FROM PAUL’S DESK

DEAR PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF ST PAUL’S,

Last Sunday was the First Sunday of Advent – the start of the Church’s Liturgical Year. Advent is a time for prayer and preparation as we wait for the birth of Jesus. Throughout the next few weeks the children will be working on different aspects of the Advent Theme during RE lessons. You might have a word to your children about what they are doing as you share a meal. The children can bring great insights and understanding of their faith to discussions.

SCHOOL DISCO – The best night of the year takes place next Friday, December 9th. The Funky Monkey will be back to entertain. At the ABC Music Concert on Tuesday of this week, I witnessed some amazingly good keyboard and guitar skills of the children who have been learning an instrument this year. I also watched some pretty good ‘sitting down’ dance moves of the children listening to the concert. Can’t wait to see how well they dance standing up!!

END OF YEAR – Just to inform you that the last day of school is Wednesday December 21st - full school uniform to be worn. The children finish at 1pm on this day. After School Care will operate from this time. There will be no Out of School Hours Care on Thursday December 22nd.

The staff will be at school on December 22nd as this is a designated planning and preparation day for all schools, just as is Wednesday February 1st 2012 when the staff officially return to work (the staff come in on many other days a few weeks before school starts to prepare their classrooms and plan). The children return the next day on Thursday February 2nd.

At this time of the year we notice that the children are extremely tired. During the last few weeks of school, sometimes small things that the kids generally deal with in their play, can seem overwhelming and distressing. It is important that children are reminded of the most important strategy that will assist them when a challenge occurs and that is talk to the teacher about what has happened. Generally problems can be sorted out with a quick review of the situation and a suggestion of a strategy or two. If incidents that distress children are not reported, then we cannot act at the appropriate time; we cannot read children’s minds. Early intervention is far better than a child who does not report because anxiety can grow. We always strive to make the playground and the classrooms the safest and happiest possible but it is part of life that upsets will occur. Once you place any large group of people together over a period of time, be they adults or children, different personalities can clash. We strive to minimise these clashes through preventative measures but when they do occur, staff are trained in restorative practices as well.
TEACHERS 2012 – Next week the staff for 2012 will be finalised. Teachers and Grade levels will be in the newsletter. The children will have their Orientation time with their teacher for next year (other than Prep – that takes place next Tuesday) on Tuesday December 20th at 11.30am – 12.45pm.

All the best, Paul

WHAT’S ON AT MORELAND CITY LIBRARIES
DECEMBER 2011 - FEBRUARY 2012

Get the reading bug – Read, write a review and win! Moreland City Library members of every age are invited to participate in the Moreland Summer Reading Fest. Just borrow and read 5 books in the library collection. Submit a short review for each book you read. Entry forms are available at all Moreland libraries. Weekly prizes will be drawn. The more times you enter, the more chances you have to win!

School holiday activities will take place in January. Check the library from 19th December for a brochure of activities and to book your place. All activities are free of charge, are suitable for school children only and bookings are essential.

Coburg Library
Corner Victoria and Louisa Streets, Coburg
9353 4000

Campbell Turnbull Library
220 Melville Road, West Brunswick
9384 9200

Glenroy Library
737 Pascoe Vale Road, Glenroy
8311 4100

Brunswick Library
Corner Sydney Road and Dawson Street, Brunswick
9386 8600

Fawkner Library
Jukes Road, Fawkner
9355 4200

St Paul’s Warriors Basketball Club has some vacancies in the following age Group:

Under 14 GIRLS
(need to be 14 and under until 30/4/2012)

Summer Season 2012–starts
November 2011 to May 2012

Training is held Tuesdays 5-6pm
at Coburg Basketball Stadium
Games played on Saturdays 1pm
at Coburg Stadium (Outlook Rd Coburg)

Contact Tania for further information 0412 151 920.

SCHOLARSHIPS

I am willing to ask whether the following brief notice could go in your School Newsletter before the end of this school year and early next year leading up to the close of applications for our scholarships.

Scholarships-
Xavier College is offering a range of scholarships for students entering Years 7, 9 and 11 in 2013. The closing date for applications is 3 February 2012. For registration and information see Xavier’s website www.xavier.vic.edu.au/scholarships or contact The Registrar, Mrs Di Oldege at Xavier on (03) 9854 5307.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Hayes
Principal

Dr Chris Hayes
Principal
Dear Parents,

Peace and blessings!

St. Paul's Parish is offering an opportunity for your children to get involved in YOUTH PROGRAM which meets on Fridays at 7 pm.

The Parish is aware of the challenges and difficulties that young adults are facing at this present time: peer pressure, bad media, family problems, conflict in relationships, identity crisis, bad influences which could be confusing, discouraging and even threatening the future of our youth. As parents and guardians, we know that you desire your children to grow as mature and responsible adults and it is a concern on how to keep their faith after primary stage at St. Paul's School.

It is in the light of this that we have organized the ST. PAUL’S YOUTH GROUP (12 above) and KIDS GROUP (7 - 11) to support you in forming their values, faith and character in an environment that shares their belief with other young people. This will also open their involvement in Church service to sing in the youth choir on first Sundays of the month.

If you are interested to bring your child/children, please contact me for more details:

Sr. Joy
Sr. Rose Mia Garnace (Pastorelle Sister)
St. Paul's Parish
Pastoral Associate
Mobile no. 0421 043 206
Parish No. 9354 1564

Noted and approved by:

Fr. Sean O'Connell
Parish Priest