Friday 27 November
♦ Mandarin Assembly at 2.30pm
♦ 3/4 BIG Day out + Sleepover
Sunday 29 November
♦ Prep Welcome Mass 11 am
Tuesday 1 December
♦ NSAB Meeting 5pm to 6.30pm
Thursday 3 December
♦ Market Day 9.30am-10.30am
♦ Grade Prep - 2 Mass
Friday 4 December
♦ PFA
♦ Assembly gr 5/6 at 2.30pm
♦ Graduates Network
Wednesday 9 December
♦ Whole School Nativity 6pm (at South School)
Thursday 10 December
♦ Grade 1/2 and Choir Members Performing at Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre 6 pm
Friday 11 December
♦ PUPIL FREE DAY (No School)
Monday 14 December
♦ Expo & Thank you morning tea for parents at 10:30am
Tuesday 15 December
♦ Orientation Grades 1-6 from 9.30am to 11am
Wednesday 16 December
♦ Gr 6 Graduation at 6pm in Church and Hall for Presentations, Dinner + Disco
Thursday 17 December
♦ End of Year Mass at 9:30 am

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**PRAYER**

The Lighting of the Family Advent Wreath

This Sunday, 29th November, is the first Sunday of Advent.

We begin the journey towards Christmas and light the first purple candle as a symbol of Hope. We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. (Romans 15: 12-13)

Creator God,
Awaken our eyes and open our ears to the sights and sounds of Advent. Awaken our hearts to the love and fun we share in our family. Jesus, shows us the kind of loving and compassionate people we can be.

Let us light each other’s way to Christmas by showing love for one another. Bless our family, friends and all those we encounter. Amen.

**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS**

The Year of Mercy

"We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (cf. Lk 6:36). Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee. We are about to commence a Holy Year of Mercy.

The Year of Mercy will commence on 8th December 2015, to commemorate both the feast of the Immaculate Conception; and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council, which called the Church to proclaim the Gospel to the world in new ways, bringing God’s mercy to everyone.

Pope Francis said,

"I am confident that the whole Church, which is in such need of mercy, for we are sinners, will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God’s mercy, with which we are all called, to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time. Do not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always. Let us never tire of asking for forgiveness. Let us henceforth entrust this Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey: our penitential journey, our year-long journey with an open heart, to receive the indulgence of God, to receive the mercy of God."

**TERMS 2015**
Term 2: 13th Apr-26th Jun
Term 3: 13th Jul-18th Sep
Term 4: 5th Oct-17th Dec

**SCHOOL SUPERVISION TIMES** 8.30am-3.40pm Supervision before school commences at 8.30am. Children should not arrive at school before this time. Students need to be at school by 8.45am for a 8.50am start. School finishes at 3.20pm. Teachers are on duty until 3.40pm. Students need to be collected by 3.40pm. The school has an Out of School Hours Care Program to assist parents who work or cannot make it to the school by 3.40pm.

**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, KLA Sports (8 Macro Court, Rowville. 9763-0266). Good quality secondhand uniforms are also available. Please enquire at the school office.
The logo and the motto together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year is all about. The motto, ‘Merciful, Like the Father’ (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36), serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father, who asks us not to judge or condemn; but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cfr. Lk 6:37-38).

We are invited to join in a year of special activities, action and reflection. You may like to join the first event for the Melbourne Archdiocese.

**‘WALKING INTO MERCY’ PILGRIMAGE TO ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL 13 December 2015**

St Patrick’s Cathedral, like churches around the world, will open a holy door of mercy to officially mark the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Archbishop Denis Hart will lead a prayer service followed by a picnic in the Cathedral grounds. Each ‘pilgrim’ is invited to bring a photo of someone who has been merciful to them or someone they wish to pray for during the Year, and place it on a ‘wall of mercy’ along the outside of the Cathedral.

This week, our staff met with Ingrid Green from the Catholic Education Office, to commence 2016 planning for our school community. We are excited by the possibilities of this year. We look forward to working with parents and students on this exciting journey.

In light of recent global events, it is very timely that we have an opportunity to think about what we can do to make a difference. We can make that difference in every interaction we have and in the choices we make as we journey together. We can open the door to our hearts and be friendly and welcoming, embracing and supporting others. As we approach Christmas, we can reflect with our children on the true meaning of Christmas. How can we share the peace, joy and love of Jesus, not just at Christmas, but all through the year? Christmas can be a lonely time for some, a sad time for those who have lost a loved one and an anxious time for those with financial difficulties. This Christmas, maybe we can be a bit more aware of those left out in the cold and think of ways we can include them.

As a school, we will be supporting the St Paul Apostle Christmas Hamper Appeal. Last year, you were incredibly generous and we ended up taking six large hampers to the church. We plan to make up four hampers this year. We invite families to contribute items for the hampers. We would like to fill them with all the nice things we would like to eat at Christmas, as well as gifts for the family. Level teams will send home some more details soon.

One of our school values and rules is, “I Care”. Next week, our students in Gr 3-6 will be holding a Market Day. They have set up their own businesses as part of an economics unit and will be making products to sell and will promote and run their stall. They hope to make a profit and will be donating the money raised to a charity. Please consider supporting the students in some way if you cannot attend or come and join this special event to help us help others.

Life is a journey and it is full of colour, texture and rich learning experiences. It does have its highs and lows; and this is part of the natural rhythm. As parents and teachers, we play a critical role in helping our children be resilient to cope with and learn from the lows. The actions and words of adults provide valuable examples to children. Let us help our children navigate life by being compassionate and merciful people; children who are kind and thoughtful and able to forgive others as well as be generous and inclusive. This is what it means to belong to our school, St Paul Apostle North. This is what it means to follow in Jesus’ footsteps. Let us start to make a difference and embrace this Holy Year of Mercy.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ADVENT**

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 29th** 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._

During the season of Advent we try to be people who say ‘yes’ to God. We can think about doing something like this:

- I will try not to do one thing that I know annoys others, like biting my fingernails, leaving the fridge door open or spending too long in the bathroom.
- I will remember one job that I have been putting off, like finishing my homework or cleaning my room.
- I will remember my chores without someone having to remind me.
- When someone wants to talk to me, I will stop what I am doing and really listen.

_Monique Fallace– Religious Education Coordinator_
RECONCILIATION 2015

Congratulations to the Grade 3 children who recently received the Sacrament of Reconciliation

CLASSROOM NEWS

Grade 1/2

We have 2 new members in our year level. Our pet fish, Thunder and Ruby! We have been busy writing about our new friends in Investigations! Some students have been comparing the difference between them and surveying people on which one is a girl or a boy. Others have written fantastic narratives or information reports on the two best friends.

We have been working hard on measurement in Mathematics. We have made measurement monsters and calculated their area, height and width using unifix for informal measurement and centimetres for formal measurement.

On the 11/11 we remembered those who lost their lives in World War 1. We created class wreaths made of poppies.  Ms. Sophie Winter

The Grade 1 and 2 children have recently completed their final assessments for the year and they have done amazingly! The teachers are very proud of these fantastic achievements and would like to congratulate the children for all of their hard work and excellent learning this year. The results are outstanding and show the wonderful progress the children have made over the year. They completed reading, comprehension, spelling, writing and maths assessments over the past fortnight. We look forward to sharing these wonderful results with you in their end of year reports.

Well done Grade 1/2s!  Mrs. Kirsty Staddon
Congratulations to Isha who won the School Recycling Calendar Competition

My teacher told me that I would be going to the Casey Council office to collect the award for my art work for the 2016 recycling calendar. When my mum drove me there, I was very excited and waiting to see what would happen next. When we got inside, there were some children from the other schools, who had also won awards. I was given two pencils, a ruler and markers made out of recycled things and something to eat. They also gave me two calendars and my artwork was on the April 2016 page. The Mayor gave a speech and we had our pictures taken with him, and one with the whole group.

I would love to draw an artwork for 2017. I think everyone should enter the competition because the whole city of Casey will get to see our art work for the year. (By Isha)

Art News

Here are the Preps looking very excited after making their first Christmas decoration. They can't wait until Santa arrives.

The Grade 3/4 children reflected on their school holidays using their collage skills. We had children making scenes from the Lion King, beach, parks and MCG, just to name a few.

During Nude Food week, the Grade 5/6 students made healthy fruit bowls using shape, colour, line and texture.

Thank you to all the students who really cooperated during my time in the Art room. Mrs. Lorraine Dorio

WELLBEING

Characteristics of Resilient Kids

What is Resilience? Resilience is the ability to cope and stay healthy in spite of the negative things that happen through life. Resilience is being able to cope with life’s ups and downs and to recover well when things go wrong.

Building resilience in children includes 5 areas:
1. Personal coping skills which include thinking in a healthy way so children can put things into perspective and build self-confidence.
2. Interpersonal skill development which includes making friends, managing feelings, dealing with conflict, seeking help and solving problems.
3. Developing individual coping strategies such finding something fun to do, meditating, writing in a journal and using an emotional thermometer.
4. Nourishing the spirit by putting into place a variety of preventative strategies that help to minimise stress such as spending a lot of time engaging in free play and being creative.
5. Providing lots of opportunity for children to make mistakes, deal with problems on their own and giving children appropriate independence.

Characteristics of Resilient People

- Ability to “bounce back” and “recover from almost anything”
- Optimistic, flexible thinking skills
- Have a “where there’s a will, there’s a way” attitude
- Tendency to see problems as opportunities to learn and grow
- Ability to “hang in there” or persevere and persist
- Have a strong authentic self esteem
- Capable of setting clear, realistic and attainable goals
- Have a healthy social support network
- Seldom dwell on the past or the future
- Learn from previous challenges and mistakes
- Able to put things into perspective
- Have a well-developed sense of humour
- Have meaningful involvement with others and in their community
- Treat themselves and others with respect
- Have problem solving and conflict resolution skills
- Values free time, relaxing and spending time on hobbies
Please remember to complete the Fee Payment Agreement 2016 and return to the office before Friday 4 December. A copy of the Form can be collected from the School Office.
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY REHEARSAL
AT SOUTH SCHOOL HALL
Wednesday, 9th December 2015

Rehearsal of the Christmas Concert will be held at St. Paul Apostle SOUTH SCHOOL HALL, 9 William Hovell Drive Endeavour Hills for Grades Prep to 6 on Wednesday, 9th December 2015 9 am to 2.30 pm. Students will travel by Bus.

Students need to bring their snacks and lunch in a plastic bag and need to wear School sports uniform.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
WEDNESDAY
9th DECEMBER AT 6 PM
AT SOUTH SCHOOL HALL

On Wednesday 9th December, Grades Prep to 6 will be performing a Christmas Concert in the hall at the South School. The play will begin at 6.00 pm and is a great way for the children to celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

All students from Grades Prep to 6 will be participating during the evening performance. It is an expectation that all students are involved in the school concert.

GRADE 1/2 AND CHOIR MEMBERS PERFORMING
A CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT THE ENDEAVOUR
HILLS SHOPPING CENTRE
Thursday 10th December 2015

On Thursday, 10th December, Grades 1/2 and Choir members will be performing a Christmas Concert at the Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre. The performance will begin at 6.00 pm and students are required to be at the venue by 5.30 pm.

Students who belong to the choir are required to wear the choir uniform and Santa caps. Grades 1 and 2 required to wear dark pants, Christmas colour tops and Santa caps.
St Paul Apostle North Primary School OSHC, 23rd November 2015

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.

Program Details

The children have been enjoying the OSHC program this week. The program has included a number of interactive games including Chess, Pictionary, and building/Construction activities. We have also been involved in numerous outdoor, arts and crafts and cooking activities.

At OSHC in Term 4 we will be participating in the Junior Global Citizenship Program. The children have shown an interest and made jigsaw puzzles and Board games to send to South Africa. As well as participating in the Junior Global Citizenship, we have been doing various cooking activities; this week we made iced biscuits and chocolate balls.

To find out more about our program, view fees and to register visit www.campaustalia.com.au

Laura Cook – Camp Australia Coordinator

OSHC Number: 0402360219

ST PAUL APOSTLE SOUTH – CHRISTMAS FAIR
SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2015 - 11AM – 5PM

Please join us for a day of fun and games with rides, stalls, trash & treasure, car boot sale, talent show, food and much more.

Santa will be here and you can have your photo taken with him.
Junior Registration Day for Season 2016

Rowville Football Club is looking for players from U8 to U17 age groups

The Clubs Official Registration day will be held at The Springvale Homemaker Centre, RFC Gold Partner and Melbourne’s Premier Homemaker Centre, come along and support the great sponsors that support our club.

Date – Sunday 29th November 2015

Location – Springvale Homemaker Centre Princes Hwy & Westall Rd Springvale VIC 3171

Time – 10am to 2pm

Springvale Homemaker Centre Website

We are pleased to advise that the NEW club Polo shirt will be included as part of the registration fee structure in 2016, meaning that all players from Under 9 to our Senior team will all receive the same shirt.

Our under 8’s will again receive a Club Registration
Pack as part of their fees, consisting of a bag, football.

RFC 2016 Season Junior Fee Structure
Under 8 – $180,
All other age groups – U9 to U17 1st Child – $230, 2nd Child – $200, 3rd Child – $180

All new club registrations will be required to complete a club registration form, EFL transfer form, code of conduct form (available on our website) and supply a copy of the child’s birth certificate.

For any enquiries please email registrations@rowvillefc.org.au