Friday 16 December
♦ PFA
♦ End of Year Assembly and Farewell at 9:15 am

School finishes at 1.20pm

SCHOOL REOPENS ON 1 FEBRUARY 2017

Faith makes all things possible, Hope makes all things work, Love makes all things beautiful, May you have all the three for this Christmas

IMPORTANT DATES

PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

SPRING CLEANING

You are the Light of the world!

Have you stood on the water’s edge on a brilliant day totally mesmerised by the colour and vibrancy of the water, the soft warmth of the sand and the gentle caress of waves lapping over your feet? Or gazed up at the sky in the high country to see the brilliance of a million stars that make up our Galaxy? The night before my brother left India, I went with him and my sister in law on the back on a bike. We saw the most brilliant of Indian sunsets. It was so beautiful that we had to turn off the engine of the bike and just be still to soak it all in. It was breathtaking! I have never forgotten that moment or my magical childhood growing up in Calcutta.

Today I look at this amazing school community and I am mesmerised by each one of you. I feel the same awe, joy, immense love and pride as I did as a child leaving the country of my birth, and I want to stop time and soak it all in. I want to absorb the warm gold, orange and red hues that surround me so that everything about this moment, this place and this family and the experiences and journey we have shared will forever be etched deep into my heart and my mind.

I am so thankful for this time to pause, to breathe, to shine the light on all the dazzling gems and the elaborate and colourful fibres that have made up the exquisite tapestry of our journey together at St Paul Apostle North.

I have loved every bit of my ten years as Principal of this school. The challenges we have faced and the way we have persevered to learn, grow, improve and be brilliant together. It is the hardest thing in the world to leave a place I adore and a community I love. Like the joy of my childhood growing up in India, I will never forget this exquisite time I have had with you at St Paul Apostle North.

It has been the most amazing journey and I have so much to be thankful for…..

- I am thankful for Fr John Pierce who appointed me Principal of St Paul Apostle North. I am also thankful I did not listen to my husband, Martin, who said it would be too difficult to live and work in the same suburb. The opportunity to lead this school community in my home parish has been a real privilege.

- I am thankful for the Passionist community, Fr Tim, Fr Tony, Fr Xavier, Fr Jose, Fr Brian, Sister Bridget, Sister Joan and Sister Ann. Thanks to the office team, both past and present, with special thanks to the beautiful Bev RIP. How lucky we are in Endavour Hills to be surrounded by such brilliant minds and such wonderful support. It has been such a blessing being able to dialogue with you and you have enriched me and the school community by your presence. You are the framework, the ropes that grounds our work. Being able to work beside you in strengthening the Catholic Identity of our community has given meaning to each day, making it so personally rewarding.

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 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 2.00pm 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 (8 Macro Court, Rowville. 9763-0266). Good quality secondhand uniforms are also available. Please enquire at the school office.
• I am thankful to the Australian Government for the $2.5 million in 2009. This huge injection of funds and then the additional $3M from Catholic Education Melbourne supplementary grant has enabled us to change the learning spaces from portables to provide a contemporary and purpose built school that has not only been a great learning space, but has helped us build connections, improve communication, strengthen relationships and nourish our community. It will ensure that St Paul Apostle North is a great place for learning for years to come.

• I am thankful to the parents and school community who have added the sparkle to our days by becoming involved and building a valuable partnership. Parents who have given so generously of their time in working bees, NSAB and the PFA. You have been vibrant colourful fibres weaving through our tapestry and enabling us to realise so many dreams. Thank you for the FUN and the laughs. I will treasure our time together and have loved your positive energy that has continually boosted my spirits. The dialogue and connections have strengthened over the years and benefitted your children. The more we open the windows into learning and engage in rich dialogue the better outcomes we can achieve for the children. Thank you for trusting us with your most treasured little ones.

• I cannot be more thankful for our staff team. What an amazing professional and committed team of teachers! We have been on an amazing learning journey together. I have loved your honest and thoughtful feedback, the rich dialogue, your flexibility and openness to embrace new ideas. You have challenged me and as a result, I have grown so much in my years working with you. I was ecstatic by the data that affirmed all our hard work and acknowledged we are on the right path. It is all testament to the collaborative and supportive team that we are. Everyone is so important to making this school a great school and I am so blessed to have had such support. Thanks to our sensational passionate teachers and LSO’s, the above and beyond support from Este and family, the team at Before & After care, Reiner on our school crossings and to Jeevani and Paulita in the office. You are the gold dust and golden silk that make reaching for the stars a reality.

• On my right and on my left, walking side by side with me has been the leadership team. You have been a massive support to me and together we have ensured the great learning community we have here at Endeavour Hills. You have shared the dream, lived the dream and given everything to make it happen. I love your passion and it energises me. You are the colourful precious gems that ignite our tapestry. To Mary, Monique, Christine, Esther, Hedy, Casey, Elsa and Veronica, my thanks for walking the extra mile with me and ensuring that Every Face certainly Has A Special Place.

• The day Mary Lucas joined our team as Deputy Principal was both a miracle and a blessing. I thank God each day that I have had the privilege of working with you. I love that we decided to share an office. I am so going to miss our daily chats. Your vision, passion, commitment, unwavering support and loyalty were a gift to me and to all who have the joy of working with you. Thanks for your dynamic weaving skills. Words are not enough to thank you and I know we will continue to share the dream and build connections as friends and colleagues across our schools.

• My greatest blessings in my life are my husband Martin and my family. I could not have done this job without his love and support. Thanks for everything you have done and more. Thanks for all you constantly do to lessen my load at home and your generosity in giving so much to helping this school. Your kindness and thoughtfulness has enabled the tapestry to be woven and to be displayed.

• Finally my biggest thanks go to each of our students. You are the diamonds in this tapestry. You are the precious gifts that radiate and make being the Principal such an immense joy. You make everything we do so worth it. You fill my bucket and make it overflow. I am just so proud of each one of you and how much you have developed, not just in knowledge and skills, but in the way you relate to one another and seek to make a difference in the world. You are the BEST and make St Paul Apostle North an amazing place to belong to.

Remember that you are the light of the world here at St Paul Apostle North on the top of Endeavour Hills.

‘No one lights a lamp and puts it under a table. They put it on a lamp stand for all to see’ Matthew 5: 14-15.

You are the light! So you must let your light shine and use your gifts for others so that they can be more.

I have bought two red hearts to add to this gathering space. When you meet together in this space I want you to look at these hearts that have been placed up high and remember Jesus’ greatest commandment, ‘Love one another, as I have loved you.’ Look after one another and let your light shine. Shine for all the world. Go make a difference!

You hold a treasure that needs to be nurtured and cared for. You need to help one another so that they can shine too.

I now pass the precious light to Mrs Lucas — I know she will treasure the flame, fuel the fire and ensure it blazes brightly for all to see. I know you will support her and work together to add to the tapestry and enrich it further to make our school even better.
So now it is time for me to leave my boats behind. I will never forget you and you will always remain with me as I set my heart upon the deep and travel on to where God is calling me to go.

For all of my time at SPAN, I am so grateful. Thank you for the many blessings I have received. My bucket is overflowing with joy and pride.

Merry Christmas

Thank you for a wonderful year together. Thanks to all our staff and families for making 2016 such a special year. I congratulate our Class of 2016 on their graduation and wish them the very BEST for the future. We are so proud of the great leadership they have displayed this year. They have definitely raised the bar very high and been great role models for all who follow in subsequent years.

We thank all our families who are finishing at St Paul Apostle North this year. Thank you for entrusting your precious children in our care and for your support over the years. Special thanks to Susan Hannan and Rinku Arora for their valuable contributions and support to the school on the North School Advisory Board NSAB and Education Board.

We farewell Mrs Matheson who retires from on-going teaching and hope to see her back as a CRT. We also farewell Miss Erica Hudson who leaves for London over the holidays. Thanks to both teachers who have made a sensational contribution to our school. We wish them the very BEST for the future.

I wish all our wonderful students and families a very peaceful and Holy Christmas. As we celebrate and remember the wonderful Birth of Jesus Christ may the joy of the message of love, hope and peace bring every blessing to you and your family in the coming year. Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Many blessings on our school, St Paul Apostle North.

Christmas Mass times:

24 December 2016: Christmas Eve Masses:
- 7.00pm Children’s Mass
- 9.00pm Family Mass
- 11.30pm Christmas Carols followed by Midnight Mass

25th December 2016:
- 8.30am Carols followed by 9.00am Mass
- 11.00am Mass
- (no evening Mass on this day)

31 December 2016:
- 6.00pm Mass

1 January 2017: 9am, 11am & 6pm Mass

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Preps: Hands on activities were provided in Maths for the students. All children have a sense of achievement, completing activities they are proud of. This was evident in our ‘Number Roll’ activity where students were introduced to the constant function on a calculator. All students were given strips of paper and a calculator. We asked them to skip count in 2s.
- ‘I started to use calculator to count by 2s but it got quicker without it. I got up to 200’. Shanelle
- ‘I liked counting by 2s. The calculator helped me. I got up to 36. It was fun. I even do it at home’. Crystal
- ‘I liked using the calculator for figuring out the answer’s’. Samantha
- ‘I liked using the calculator it made counting by 2s easy. I went up to 120 on my strip’ Grace

We have come to an end of another great year. We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas.

1/2B:

The children have had an amazing time in Grade 1/2 this year. A highlight of the year was the Book Week Parade in the PLC.

The whole class dressed up in various characters. Another highlight was visiting the Docklands Lego Education Centre and Docklands Library. The children enjoyed creating various tools and machines using Lego. After the Lego experience, the children were given a tour of the library facilities and read books.
1/2C:

A memorable moment for 1/2 C this year was our excursion to the Lego Education Centre and the Docklands library. The students toured around the Docklands library and saw all the special facilities they had to offer. Everyone was very impressed with the views and interactive games which are available for anyone to use. At the Lego Education Centre, the students worked in groups to create a story using their narrative skills. They used an Ipad App and then created a model of their scene using the Lego. It was a fantastic day jam-packed full of fun that we will never forget!

1/2G: The Lego Excursion was awesome. We were building heaps of things using Lego. We learnt about Pulley systems and how they worked. The day was amazing.

3/4S: Our highlight was the Big Day Out and all the amazing places we visited in the city, especially the ANZAC Shrine as it was a very special place with a lot of history.

3/4K: It’s been a great year in our classroom. We’ve been to the museum, enjoyed a BIG Day Out in the city, created a beautiful Picasso cow and explored some awesome Inquiry topics.

5/6: The 5/6’s have had a fantastic year! The last couple of weeks we have been working hard on our ERPs and focusing on the Year 6 Graduation. This week’s Graduation celebration held at the South School was a great success! We will be very sad to see our Grade 6 students go and wish them all the best for the future. We are looking forward to seeing our Grade 5 students step up to be the leaders of the school in 2017.
COMMUNITY NEWS

We Are On The Bushfire-At-Risk Register (BARR)

The Department of Education and Training (DET) works in partnership with the Victorian Government, emergency services, staff and local communities to ensure that all early childhood services and schools are as prepared as possible for the 2016-17 bushfire season.

Emergency management planning is paramount to ensuring the safety and survival of all students and staff at our school.

In consideration of the upcoming 2016-17 bushfire season, DET has recently undertaken a review of the 2015-16 Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). Our school has been identified as being at high risk of bushfire for this season and as such is listed on the 2016-17 BARR.

Our inclusion on the 2016-17 BARR means we will be required to close as a precautionary measure on days determined to be Code Red by the Emergency Management Commissioner in the Bureau of Meteorology in our district. This will enable us to inform you with certainty about what will happen at St. Paul Apostle North on determined Code Red days.

All Government, Catholic and independent schools as well as early childhood services listed on the BARR will have to pre-emptively close on days determined Code Red.

New Application Process for Victorian Applicants

As of 5 December 2016, Victorian applicants for the Working with Children Check are able to have their identity securely verified online, reducing the time it takes to finalise their application at a participating Australia Post outlet.

Applicants who electronically verify their identity only need to present one photo ID document or card from the list of acceptable proof of identity documents at Australia Post.

Electronic identity verification is a fully secure service, as applicants' details are checked by the issuing body, such as VicRoads or Australian Passport Office, and are not retained during the verification process.

Applicants who choose not to, or are unable to verify their identity electronically can go to a participating Australia Post outlet with multiple documents from the new list of POI documents and verify in person.

In conjunction with the new electronic identity verification service the list of acceptable proof of identity (POI) documents has also changed. Further details can be found at the following direct link:
