Dear Parents and Friends of St Paul’s,

Faith Life of St Paul’s - This week we have had two significant events that are important in the faith life of our community. On Tuesday evening, Mr Paul Spence held a session with parents and the Grade Four children who will be receiving the Eucharist for the first time on Sunday March 3rd. It was an extremely enlightening presentation full of scripture and examples of how the Eucharist is still alive in our world today. A number of parents commented that they got as much out of the session, if not more, than their child. Paul will be taking our Confirmation and Reconciliation families for sessions as the celebration of these Sacraments approach. Make sure you attend as he is an inspirational presenter. Secondly, the children attended Mass on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of the Season of Lent. Each class had lessons on the significance of the day and will continue to study aspects of this Liturgical Season in their Religious Education lessons.

INSERVICE DAY ERROR – The dates for the Inservice days this year are Tuesday March 12th, Monday May 20th, Friday August 16th and Thursday November 28th and Friday November 29th. Please note that I made an error including FRIDAY APRIL 26th WHICH IS NOT AN INSERVICE DAY!

School Fete – You will start to see sheets popping up around the school for Parents/Guardians, Grandparents, other family and friends to help out with different stalls that will be running on the day of the fete. We would like all families to commit to at least one session that generally lasts just a couple of hours (but you can volunteer to assist for longer if you wish!). Remember the proceeds of the fete go towards the IT program in the school. We have had a quote of $28000 to provide wireless coverage throughout the school. It would be great if the money raised at the Fete would allow us to install this before the end of Term 2.

But the Fete is not just about money, it is our major community event for the year where we all come together to have a bit of fun and get to know members of the other families in the school.

Parent-Teacher Interviews – Thanks to the families that have returned their forms. As you would imagine, it can be difficult to grant everyone the exact time wanted. Tomorrow is the last day I will be accepting forms. If you missed out on a time and would like an interview, contact your child’s teacher and they will slot you into a space available. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Car Park – When people disregard the rules of the Car Park, a lot of pressure is placed on the staff when on duty. It is not the staff’s role to ask parents to move cars or settle disputes – they are on duty to ensure the safety of the children when they move through the area near the Presbytery, across the Sydney Road entrance and at the pedestrian crossing near the lights. Our teachers volunteer this extra time as they see it as their duty of care. It is embarrassing and very difficult for us to even approach parents and ask them to do the right thing. It isn’t our job! I cannot stress enough that it is best not to use the car park if you can manage it. Champ Street is now a very quiet street and there are many parking spots. It is a short two to three minute walk and offers the chance to have a chat with your children both before and after school. Even if it is raining, wearing a raincoat and using an umbrella can be like an adventure for kids rather than an inconvenience. Please do not choose to model the behaviours we would expect of our children when using the Car Park – patience and courtesy. Parents are the first educators of children and our kids learn much more about behaviour from their most significant adults than they ever would from their teachers.

Manners – Last year we embarked on our “Manners Phrase or Action of the Week” program. I am very happy to say that we are still seeing the benefits of the learnings the children took from the efforts of both parents and staff. We will reintroduce the program at different times throughout the year. Manners must be explicitly taught, they are not just caught. Correct manners are stepping stones to healthy emotional intelligence and leaves people with a positive feeling towards those that display them. It just makes for a nicer world too!

Enjoy the weekend.

All the best, Paul
At the moment when you receive a phone call from St Paul’s it will register on your mobile as a blocked number. We know that lots of people recognise the school number or have it stored, but it will still register as blocked. We are in the process of trying to rectify the issue.

As Catholics we are called to give up something for Lent. Chocolate, coffee, that extra helping of dinner, one less hour of video games or watching DVDs—whatever it is, you can make what you’re giving up for Lent a prayer as well: a prayer-in-action. Whenever you encounter the thing you are abstaining from or the time of day that you would normally enjoy it, take a moment to say a prayer in recognition of your wholeness in God even without the thing you have given up. Thank God for the freedom to be wholly yourself without this and, at the same time, acknowledge the gift of its existence in the world.

Prayer to St. Valentine
Dear Saint and glorious martyr.
Teach us to love unselfishly and to find great joy in giving. Enable all true lovers to bring out the best in God and in each other.

Love is patient and kind, it doesn’t envy or boast and it’s never proud. Love is not rude or selfish. It doesn’t get angry or keep track of wrongs. Love doesn’t delight in bad things, but it rejoices in the truth. Love always protects trusts, hopes, and preservers. Love never fails.

St. Paul to the Corinthians

The Craft Group will gather in the Multi-purpose room on a Thursday from 9am-11am. All crafty or non-crafty people are welcome to attend, toddlers welcome.

Sports News
This week P.E. classes commenced on Tuesday.

Timetable
Tuesday Year 4, 1/2 S & 5/6 S
Wednesday 5/6 M, 5/6 G, 3T, 3BD, 1/2TD & 1/2M
Thursday Preps
Friday Preps & Seniors

Community Sports
The seniors began a 12 week community sports program last week. The students will participate in four sports basketball, tennis, table tennis and aerobics over the next three months on a Friday afternoon.

Retail Industry Placement Program
Gain retail, customer service and sales skills plus work experience in the retail sector.
Starts: 15 March for 8 weeks on Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30am—2.30pm

Introduction to Cleaning Operations
Introduction to work in the commercial cleaning industry
Starts: 19 March for 3 sessions on Tuesdays from 9.30am—3.00pm

For more details ring PRACE on 9462 6077

Simonds Catholic College is a unique school. Our small size (500 boys in Years 7-12) means that each boy can be individually known, valued and have a sense of belonging. The excellent facilities mean that we are able to offer a broad and exciting curriculum within the setting of a small school. Our close proximity to St Mary’s Church at West Melbourne, and St Brigid’s Church in Fitzroy North, means that boys are provided with frequent opportunities to reflect, pray and celebrate the Sacraments in an inspiring and historical religious setting. Simonds Catholic College is a member of the Associated Catholic College Interschool Competition.

Simonds Catholic College is currently taking enrolments for Year 7, 2014.
Applications close on 22 March, 2013.
You may contact the College for enrolment information on the numbers listed below.
St Mary’s 7-10 Campus - 273 Victoria Street,
BoxFit is a new and exciting group fitness class that will be held in the school on a Tuesday morning from 9.15—10.15 am. BoxFit is a mixture of boxing and circuit class and is guaranteed to kick start your morning and burn off all that unwanted weight you’ve gained over the Christmas break!

For enquiries contact Raluca: 0414 144 971
Email: ralucalazarescu20@gmail.com

Cost: $10

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