Dear Parents and Friends of St Paul’s,

Like all first issues, today’s newsletter is a bumper edition. Please ensure you read all of the newsletter as there is a great amount of information regarding Education Maintenance Allowance (if you qualify there is a Government grant that offsets school expenses), The Specialist Timetable, community involvement, hot lunches, Parent/Teacher interviews and other major events at the school.

**The Start of the School Year Mass** – The Mass takes place tomorrow at 12.15pm followed by a shared lunch time on the Grass Area. We will start our shared lunch time immediately after Mass and it will go for around 20 minutes. The children will then have their playtime. Children who do not have family members attending the lunch will eat with their teachers on the grassed area. All children are to be seated with their family members or their teachers until the bell rings to start our playtime.

**Ash Wednesday** – The Ash Wednesday Mass will be held on February 22nd at 10am. Parishioners and family members will receive their Ashes at Mass. The teachers will administer the Ashes to all children in the classrooms after mass.

**Prep Enrolments 2013** – If you have siblings starting at St Paul’s in Prep 2013, could you please obtain an enrolment form from the office and return it to school before the end of February. There have been a few changes to enrolment procedures this year. On **Tuesday February 21st from 7pm – 8pm,** we will be holding a **Prep 2013 Information Night for new families only.** I visited most kinders in the area yesterday and distributed flyers about the meeting. If you have friends who have children at four year old kinder this year and they are thinking about sending their children to St Paul’s, please encourage them to contact the office to let us know they are attending the meeting so we can have enough information sheets available.

**School Camp** – Our Senior children will be attending Camp next **Monday February 13th to Wednesday February 15th.** A lot of fun activities are planned for the time away. The camp is not just about the children having fun – we do a number of leadership activities to prepare the kids for the year/s as serving, senior leaders at St Paul's. Also, all children will experience camps in Secondary Schools, and camps in these settings are compulsory. We include Camp as part of our Secondary School transition program for the Seniors. An enormous amount of preparation and coordination by the teachers is required to make the camp as enjoyable and safe as possible. We go on camp aware that we have to ensure that the children are safe 24 hours a day for the entire length of the camp – so if the teachers get off the bus...
looking a bit tired and dishevelled on Wednesday afternoon, don’t be surprised. Obviously school is still on for the children on Thursday 16th February, the day after the camp, but parents have the option of giving their campers a rest day if they wish.

Parent/Teacher Interviews – The first Parent/Teacher interviews are to be held Wednesday February 22 and Thursday February 23. The forms are in the newsletter. **The interviews are not for Prep children – you will have your time with the teachers during the Wednesday interviews.**

For all other Grades, the interviews are not compulsory and academic progress will not be discussed. The interviews are seen as a chance to meet your child’s teacher and to make him/her aware of individual needs of your child – they last for ten minutes. The interviews are not compulsory as some parents may feel that the teacher has all the information he/she needs and they already know the teacher really well.

Before School Line Up/Moving into Class Arrangements – I understand that some parents are a little unsure of the arrangements before school. As we now have permanent building/carpark arrangements, we can now implement an orderly entrance in the morning and departure in the evening. This can only assist the children’s learning and settling into the daily routine. The music will begin at 8.53am. The children immediately line up in their Grade order. We always have a staff member on duty on the grassed area from 8.30am. The children will be moving inside each day at 8.55am when the bell rings. Parents/Guardians do not need to stay around until the children go into school if they need to get away as there is always a teacher on duty from 8.30am. Of course parents can stay in the yard until the children move into school. We would like to have all our children learn to take their own bags into school and organise themselves to start the day so it would be best to say a quick goodbye as soon as the music starts.

Welcome Back Picnic and Bush Dance – Last week I made a ‘blue’ by saying the Bush Dance Night was a barbecue meal – it’s not! It is a picnic and we’d ask parents to supply all their picnic items for their family. Remember to mark down Friday Feb 24th From 6pm to dusk in bold letters in your diary.

A detailed note will be sent home tomorrow.

Specialists Timetable – All Specialist Classes except for PE will start next week; Library, Italian and Art. PE will begin the following week because Mr Fim will be on camp. For Seniors, Community Sports start tomorrow, Friday February 10th. The weekly specialist timetable is in today’s newsletter.

All the best, Paul

Education Maintenance Allowance:
Forms are available in languages other than English. Please contact the office for a copy of the form in your language.

Academy for KIDS: due to changes with the regulations for enrolment, all children who attend after school care must have all paperwork completed each year. If the paperwork is not completed you will be contacted to pick up your child. Forms are available from the office and are to be sent directly to Academy for KIDS.

**Calling All Junior Footballers!**

North Brunswick Junior Football Club
2012 Teams:

**AuskickTackers Under 11’s**
**Under 12’s** **Under 15’s**

Website:
www.sportingpulse.com/club_info.cgi?c=1-3817-57845-0-0
http://www.sportingpulse.com

For Further Information Contact:
Joe Tropeano (President) 0421 052 249
Nick Raptis (V-President) 0416 235 710
Harry Kefalas (Secretary) 0419 502 870
How you can be part of Saint Paul’s School Community

In 2012

• Join the Fundraising Committee
  -meets once a month
  -makes decisions about fundraising initiatives
  -outlines fundraising activities for the year
  -forms committees to organize the various fundraising events

• Join the Coffee Club
  -takes place every Friday morning in the hall
  -gold coin donations for supplies
  -toddler friendly

• Be a parent helper (in the classroom)
  -Literacy helpers: assisting in small group activities (workshop for interested parents takes place early in Term 1).
  -Home reading: changing over home readers
  -Numeracy helpers, assisting in small group activities.
  -PMP (Perceptual Motor Program)…. a program designed to develop gross motor skills in students.
  -Sports Day: assist on the day with setting up or running of events.

• Help out, if needed, on an excursion.
  - Be responsible for a small group of children under the direct instruction of the classroom teacher.

• Help with covering of books in the Library
  -Hundreds of books are purchased each year. As you can imagine, covering them and processing is tedious and takes a lot of time. Mrs. Kavanaugh appreciates any assistance she can get so that students can access these books as quickly as possible.

• Help out with hot lunches and icy poles.
  Terms 1 & 4 - Hotdogs and icy poles
  Terms 2 & 3 - Pies, party pies, cottage pies, pasties, sausage rolls and donuts
  -Hot lunches are available weekly, on Fridays
  -A volunteer roster is drawn up for each term.
  -Tallying of orders is done each Thursday
  -Packing and distribution of orders is done each Friday
  -At least 2 people are rostered on for each session
**HOT LUNCH ROSTER: TERM 1**

**ICY POLES:**
This involves packing of orders on Friday morning (approx. 20 - 30 minutes). Teachers will then organise the distribution of icy poles each Friday at lunchtime.

**HOTDOGS:**
Orders are tallied on Thursdays (approx. 45 minutes). On Friday hotdogs are prepared, packed into classroom tubs and delivered to each classroom (approx. 1 ½ hours).

**Paper work can be obtained from the office each Thursday morning, and orders will go directly to the staffroom for tallying**

Warm regards and thanks in anticipation,  Pat.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tallying (Thursday)</th>
<th>Hotdog Preparation (Friday)</th>
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| **THURSDAY 9**<sup>TH</sup> FEB | 1.  
2.  |  |  |
| FRI**DAY 10**<sup>TH</sup> FEB |  | 1.  
2.  |  |
| **THURSDAY 16**<sup>TH</sup> FEB | 1.  
2.  |  |  |
| FRI**DAY 17**<sup>TH</sup> FEB |  | 1.  
2.  |  |
| **THURSDAY 23**<sup>RD</sup> FEB | 1.  
2.  |  |  |
| FRI**DAY 24**<sup>RD</sup> FEB |  | 1.  
2.  |  |
| **THURSDAY 1**<sup>ST</sup> MAR | 1.  
2.  |  |  |
| FRI**DAY 2**<sup>ND</sup> MAR |  | 1.  
2.  |  |
| **THURSDAY 8**<sup>TH</sup> MAR | 1.  
2.  |  |  |
| FRI**DAY 9**<sup>TH</sup> MAR |  | 1.  
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| **THURSDAY 15**<sup>TH</sup> MAR | 1.  
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| FRI**DAY 16**<sup>TH</sup> MAR |  | 1.  
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| **THURSDAY 22**<sup>RD</sup> MAR | 1.  
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| FRI**DAY 23**<sup>RD</sup> MAR |  | 1.  
2.  |  |
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) provides assistance to eligible families by helping with the costs associated with the education of their children.

In 2012 the EMA payment for parents/guardians is $235 for primary school students. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school and is paid in two instalments as per the schedule of payments set out in the table below.

### SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS IN 2012

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<tr>
<th>INSTALMENT</th>
<th>PORTION PAYABLE TO</th>
<th>PRIMARY SCHOOL RATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One (70% of EMA)</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$82.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>$82.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two (30% of EMA)</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$35.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>$35.25</td>
</tr>
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**TOTAL FOR 2012:** $235.00 (per child)

The **first instalment** will comprise 70 per cent of the EMA and will be paid from March 2012.

The **second instalment** will comprise the remaining 30 per cent and will be paid from August 2012.

This payment schedule recognises that families incur the highest educational costs at the start of the school year.

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to receive the EMA, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent; and
- submit your application to the school by the due date.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of 1st Term (1 February 2012 which is the first day for teaching staff) for the first instalment and the first day of 3rd Term (16 July 2012) for the second instalment. Any applications based on Centrelink payments that are not income tested (e.g. Carer Allowance, formerly Child Disability Allowance, Mobility Allowance and Remote Area Allowance) are not eligible unless the claimant, in their own name, complies with the second dot point above.

### APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms are available from the office. Please submit your application to school by **29 February 2012 for the first instalment of the EMA**.