**PRAYER**

Jesus you are the light of the world.
As we await your coming at Christmas,
we pray that you will come into our heart,
that you will guide us in all that we do
and help us to be kind and good to each other.

**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS**

What an incredibly wonderful way to end our 2015 school concert with this wonderful song with such meaningful words. A BIG congratulations to Mrs Marilyn Noronha, our Performing Arts teacher for writing the script, for some of the song arrangements, for additional songs like ‘Bethlehem’, preparing the children to perform Hosanna Rock and for the sensational singing by the choir and all the grades. Thanks also to Mrs Kay Robinson for writing the play the First Christmas for the Grade Prep-2 part of the concert. It was a great team effort that could not have been achieved without the support of all staff. I am just immensely proud of our school, our students, our staff and our community. Thanks to parents who attended this lovely night too and all who helped with the costumes, set up and pack up. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did!!

Hosanna Rocks and so does SPAN!!!

**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, KLAD Sports (B Macro Court, Rowville.  9763-0266).  Good quality secondhand uniforms are also available.  Please enquire at the school office.
The choir and Grades 1 & 2 were also fabulous as they entertained shoppers last Thursday at the Endeavour Hills shopping centre. They were accompanied by live musicians! Mrs Noronha on keyboard; and from the parish choir Mr Lester Concessio on guitar and Mr Johann Don on the Mandolin. Many thanks to our two musicians from our parish, who gave so generously of their time to rehearse with the children during the day; and return for the performance in the shopping centre.

Lift your banners high may our friendship never cease!

At the end of a year, it is a time we bid farewell to some of our families and staff; but we certainly hope that the connections we have made through the years we have travelled together, will remain strong in the years ahead.

Firstly we say congratulations and wish our Class of 2015 the very BEST as they move on to various secondary schools in 2016. Our Grade 6 Graduation Mass in on this Wednesday 16 December at 6pm and we invite all families to come and celebrate with us. For the first time we will have a joint dinner after the graduation. as we start a new tradition. This year we have over 120 people joining the staff and Grade 6 students for this special celebration.

We also sadly bid farewell to some of our staff, who have been a very special part of our SPAN journey and our SPAN family. It is with sadness that we will be farewelling Mrs Juliette Foenander at the end of this year. Mrs Foenander has been a valuable and much loved member of staff for the past nine years. Juliette has taught Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 over these years. Juliette has also led our SRC and has passionately led activities like our Clean up Australia day; and more recently our Kitchen garden program for Grade 3/4 students. Juliette is taking some well-deserved long service leave and will take the year to explore other options as well as travel. We wish Juliette the very BEST as she opens new doors.

At the end of this year we also farewell Mrs Mary-Jane Demaio, who has decided to retire from teaching. Mrs Demaio has been a valuable and loved teacher and staff member at our school since joining our staff in 2010. Mrs Demaio has given so much to Catholic Education in a career spanning 39 years. She began her teaching career at St Edmond’s, Croydon, taught at St John Vianney’s, Mulgrave, St Elizabeth’s North Dandenong, St Anthony’s Noble Park and Sacred Heart Oakleigh. She has held leadership positions and was Deputy Principal for many years at Sacred Heart. Mrs Demaio has given passionately to each community she has worked in and I know this is certainly the case during her time with us. She has touched the hearts and minds of her students and built wonderful relationships with staff and parents. Mrs Demaio has been on long service leave for the past semester to care for her husband and family. We thank Mrs Demaio for all she has done while at SPAN; and pray for all God’s blessings for her in the days ahead.

This year we also farewell Mrs Bev Eustace who has so expertly run our school canteen for many years. Bev’s children were among the first to be enrolled at St Paul Apostle North and she very quickly joined the PFA and was an active member of the school community. Along with her husband Peter they helped move mountains of soil for the current oval when Fr Frank ran out of money for earth works when the first portables arrived 30 years ago!!! Bev has been an exceptional staff member helping not just with the canteen but has also helped us with our special events, like our Cultural Fiestas and PFA fundraising over the years. The tradition of our Grade 6 Graduation lunch was always expertly coordinated by Bev. Bev has also been on long service leave this semester and plans to enjoy her grandchildren and discover Australia with Peter in their new deluxe campervan.

At the end of the year we also say farewell to Miss Alex Vasiljevic who joined us in Semester two this year as our PE teacher. Alex took our P-2 children during Term 3 and our P-6 students in Term 4. We thank her for her contribution to our school program and staff team since she commenced with us this semester. We wish her the very best in her teaching career.

At the end of this year, it is also with great sadness that we say farewell to Mrs Helen Greenhill, Principal of St Paul Apostle South since 2008. Helen commenced shortly after I started at St Paul Apostle North; and as also members of this parish we formed a strong partnership and friendship over these years. Helen was a past staff member of St Paul Apostle North and taught our preps with Mrs Matheson and thus has always had a soft spot for us. I am very grateful for Helen’s support over the years as we worked together on the Education Board and met and chatted on our combined vision to enhance the education and profile of the two Catholic Schools in Endeavour Hills. We both remember the days when the children in both schools were anything but friends and are both delighted at the great change when our two schools meet now, truly as ‘One Family’. It was great to share stories and help each other through the massive BER building programs of 2009/2010 and delight at the improvements for both schools. Helen has been very generous in many ways, supporting our school in countless ways. I will certainly miss her and wish her the very BEST as she enjoys her retirement with her family.

To all families, staff and students we farewell this year our blessings:

May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face.  
And rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.  
You are my Brother, You are my friend  
You are my sister, Our love should never end
We are delighted to announce the very early arrival of little Miss Georgia. Georgia is the very precious daughter of Leonie and Phillip. We congratulate Leonie our Visual Arts Teacher and join in her excitement of this very early Christmas gift. We look forward to celebrating with Leonie for a staff baby shower this Tuesday.

**Lift your banner high, work for justice and for peace**

It is also with great pride I announce that our children raised nearly $1500 at the Grade 3-6 Market Stalls last week. The money raised from their own business as part of the Economics study, will go to a few different charities close to the heart of our 2015 senior students. Well done on a super effort.

Congratulations also to our community who have helped us make up four large hampers for needy local families. The hampers were presented to Fr Tim for distribution at the hamper Mass last Sunday. A great way to commence the Year of Mercy.

At the end of a very successful year for our school, I take the time to thank our staff for their great above and beyond commitment and professionalism to the school. We are a very great team and passionately enjoy our work at St Paul Apostle North. We are indeed fortunate to have such a sensational staff. Thanks also to our wonderful parents who have worked in partnership with us this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed our Friday PFA meetings and making dreams a reality with a very friendly group of parents. It was also great to get valuable feedback and plan with our North School Advisory Board and Education Board and I look forward to working closely with you in 2016. This year we farewell and thank Mrs Kerry Liang and Mrs Angela Amoretti from the NSAB and thank them for their valuable support in these roles. (If you are interested in joining the board please email me.) There are many who give to the school in countless ways big and small and are always doing their part to positively impact our school. You are our treasure and your promotion of the school not just helps our students programs; but also increases our enrolments and helps with fund to improve our school. Just last week alone we have had six new students join our school. I thank you and look forward to working with you to ensure further improvements in 2016. Finally a BIG thank you to all our fantastic students!! You put a smile on my face every day and make working at St Paul Apostle North the BEST job in the world. I am delighted by your growth and development and wonderful achievements this year. Well done.

A very merry and peaceful Christmas to all our families. I hope you have a very Holy and blessed Christmas and a wonderful start to the New Year. Enjoy some time of rest with your family. I look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

**Lift your banners high, for in Jesus name we stand.**

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**CLASSROOM NEWS**

**Grade 5/6 News**

In the Grade 5/6 Economics Unit, the students learnt about how businesses work, they explored costs and profit, market demand and consumer decisions and their impact. They put their learning into a practice by developing their own businesses and products to sell at the SPAN Market Stall on Wednesday 4th December. There were many stalls to visit, including: a soccer arcade, an ice-cream bar and a mini doughnut stand, just to name a few.

All 5/6 children put in a great deal of effort and their hard work was rewarded with an overall profit of $935, which will now be donated to charity. Thank you for coming along and making the Market Stalls are great success!

**Music News**

Our Christmas Concert this year, involving every student, has provided our students with the opportunity to develop and display their immense potential.

Marilyn Noronha (Performing Arts Teacher)
**Christmas Carols** are an intrinsic part of our Christmas celebrations. At this time of the year, as we listen to and hum our favourite Christmas songs, we sometimes wonder when this custom started.

The word “carol” originally meant a song and dance of praise and joy. Carols were especially composed for the festivities by which people in Western Europe celebrated the four different seasons of the year, centuries ago. When the influence of Christianity spread, carols were written with Christian themes and sung to celebrate Christmas. By the Middle Ages, they were a definite part of the church services, but as they were written and sung in Latin, they were not too popular with the congregation, because it was difficult to understand what the lyrics meant and the tunes were rather solemn and boring. This changed around 1200 A.D. when St. Francis of Assisi, started Nativity plays in Italy. The Nativity story was sung and the performers often used the local language so that the audience could understand and participate in the performance. These songs formed some of the earliest Christmas Carols. As time went on, they were sung not only in churches, but in homes as well. Travelling minstrels performed them, adapting the words and tunes to suit different local audiences. One of these carols that has survived from this time and is still sung today, is – “I Saw Three Ships”.

When the Roundheads came to power in England, carol singing was banned and for a time, went out of fashion. It became popular again in Victorian times. Orchestras and choirs performed Christmas carols and groups of people went carol singing in their neighbourhoods. Most of the carols we know and love were written during this period.

Today Christmas Carols are very much a part of our Christmas celebrations. We enjoy singing and listening to carols from many different countries, in a variety of languages. Carols are sung in in homes and in public places. They are featured on television shows and performed in theatres by famous orchestras and choirs. Carols by Candlelight services are held all over the world. Christmas Carols remind us of the message of Christmas – “Joy, Love and Peace to all people of goodwill”. May these blessings be yours this Christmas!

Marilyn Noronha
Performing Arts Teacher

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**WOW!** This year has certainly gone quickly. Our Investigation Areas have helped to reinforce our Literacy and Numeracy skills. Through role playing, we have learnt to work in a team, share our resources and to include everyone. In Religion, we have celebrated God’s Creation, Easter, Lent, God’s love as well as the birth of Jesus. In Maths, we have explored measurement, area, perimeter, fractions, money, time; we have partitioned 2 and 3 digit numbers and learnt to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems. In Literacy, we have written Narratives, Information Reports, Recounts, Procedures, Poems and even written letters to Santa!

Thank you to all the wonderful children in grade 1 and 2; you have helped to make our year exciting and enjoyable! We would like to take this opportunity to wish our families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and joyous New Year.

The Grade 1 / 2 Team, Mrs Staddon, Mrs McNichol, Miss Winter, Mrs O’Regan, Mrs Marcolongo and Mrs Robinson

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**Numeracy**

We have come to another year here at SPAN. All testing has been completed and the teachers are very proud of how far their students have come.

Throughout the school there is still a lot of learning taking place. Students have experienced hands on activity in all grades. The students were able to see how Mathematics is applied in real life situations.

The Market Stall run by the Grade 5/6s and the Grade 3/4s was a huge success. The students were involved in the handling of money, budgeting and data collection.

The juniors were all involved in a variety of measurement activities during investigations and in the classroom Maths sessions. The Prep students measured and recorded their heights, the height of our Tomato plants and the length of a variety of objects using formal and informal units.

The 1/2s enjoyed measuring a variety of liquids to make their 600ml portions. During investigations volume and capacity were explored using a variety of equipment available.

Esther Atwell, Numeracy
Grade 3/4 Highlight of 2015
There was so much happening this Semester that it is difficult to choose a highlight but for us at 3/4 we have been looking forward since the beginning of this year to the BIG DAY OUT. It is probably because the Grade 4’s had built up the excitement for the Grade 3 students. Some Grade 3’s had mixed feelings as the day got closer but most of them couldn’t wait to get on the bus to visit Rayner’s Fruit Orchard. Nothing compared to picking fruit from the tree and tasting it. It was the most delicious fruit we had ever tasted and there were so many different types of fruit we lost count. Farmer Len’s tractor tour was bumpy and rough but lots of fun. We all got to bottle stone fruits and take our bottles after they went through the bottling process. On our way back we stopped over at Cardinia Reservoir Park and had a great time playing sport and games with our friends. When we got back to school we had dinner, watched a movie and then had to go to sleep. Some of us fell asleep as soon as the lights were turned off. We had yummy breakfast the next morning and soon our parents arrived to collect us. We can’t wait for next year’s BIG DAY OUT!

LEARNING & TEACHING NEWS

Learning & Teaching News
Tips to Keep Kids Learning During the Holidays

- For 10-15 minutes a day, review with your child maths concepts, spelling words, or sentence structure. You can also work together in starting a cool science project.
- Have your child read to you daily from the newspaper, a magazine, or excerpts from their favourite book, and let your child see you reading.
- Use the summer break to strengthen your child’s vocabulary. This is a perfect time to start a treasure chest of words, by having your child look up new words, and write the word and definition on cards. Use the word in a sentence or have them write a story based on the word. This exercise will reinforce reading comprehension and writing skills.
- Give your child an opportunity to appreciate the arts by attending free events like concerts or plays during the holidays, or stop by a local museum.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind Wishes, Elsa O’ Regan

End of Year Photos
Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a very happy, prosperous
New Year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS