathered information on your child’s literacy capabilities at the end of last year. Both sets of data help guide the staff in the teaching and learning of your child. The literacy data for Prep children will be gathered in the coming weeks. Thank you for your support in using the online booking system to ensure this information was gathered on your child.

Our theme for this year is ‘What Matters Most?’ We will be exploring answers to this question throughout the year as we consider the different perspectives and ideas that both children and adults bring in reflecting on this question. We keep in mind the different pressures and demands that the community has on individuals and what is the most important to consider.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION IN AN IMPORTANT MATTER.

One of the children at St Vincent de Paul, Zayne Anderson in Prep, is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment for Luekeamia. Luekeamia is a blood cancer which severely suppresses his immune system and puts him at high risk if he develops chicken pox or measles. The risk for Zayne can be reduced by receiving a special injection as soon as possible after coming in contact with these illnesses.

It is very important therefore, that you let the school or Zayne's mother, Belinda knows immediately if your child develops chicken pox or measles, so that Zayne receives the protection injection at the earliest opportunity. This protection lasts for a few weeks only and must be repeated every time they come into contact with these illnesses.

Belinda's contact number is 0411 264 379.

Your child is at no risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and wellbeing of one of the members of our school community does depend on your help and cooperation. We thank you in advance for your support.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

The Opening School Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 12th 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.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Today you will receive information on how to book online for the Parent Teacher Meetings which will take place on Wednesday 14th February. The meetings are an opportunity for parents to share with your child's teacher information about your child. Bookings will open on Wednesday morning.
PREP ENROLMENT FOR 2016
Preparation is now underway for enrolment for Prep in 2016. 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 20th March.

GENERAL REMINDERS
Now that we have had a few days to settle into 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 handover 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.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION
The Parents Association is an important group within our school community which, as the name suggests, is composed from and organised by the school parents. The role of the Parents Association is to organise events and activities to raise funds for the school as well as provide opportunities for social gatherings. The Parents Association have most recently raised funds for the new decking area which was built last year. These projects would not have been possible without the work of the parents.

This year we are seeking a president for the Parents Association. Currently we have a Vice-President, a treasurer and a secretary. The role would be for 2015 only with the Vice-President assuming the role in 2016 as part of the succession plan. We have some parents who have already volunteered to organize different events during the year which is reflective of our strong parent community. If you are at all interested or would like to find out more about the role and what it involves could you please contact me and I will happy to answer your questions.

PARISH NEWS

RECONCILIATION:
Parent meeting: Thursday 19th February at 7.30pm
Family Mass: Saturday 21st February and Sunday 22nd February
Celebrations: Wednesday 11th March and Thursday 12th March at 7.00pm

CONFIRMATION:
Parent meeting: Thursday 23rd April at 7.30pm
Family Masses: Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May
Celebrations: Friday 25th May at 7.00pm and Saturday 30th May at 6.00pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:
Parent meeting: Thursday 30th July at 7.30pm
Family Masses: Saturday 1st August and Sunday 2nd August
Celebrations: Saturday 29th August, Sunday 30th August, Saturday 5th September and Sunday 6th September
POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR COACHES
St Vincent's Netball club is based in Strathmore. We play in the VBCCACNAI Competition, which takes place on Saturday afternoons from 12pm to 4.30pm.
The season commences mid-March 2015, and ends Late August plus finals.
We currently have 13 teams and are in need of coaches for 4 of them. 2 x Under 11 teams, & 2 x Under 13 teams
Requirements:
- Preferred Foundation level – will provide course if needed.
- 1 hour training session, Mon-Fri preferably between 3.30 – 7.00pm
- ½ hour Pre-game warm-up & game day match.
- Presentation Night attendance
The successful applicant will have good leadership and communication skills and the ability to teach girls from 9-13 years of age.
This is a voluntary position and would suit someone aspiring to be a coach, and wanting to get some experience under their belt.
Contact Details:
For further information please contact Romy Pane – admin@stvincentsnetball.com.au
We are looking to fill these positions by end of February.

Skoolbag
An App to improve communication to all families is now available on both iPhone/iPad and Android.
The Skoolbag app is NOW available; we are asking ALL parents to install our Skoolbag Communication App.
We are heading in this direction because the newsletter has over time become increasingly larger in size and the paper usage has reached an unmanageable level.
Not only is this for newsletters, but it will also be used to provide you with updates on bus arrival times from excursions, cancellations of sport days due to inclement weather etc. These notices will be sent to you through push notifications.
Please find attached to this newsletter instructions on how to upload the Skoolbag App.
Looking to the future we would like to reduce the number of newsletters printed to avoid the wastage of paper.
Below is a tear off slip which we would like you to fill out. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE PAPER COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER.

CONFIRMATION OF PAPER COPY OF NEWSLETTER

NAME: __________________________________________

CHILD NAME: __________________________ CLASS: __________________________

PLEASE RETURN INFORMATION BY 10TH FEBRUARY 2014
Skoolbag is a mobile App for St Vincent de Paul Primay School to allow us to communicate directly to parents. It works both on smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets) Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents.

This App will be used to receive

- Free Push notification alerts
- School Newsletters
- School Documents
- School Events

**HOW TO INSTALL SKOOLBAG ON YOUR SMARTPHONE**

Simply search for ‘St Vincent de Paul Strathmore’ in the Apple App Store

Select install on your phone, wait for the App to install

Open the App make sure you select “OK” to allow push notifications. This will allow us to update information to you for bus arrival times, cancellations of sports days due to inclement weather etc.

Click “More” then “Setup” and select the year level which you would like to receive notifications for

**HOW TO INSTALL SKOOLBAG ON YOUR ANDRIOD**

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Click “More” then “Setup” and select the year level which you would like to receive notifications for
YEART 2016 ST COLUMBA’S COLLEGE APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLMENT
Applications for Year 7 2016 at St Columba’s College can be lodged by contacting the College Registrar, Josie Zanic, on 9331 9128 or zanij@columbia.vic.edu.au to request that an application form be sent. Applications can also be downloaded from the College website at www.columbia.vic.edu.au
Applications for Year 7 2016 close on Friday 27th February 2015.

School Tours
Bookings for School Tours can be made via the website or contacting the Registrar.

YEART 2016 SCHOLARSHIPS
St Columba’s College is offering a limited number of scholarships for prospective Year 7 2016 students. Details and online application are available on the College website at www.columbia.vic.edu.au Application closing date 6th March 2015.

Ave Maria College Enrolment Applications 2016
Applications for Enrolment for Year 7 2016 are currently being accepted by the College. All families, including families with another daughter currently enrolled at the College, must submit an Application for Enrolment. All applications are considered according to the criteria listed in the College Enrolment Policy.
Applications for Year 7 2016 close on 27 February 2015. Late applications are considered in order of receipt.
To organise a copy of the College Prospectus, organise a College tour or for further information, please contact the College Registrar, Ms Carmel Brewster on 9331 9308.

Tours of the college for 2015 are as follows:

Monday 9th February, Tuesday 10th February, Monday 16th February, Thursday 19th February, Monday 23rd February, Tuesday 24th February, Wednesday 4th March, Tuesday 10th March, Monday 16th March, Tuesday 24th March, Monday 13th April, Wednesday 15th April, Thursday 30th April, Friday 1st May, Wednesday 6th May, Friday 15th May, Tuesday 19th May, Wednesday 27th May, Tuesday 2nd June, Wednesday 10th June, Monday 15th June, Tuesday 21st July, Wednesday 22nd July, Wednesday 29th July.

Each tour commences at 9.00am. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL – TELEPHONE 9289 1103. For further information please contact the Registrar on 289 1103.

MOONEE VALLEY NEWS

ARE YOU THE PARENT OR CAREGIVER OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY?

Join us for a free seminar and learn more about the core principles of positive parenting.

Additional information available at the school office.
ST VINCENT DE PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL – 2015 CALENDAR

FEBRUARY
9th  9.00am – 12.30pm Swimming Trials Year 4 – Year 6
11th Parent Teacher Conferences 1.30pm
12th Beginning of School Year Mass 10.00am (All Welcome)
16th Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass 10.00am
19th Prep Testing
20th Reconciliation Parent Meeting 7.00pm – 8.00pm
21st Assembly Year Six (Hall 2.30pm)
22nd Prep and New Families BBQ
25th Prep Testing
26th Year Three Family Mass
27th Whole Swimming Day Oak Park Pool
27th District Tennis Trial

MARCH
3rd  2015 School Photos
4th  Year Two Mass (10.00am)
6th  Gala Day – Year Five
9th  Assembly Year Four - 2.30pm Hall
11th  LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
12th  School Tours
13th  Year One Mass (10.00am)
14th  Reconciliation (7.30pm-8.30pm)
15th  School Tours
16th  Divisional Swimming Oak Park
19th  Reconciliation (7.30pm-8.30pm)
20th  gala Day – Year Five
21st  Prep Family Mass
25th  Prep Family Mass
17th  Year Six Camp
18th  Year Four Mass
19th  Easter Event Year Three and Four
20th  Year Six Camp Return
20th  Assembly Year Five – 2.30pm Hall
24th  Regional Swimming
26th  Stations of the Cross – 11.40am
27th  END OF TERM ONE – STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 1.30PM

APRIL
13th  TERM TWO BEGINS
22nd  Year Five Mass
24th  Assembly Year Three – 2.30pm Hall
25th  Winter Sports Begin
29th  ANZAC DAY
30th  Year Four Mass
30th  Confirmation Parent Meeting

MAY
2nd  Year Six Family Mass
3rd  Year Six Family Mass
6th  Year One Mass
8th  District Cross Country
12th  Assembly Year Two – 2.30pm Hall
12th  NAPLAN
13th  NAPLAN
14th  Year Prep Mass
20th  Year Two Mass
22nd  Assembly Year One – 2.30pm Hall
27th  Year Three Mass
28th  Divisional Cross Country
30th  Confirmation

JUNE
3rd  Year Five Mass
5th  Assembly Year Prep – 2.30pm Hall
6th  QUEENS BIRTHDAY
11th  Regional Cross Country
13th  Year One Family Mass
14th  Year One Family Mass
17th  Year Four Mass
19th  Assembly Year Six - 2.30pm Hall
24th  Year Three Mass
28th  END OF TERM TWO – STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 1.30PM
2015 TERM DATES
TERM 1
Wednesday 28th January – Friday 27th March
Student return on Monday 2nd February
(Easter 3rd – 6th April)
TERM 2
Monday 13th April – Friday 26th June
TERM 3
Monday 13th July – Friday 18th September
TERM 4
Monday 5th October – Wednesday 16th December
SCHOOL HOURS 2015
MONDAY – FRIDAY
8.50AM – BELL - 3.30PM
RECESS
11.00AM – 11.30AM
LUNCH
1.30PM – 2.30PM
(1.30pm – 1.40pm Students eat their lunch under supervision)
AFTERNOON
2.30PM – 3.30PM