**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Friday 25 November**
- 1/2 level Assembly
- Grade 3/4 Big Day Out / sleepover

**Sunday 27 November**
- Advent Family Mass at 11 am and welcome to new Preps

**Monday 28 November**
- Twilight Sports 3pm-5pm at St. John’s College Dandenong

**Tuesday 29 November**
- Whole School / Graduation Photo 9 am
- Lockdown Drill at12 pm
- Junior Basketball
- Parent – Child Sexuality evening for Grades 3&4 Parents and Children 7pm in the PLC

**Thursday 1 December**
- Talent Show 11.30am
- Senior Basketball

**Friday 2 December**
- PFA
- Farewell Celebration for Mrs. Matheson
  - 2pm Whole School Mass in the PLC
  - 3.20 School Dismissal
  - 4pm Gather in the Piazza with the School Choir
  - 4.15pm Afternoon Tea
  - 5pm Speeches and Farewell Presentation

**Tuesday 6 December**
- NSAB Meeting 5
- Junior Basketball

**Wednesday 7 December**
- Grades 1/2 and 3/4 Christmas Play – Middle Block

**Thursday 8 December**
- Senior Basketball

**Friday 9 December**
- PFA
- Grade 6 Graduation Assembly
- Choir at Knox 9am-11am
- Choir at Endeavour Hills 5.30pm

**Tuesday 13 December**
- Gr 6 Graduation at 6pm in Church and Hall for Presentations, Dinner + Disco

**Wednesday 14 December**
- Orientation Grades 1-6 from 9.30am – 11 am
- Grade 6 Students start at 11.30am

**Thursday 15 December**
- Whole School Mass 9.15am
- Bush Dance 11.30am—1.30pm followed by a sausage sizzle.
- Assembly Farewell Mrs. White 2.30pm
- Senior Basketball

**Friday 16 December**
- PFA
- End of Year Assembly and Farewell at 9.30 am
- Thank you morning for parents at 10:30am
- School finishes at 1.20pm

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**PRAYER**

**Prayer for Advent**

Lord Jesus, in these four busy weeks of Advent, help us to pause to remember the depth of your love for us. Beyond anything we deserved or could have imagined, love led you to a stable in Bethlehem and all the way to Calvary. Open our hearts to welcome you anew so that we have something to share with a needy world each day. Grant us the joy of Your friendship and bring us the strength, courage and determination to serve our brothers and sisters in Your name. Amen

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**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS**

**Time for Farewells**

As we conclude this very exciting year, it is also a time for endings and time to say farewell to some of our SPAN family.

This year we will be farewelling Mrs Carol Matheson who has worked at St Paul Apostle North for 29 years! Carol has been our sensational Prep teacher and I know that just like the staff, you have been touched by Carol’s amazing contribution to ensuring our young children certainly get off to a flying start at our school. On Friday 2nd December we will gather for a Mass and afternoon tea in honour of Carol. It will be a special time when we can gather to say a very special thank you and show Carol just how much we have valued her contribution to our school and to Catholic Education.

After only one year as an outstanding graduate teacher, we will also be farewelling Mrs Erica Hudson. Erica has been a sensational Grade 3/4 teacher this year and, in just such a short time, has made a great contribution to our school. Erica will be moving to the United Kingdom in 2017 as her husband takes up a job opportunity overseas. We are certainly going to be waiting with open arms for Erica’s return to Australia and hope she decides to return to St Paul Apostle North in the near future.

Finally, by now you would have heard that, after 10 years as Principal at St Paul Apostle North, I will be moving at the end of this year to take up a new appointment as Principal of St Francis de Sales Primary School, Lynbrook. Being offered a position of Principal is a great privilege but to be offered an appointment as Principal in your home parish of St Paul Apostle, is the ultimate honour and privilege. I have enjoyed the amazing journey we have been on together and there is so much to be thankful for. I feel very blessed to have worked in this dynamic community and to have shared the journey with you. I will speak more about this in the days to come but I just wanted to let you know how thankful I am for the many blessings I have experienced and the sheer joy of supporting our children over the past ten years. I have enjoyed the best ten years of my teaching career at St Paul Apostle North.

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**TERMS 2016**

**Term 1:** 29th Jan-24th Mar **Term 2:** 11th Apr-24th June **Term 3:** 11th Jul-16th Sep **Term 4:** 3rd Oct-16th Dec

**SCHOOL GATES**

Please note that, for the safety of your children, the school gates will be locked between 9.00am and 3.10pm every day. The gates will be opened around 2.20pm on a Friday for parents wishing to attend Assembly. The gates will be locked again from 3.40pm. Please ensure that you do not park at the back of the school after this time as you will be locked in.

**Canteen**

The canteen operates every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please go to the school website for the current price list and ordering procedures.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

The Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday from 8.30am-10.00am in the Specialist Block.

Uniforms can also be purchased directly from our suppliers, KLAID Sports (8 Macro Court, Rowville. 9763-0266). Good quality secondhand uniforms are also available. Please enquire at the school office.
This awesome community, inspirational staff and sensational children will always hold a special place in my heart. I wish SPAN nothing but the very BEST and I look forward to seeing it continue to grow and develop as an exceptional place of learning in the years ahead.

This weekend we will be welcoming our New Preps for 2017 at our Family Mass at 11am in the St Paul Apostle Church. Let us truly be ‘One Family’ and I invite all children from Prep to Grade 6 to come to this Mass on Sunday 27 November. If you work and cannot attend any of the farewells during week days, this will also be a great opportunity to meet and celebrate together.

If your child is leaving at the end of this year, it is important that you inform the class teacher and the school office in writing. It is vital that we know this information before we commence the process of organising class groupings for 2017. Groupings are more fluid in our open learning spaces as children are regularly grouped for clinics to meet their learning needs. They therefore have contact with all teachers within the learning community. However, from Grades 1 to 6 we do have home groups. All children will be asked to nominate three preferences of a friend they would like to be with. Teachers will use this information, plus their knowledge of the entire cohort of children, to determine the best groupings. This is a complex task!! If you have anything you believe we need to know please put this in writing by Monday 28 November. We do not take requests for particular teachers but will consider genuine concerns regarding wellbeing and learning.

Our class structure for 2017 will remain the same with three Grade 1/2s, three Grade 3/4s and three Grade 5/6s for 2017. The prep children will remain as one group with two teachers to enable greater flexibility of grouping based on needs.

New Improvements: In the last few weeks you will see some changes take place around the school and others you will see on your return in 2017.

- Look out for a new street sign. (Digital version needs to wait for council approval but a new sign is expected before the end of 2016!!)
- Basketball boards will go up in the next few weeks too.
- We are obtaining quotes for a new back fence to be installed over the summer holidays. If you are in this line of business please call us to arrange a quote.
- The paving stones with family names will be ordered next week. This is your final chance to place an order. The new pavers will be laid early 2017 and we will have the BIG reveal at the Cultural Fiesta on 24 March 2017. Call the office for an order form and make a payment before 30 November.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**THIS SUNDAY’S GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 24:37-44**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.’

**WHOLE SCHOOL FAMILY MASS - SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2016**

**AT ST PAUL APOSTLE CHURCH**

A reminder that our Whole School Family Mass (Grade Prep - 6) will be held at 11 am this Sunday, 27 November 2016 in the St Paul Apostle Church.

This is a very special time in our lives where we begin the Season of Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. At this Mass, we will celebrate the closing of the Year of Mercy and what this means for all of us. We will also welcome our new Prep families and students into our St Paul Apostle Family. Please join us for this special event.
This Sunday will be the first Sunday in Advent – the beginning of the Church’s liturgical year. It is a season made up of the four Sundays before Christmas. The readings of Advent encourage us to prepare, to wait in patience and hope, because the Lord’s coming is near. There are many traditions and customs associated with Advent. The Advent wreath is probably the most popular, but there are others equally significant. The Jesse Tree and the Advent calendar also provide rich and prayerful traditions that can be explored with your family.

An **Advent Wreath** is a circle of greenery with four candles. It is usually placed on a prayer table or the dining table. Three candles are purple and one is pink, but white candles can also be used.

The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. The candles symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. There are four candles, each one representing the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent. Sometimes another white candle is placed in the center of the wreath. This is the Christ candle and we light it on Christmas Day to remind us that Jesus gives light to the world.

**November 27th is the First Sunday of Advent** and it is on this day that we light the first purple candle known as the ‘Candle of Hope’.

As you light the first Advent Candle, you may like to pray with your family........

*Father in Heaven, We have many hopes and dreams
  that we hardly dare admit to ourselves.*

*Our hearts are longing for the warmth of your love.*

*Our minds are looking for the light of your Word.*

*We wait now for your love and your light* coming to the world in Jesus Christ at Christmas. Amen

Monique Fallace - Religious Education Leader

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**CLASSROOM NEWS**

**Art News:** We have been as busy as ever in the Art Room making, painting, sculpting, dotting, cutting, stamping and scraping. The drying racks have been full after glorious masterpieces. The Preps have been using the colour wheel to make wonderful flower collages and, with Summer just about here, we have painted some beach scenes. We have constructed some bright beach houses to glue on top. The 1/2’s have been getting messy with the paint exploring textures and printing circles on top to prepare for our Kandinsky Flower Collages and they have also drawn themselves swimming or floating in water. The senior school have been going “dotty” with lots of dot painting to decorate PVC pipes that will eventually decorate a space in the school. The 3/4’s have painted wonderful Fairy-tale portraits of Kings and Queens experimenting with double-dipping and mixing colours on the paper.

**Library News:** This week will be the last week for children to borrow. Could all children please return their library books by next week. This will help us get all resources returned and shelved for the end of the year.

**Canteen News:** **Chicken Wraps Available this Term for $4**

The Canteen will introduce a new item on the menu starting Friday 25 November 2016

*This is a trial only till the end of the term.*

- Chicken Wraps (with lettuce, tomato and mayo) $4
- Chilli Chicken Wraps (with lettuce, tomato and mayo) $4

If these wraps are a hit with the children, we will add them to our Canteen Menu in 2017.
We have had a busy term in the Senior School. Here are some of our highlights!

The grade 5/6 students have been working on designing a floor plan for their dream home. This long-term project has covered several areas of the curriculum. During the design stage, students have applied their understanding of angles, area, perimeter, addition and multiplication. Student's then had to create a budget to purchase materials to construct their house. This required multiplying decimal numbers. They have also had to find the cost of installing carpet by multiplying the cost per square meter by the area of each room. Students have loved working on The Block: SPAN Edition.

In literacy students participated in team debates to discuss different health topics such as when children should go to bed and if the canteen should only serve healthy food. The 5/6's then used their debates to write persuasive texts. They have also been writing information texts about parts of the body. Students have used the internet to research their chosen topic and presented their learning on a poster.

This year our grade 5/6 students have been working in Leadership Groups to make our school a better place. They have had fantastic achievements such as running Nude Food Thursdays, SPAN Olympics, sport clinics and creative writing sessions, developing a new garden, and assisting with the running of special events such as Mental Health day and East Timor day.

They have also prepared a Leadership Transition Program themselves and are currently teaching the grade 3/4 students about leadership. They have developed a 5 week program which teaches the qualities of a leader, planning and goal setting, creative idea generations, teamwork and listening skills. The 3/4 students have loved working with our senior students and learning from them. The grade 5/6 students have really shown amazing leadership this year, and this has been a fantastic way to finish off 2016.

Twilight Sports
Monday 28 November
3pm to 6pm at
St John’s Regional College

The children have been practising for our Twilight Sports to be next Monday, 28th November, at St. John’s from 3-6 pm. Information has been placed on Care Monkey and we ask if parents could reply as soon as possible.

Children are asked to wear their house colour shirt to school and only bring a small bag to school that day containing water bottle, their normal lunch and an extra snack for the afternoon.

We will bus children to St Johns and we ask parents to provide transport home. At the completion of the carnival, parents may pick up their children from their class teacher who will make their name on the roll. If another parent is taking your child home, a note will be required.

We hope the children enjoy the Sports Carnival including events such as sprints, relays, long fun run, ball games and obstacle course/ tug of war. The carnival will conclude with a year 6 challenge & the Span Gift (fastest runners from each age group race). The children will earn house points for every event they do & we will announce the house winner at the conclusion of the Twilight Sports.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Thank you Mrs. Morgan.
COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Expectations of Parents
From time to time things happen that upset us and we need to remind ourselves and each other that, as adults we have a responsibility to, take a step back, look at things from the other person’s point of view and then respectfully work through the problem so that our children learn to also treat each other with respect even when there is disagreement or conflict. As a parent and role model, you play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of your child at St. Paul Apostle North School, particularly through your encouragement.

We expect that staff, students and parents observe our rules in all school interactions.

Parents Can Expect
• To be treated with courtesy, respect, honesty and fairness.
• A staff committed to creating a learning environment which is orderly, supportive and safe.
• Ongoing communication with the staff.
• Their child to receive fair and consistent treatment.

Parents Will Be Expected
• To be good role models by showing common courtesy, using appropriate language, being sensitive to individual needs, and being respectful to all staff and members of the school community.
• To be supportive of the school’s authority to maintain a safe, orderly, non-threatening environment.
• To deal with disputes with other families in the school community through the Principal or another member of staff delegated by the Principal. Parents are not permitted to approach another child about any disciplinary issue.
• To report to the school office with your child to collect a late pass when you arrive late.
• To report to the school office for an early departure notice when collecting your child for early dismissal.
• To ensure your child attends school regularly and punctually and explain absences and lateness to school.
• To attend information sessions in order to keep informed of school policies and programs.
• To participate in meaningful student/parent-teacher conferences to discuss your child’s school progress and welfare.
• To bring to the attention of the school any learning difficulty or special needs that may relate to your child’s education.
• To maintain up-to-date home, work and emergency telephone numbers and other pertinent information.
• To provide appropriate legal documents to the school regarding court intervention or custody orders.
• To observe the policy that smoking is not permitted on the school property.
• To follow the correct procedures for dropping off and collecting students from the school.
• To be responsible for property lost or damaged by your child.

It is the responsibility of the offended party to inform the Principal when a breach of this code occurs. The Principal will meet in turn with both parties together with another member of staff who will take minutes of the meetings.

Parents who are not prepared to adhere to the above code may be advised in writing by the Principal that they can no longer enter the school grounds.

Parents are reminded that under no circumstances are they permitted to discipline another child at the school. If there is any concern, all communication must be directed to the school Principal or class teacher.

Please keep the Meechan family in your prayers as Leif (Yr 6) and Zoe’s (Yr 5) father passed away on Sunday after being in hospital for a short time.

SAFE DRIVING
It’s in your hands!

DRIVING SAFELY AROUND OUR SCHOOL
Parents, Guardians and Carers, please drive safely around our School so that our children and families are safe at all times.

Last week a four wheel drive almost reversed into one of our families at the car park near the Christian School ground as it sped away.

Reverse responsibly. Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, in the driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing up. Teach your children to never play in, under or around vehicles.

Free Girls & Boys Football Superclinic on Sunday 11th December
The Rowville Football Club is holding its annual Free Football Superclinic for Girls and Boys 7-14 y/old on Sunday 11th December b/w 10:30am – Midday at Seebeck Oval in Rowville.

There will be lots of activities for the kids including some fun Inflatables and fun skills/drills overlooked by the Eastern Devils Womens VFL Players and some AFL Womens Players too. There’ll also be prizes & giveaways too and all Girls will receive a free $100 registration voucher!

This Football Superclinic is free and open to everyone so to reserve a spot for your child(s) please click on https://membership.sportstg.com/regoform.cgi?formID=64308 and or visit http://rowvillefc.org.au/2016/11/17/fun-free-football-superclinic/ for more info etc.
St Paul Apostle North Primary School OSHC

Welcome to OSHC!

Dear Parents and School staff,

Tips for helping children (and parents) feel comfortable in after school care:

1. Come into the program with your child to meet our Camp Australia team and find out what kind of activities they can look forward to.
2. Please let the Coordinator know by calling and leaving a message if the child is registered for After School Care and they will not be attending.
3. It is a good idea to enrol your child online 48 hrs prior to attending after school care if your child has any allergies or medical condition. Alternately, you are welcome to come and speak to the Coordinator a day or two prior for any medical conditions.
4. Feedback and suggestions are welcome, so, let us known how your child felt after their first visit.
5. Encourage your child to talk to the Educators if there is something in particular your child would like to do when they are in our care.

We’re here to make after school care visits the best experience possible, for you and your child.

If you have any questions about the program please feel free to drop by, meet the team and see what happens in After School Care first hand.

To find out more about our program, view fees and to register visit

Laura Cook –
Camp Australia Coordinator

OSHC Number: 0402360219

A big THANK YOU to all the families who came to the last Working Bee for the Year. A special thanks to the following families: Gardner, Isaac, Shivashankar, Ucar and Dujic.

We also wish to thank Esteban, Branka and Emily O.

Your help and support is very much appreciated.

Our gaga pit is almost finished but we are using it already and having great fun.

Reminder: Scholastic Book Club Orders are due in by Monday 28 November 2016.
You could also create your order online at : www.scholastic.com.au