Dear Families

IMPORTANT NOTICE

St Pauls Primary School will be having an in service day on Monday the 10/09/2012.

Academy for KIDS will be OPEN on Monday the 10/09/2012 from 7am-9pm
Children will be taking part in an Excursion
AT THE DOCKLANDS MELBOURNE
GLOW IN THE DARK MINI GOLF
AND ICE SKATING
ON MONDAY THE 10/09/2012
We will be departing by 9.30am and returning at 3.00pm
Travelling by Maxi Cabs
Cost $65.00
$32.50 after CCR REBATE
LESS AFTER CCB
Children are required to bring a packed lunch, bottle of water and a hat etc

Limited places are available. Bookings are Essential.

CCB Funding and 50% Child Care Rebate Available
If you wish to make a Booking or if you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact Vivien 0405 323 357

vivienmahomet@optusnet.com.au
FROM PAUL’S DESK
DEAR PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF ST PAUL’S,

First Eucharist – Well the big day will finally arrive on Sunday for many of our Year Four’s who will receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. The children have been preparing for the ceremony at different times this week and I am sure the day will be a happy and memorable one for all the families.

Class Groupings 2013 – Thank you to all the parents who joined the staff on Tuesday for our Information Evening. The questions from the parents were well considered and I believe the dialogue was very beneficial. As a few parents apologised due to sick kids and other commitments, they are more than welcome to make an appointment with myself or Mrs Pat over the next few weeks. We look forward to this change next year with confidence, understanding that meeting the individual needs of children is at the centre of our operation.

In-service Day – On Monday we will be holding our second In-service Day for the year. We will be working on the new National Curriculum, particularly in the areas of English and Maths. As part of the Industrial Agreement, schools must allow their staff four such days during the year and in special circumstances, five, in order to complete Professional Learning. We will be holding our last two In-service Days on Thursday November 29th and Friday November 30th. Please mark these in your diaries now.

Gonski Report – On Tuesday afternoon, eight Catholic Primary Principals, including myself, who lead Catholic schools in the Federal Electorate of Wills, met with the Federal Member Mr. Kelvin Thompson to discuss the funding of Catholic Schools. This was a very productive meeting and Kelvin promised us that he would release a statement in support of the Catholic Schools in his electorate in the coming weeks. In light of the debate about the Gonski Report that is happening at the moment, I have included a piece from the Director of Catholic Education in Melbourne, Mr. Stephen Elder, for you to read.

Almost one in four Victorian students attends a Catholic school. On average, they receive 20 percent less government funding than if they went to government schools. The families who choose to send their children to Catholic schools are pretty similar to government school families.

Catholic schools tend to charge low fees, so that more families can make that choice for their children. When parent fees are included, Catholic schools operate on around 90 per cent of the cost of government schools.

Many parents make big sacrifices to send their children to a Catholic school. This includes parents whose children have special needs. Special needs students in Catholic schools receive less funding from government than if they were going to a government school. Despite the lack of funding, Catholic schools continue to show improvement for their students, including their most disadvantaged.
Parents should be free to choose the type of education they want for their children. When parents choose a Catholic school for their children, governments can invest more on students in government schools.

Any decision to stop government funding for Catholic schools, or to reduce funding by not having school funding keep pace with government school funding, will mean that fees will have to go up. If Catholic school fees go up by too much, parents may have to change their mind about where they send their children to school. Their only choice may be government schools, which will put further pressure on the government system. Properly funding Catholic schools now, and in the future, will help take pressure off government schools.

Already next year we will have to raise our family fee to keep pace with growing costs in running our school. On Tuesday evening at our information session, some parents were unaware of the gap between how much the school spends on a child per year compared with other Government schools in the area. If you visit the following site, you can type in the name of a suburb and it will allow you to compare what we spend, how much we receive from Governments and how much is raised in fees and other charges compared to other Primary schools in Coburg. The results may surprise you. The address is:


Any parent who would like further information can contact me at school. I would ask that parents keep an interest in the ongoing Gonski debate. It directly affects you and the funding our school will receive from Governments in the future.

All the best and it’s Finals Time!!! Go Catters!!

Paul
The craft club meets on **WEDNESDAY MORNING 9AM.**
All parents welcome

**SALE**
Library Bags

Wed 12th September between 9am and 9.30 am. Price ranges from $6—$10.00

*Sample bags are hanging in the office foyer.

The next meeting will be creative thinking as a group to design fairy wands for the fete. Continuing with crochet articles.

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**FETE CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

The fete committee is still seeking parent representatives from each class. This will be a rewarding job of the parent, and helps to make the fete—great. You do not need to be available during the day so ideal for the working parent to be able to make a contribution to the school fete.

**QUICK CORNER ANSWERS**

Week 7
1. Buebird
2. Retriever
3. Thailand
4. The Big Apple
5. Casey Chambers
6. 99.94

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**ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS:**
The order for these value packed books has been extended to the end of this month. Please see the office if you would like to purchase.

**SECOND HAND UNIFORM**

Donations of all sizes of uniforms would be appreciated by Mrs Rucli (uniform Shop). Please leave in a plastic bag at the office. Thank you.

**PREP 2013 SIBLINGS.**

If your Prep child for 2013 requires a uniform, can you please give your order to Mrs Rucli by September 14th. So that the company can fill the order for delivery to you on orientation day.

**QUIZ CORNER**

1. Who had an encounter with the three bears?
2. What is the name of Winnie the Pooh’s donkey friend?
3. Who was created by Gepetto the woodcarver?
4. Who is the bear in The Jungle Book?
5. What kind of creature was defeated by the Three Billy Goats Gruff?
6. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
7. Who leads a gang of outlaws in Sherwood Forest?
8. Who stole Christmas in a Dr Seuss book?
The Daniel Morcombe Foundation 'Help Me' App is a great way to not only help keep kids safe, but assist people of all ages, from 7 to 97, covering all kinds of personal emergency situations!

MAJOR SAFETY FEATURES

The 'Help Me' button sounds a warning and allows you to can send off an SMS text to two (2) nominated ‘safety’ numbers, as part of your Trusted Safety Network. Included in the text are GPS co-ordinates from where the text was sent, so the sender can be located or a last known place of contact is indicated.

RESOURCES

This App also provides a range of helpful resources and assistance that is designed to educate kids and parents on how to keep safe plus keep them up to date on the latest news! It offers safety and assistance for children and reassurance for parents and adults.

IDEAL FOR EVERYONE INCLUDING...

Children and youth, elderly & seniors, shift workers, recreational enthusiasts, pregnant mums, people with medical conditions, holidaymakers, school camps, Backpackers and more!

For more information, visit the following website: http://www.danielmorcombe.com.au/app/index.html
**PARENT SEMINAR SERIES 2012**

**WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER**

A program for parents, carers and guardians of students in Catholic primary and secondary schools

**TOPIC:** HELPING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS MAKE AND KEEP FRIENDS

**Presenter:** MURRAY EVELY

**Ages:** PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

*Can parents help encourage, teach or coach friendship and social competency skills? This seminar will look at the individual needs of children and adolescents in assisting their friendship development.*

*Friendship and getting along with others is an important part of any child's development. For many children and adolescents, making and keeping friends seems to be quite effortless, but for others it can be a challenge. Whether it be shyness, difficulty relating to others, impulsive behaviour or a specific disability - repeated problems with friendship groups can lead children to feel they have no friends, and to feelings of loneliness, isolation and sadness.*

*Together we will explore some of the key strategies parents can use to help their child achieve greater success with peer acceptance and in making and keeping friendships.*

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<tr>
<td>Thursday Sept. 6</td>
<td>7pm - 9pm</td>
<td>St. Charles Borromeo - Templestowe (Ref. Mel. Map 3/ A 8)</td>
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**TOPIC:** POSITIVE PARENTING - UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH

**Presenter:** Terese Sheedy

**Ages:** Primary and Secondary

*This workshop focuses understanding child developmental stages, building optimistic thinking and using strengths to build self-efficiency and self-worth. Early experiences and modelling can highly influence a child’s development and sense of self. Good mental health is essential in preventing the onset of mental health issues such as depression and anxiety.*

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Sept. 20</td>
<td>7pm - 9pm</td>
<td>Salesian College – Sunbury (Ref. Map No. 382 E4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
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<td>Cost: $10 per person</td>
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**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

Registration/Further Information
Contact your school or Catholic Education Office Melbourne, Parent Seminar Series Coordinator: Mrs Shirley O’Sullivan on 9464 5225 or shirley@stclaresthomastown.catholic.edu.au.

Seminar Cost: $10 (to be paid in advance) Only refundable due to cancellation.