Dear Parents and Friends of St Paul’s,

Another Semester has passed at St Paul’s and the children have earned a good rest. Thank you to all parents/guardians for making themselves available for the Parent Teacher Interviews. The mandated report format is somewhat bland but it still does provide parents with a snapshot of where the children are placed in their academic development, where improvements are required and support that can happen at home. In my thirty odd years in Catholic Education I have never seen the perfect report format. For years, individual schools did their own format and so information passed from one school to the next was not uniform. This format, introduced in 2005, was at least an attempt to have a consistent approach to reporting. We trust that the improvements will remove frustrations of this format for all stakeholders! Also the format that was given to us to use failed to mention to parents that there is a comparison report available for parents if they wish. This shows how many students scored ABCDE. As you would expect, there are no names on reports. If any parent would like a copy for their child/children’s grade level, we can organise a copy for you.

St Paul’s Feast Day – Tomorrow we celebrate our Feast Day. Just a reminder that Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon. All welcome. It will be a day where we hope our children learn a great deal about their School’s Saint. Thank you to the organisers of the pasta lunch for tomorrow Antionette Dingle, Loretta Forgione and Silvana Mirabelli. Thankyou also for the donations from Gianna Madaferr for the pasta and Domenic Raco for the sauce, cups and bread rolls.

Annual Report – This week I have included the first instalment of the 2012 Annual Community Report. If parents wish to read it in its entirety, there are three copies for loan in the Office. Just ask the ladies for it and they will sign it over to you for a day. We ask that they are returned the next day for others to borrow. I will also be including a copy on our website over the holidays. The first section in this week’s newsletter includes the School Overview and Principal’s Report.

Mr Fimiani Long Service Leave – Next term Mr Fim will be on Long Service Leave. We trust he will have an enjoyable break. Over the last couple of weeks the children have been introduced to Mr Sean Beech who will be taking over the PE Program in Tony’s absence.

I hope the children have a lovely rest ready for a very busy third term. Remember tomorrow is a 2.30 finish for all children.

Still in shock over Cats last 40 minutes on Sunday night. If we do that against Freo or Hawks in the next two weeks, we will lose big time.

All the best, Paul

Reflection

“Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Phil. 4:8”

— Saint Paul

Confirmation Ceremony

Tomorrow morning at 9.00 the school will participate in a confirmation ceremony. At this ceremony the grade 6s who were confirmed will be presented with their Confirmation certificates. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend this ceremony to celebrate the confirmation of the Grade 6 children.
St Paul

The seemingly exaggerated forehead represents wisdom. In his left hand, he holds a book, signifying his writings, while the fingers of his right hand form the Greek letters, IC XC, "Jesus Christ".

The hand of God in the upper right hand corner emanates the uncreated heavenly light which illumines the saints, with the jagged beam suggesting the blinding light which Paul encountered on the road to Damascus.
RockBody Fitness
BoxFit
BoxFit is a new and exciting group fitness class that will be held in the multipurpose room on Tuesday mornings from 9.15am—10.15. BoxFit is a mixture of boxing and circuit class and is guaranteed to kick start your morning and burn off all that unwanted weight.

For enquiries contact
Raluca: 0414 144 971
Email: raluca_lazarescu20@gmail.com
Cost: $10

Spelling, Reading and Writing for Adults - Evening Classes
A friendly and supportive class for people who want to improve their spelling, reading and writing skills for everyday transactions or for work or further study purposes.
Days: Wednesday evenings
Time: 6.00pm—8.30pm
Dates: 17 July—4 December 2013
* potential to join after start date
Duration: Semester 2: 19 weeks

For more details ring PRACE on 9462 6077 or visit our website:
www.prace.vic.edu.au

FREE TENNIS LESSONS, RACQUET AND SHOWBAG*

When your child signs up for a term or re-enrols for lessons at Elite Tennis, Parents receive a $15 voucher to Cardio/Social Tennis

Quote: ETALINE13 when making your booking. Offer valid to 31.07.2013

Available at the Elite Tennis Academy
- Bumble Bee Tennis*(3-5 years)
- Hot Shots Tennis*(4-10 years)
- Junior Lessons* (6-16 years)
- Cardio Tennis (All ages)
- Private Lessons (Junior/Adult)
- Mum and Bubs Tennis
- Adult Social Classes
- Squad Training
- Kids Birthday Parties
- Competitions (Adult/ Junior)
- School Holiday Programs

ALL STUDENTS WILL BE VIDEO’D (with permission) IN WEEK 1 & 2 AND THIS WILL BE USED AS PART OF THE LESSONS THAT ARE TAUGHT OUTSIDE. INDOOR CARDIO AND FITNESS TO BE CONDUCTED INSIDE ALSO ON THESE DAYS.
School Overview

The aspirations embedded in our School Vision developed in 2010 were evident in many aspects of our School life in 2012. The message of the Gospels and the values therein were once again central to all that we wished to achieve. Building serving and supportive relationships amongst all stakeholders was a key theme throughout the school.

Student Leadership became more of a focus with our School and House Captains participating in a Leadership seminar at the Plenary Centre located in Melbourne’s South Wharf area. From the training and insights the children received, they responded by taking on more responsibility for their actions and relaying the messages and learnings to their peers in the Senior Grades through class meetings and activities.

As well there was the establishment of the Fete Committee that worked throughout 2012 to organise our first fete in over 30 years – a community event that we are all very excited about and will be held in mid-March 2013. Just in the organising year of the fete, we have seen many parents offer their skills and talents, determined to make our event a success. What is most pleasing is that in the past a large number of these parents have not had the opportunity to be involved in the life of the School to this extent.

As was the case in 2011, 2012 saw another year of student enrolment growth. In 2012, enrolments peaked at 265 children (175 families) and there were eleven classes – Prep(2), Yr1(2), Yr2(2), Yr 3, Yr 4, and three Senior Classes (Yr 5/6). There is significant demand for primary and pre primary education in the Coburg area. It is expected that the school will see consistent enrolments around fifty Prep students each year well into the future. As well it is expected that students in other grade levels will enter the school as families choose to buy property closer to the city and send their children to the local schools.

In 2012 the school community was able to finally enjoy the final products of five years of major Capital Works and associated disruption to learning, carparking and play areas. Whilst delighted with the results, the whole St Paul’s community, inclusive of Parish and School, has shown remarkable patience and loyalty. The staff and children have at times worked in areas that were less than perfect but it is a credit to the staff in providing the best possible learning environment for our children that St Paul’s was able to maintain the high standards that have been consistently achieved over a long period. This is evidenced by NAPLAN and Year One reading achievements, evidence that will be included in the Teaching and Learning section of this document.

With a more settled and welcoming physical environment, we have been concentrating on exploring the skills and attributes of those in our community. We hope to use these talents to enhance the learning environment of our children; learning that strives to realise the spiritual, academic, social, emotional and physical potential of each child.

Principal’s Report

As stated, the 2012 School Year saw many of the Capital pressures that were prevalent in the previous five years disappear. All areas were now in excellent condition and for once the school had extra spaces. These spaces were used creatively and practically by staff and the wider community. There was a huge emphasis on utilizing the skills and talents of our community. Staff worked closely with parents to establish and support different activities and groups. It is hoped that more Community Involvement occasions can be encouraged and supported in the future.

It is a privilege to be Principal of St Paul’s. The staff is most professional and very generous with their time to not only support children in their academic learning but also in their social and emotional growth. Many programs requiring confidentiality are run to support individual needs of children and to support different families in need. Parent’s in the St Paul’s Community have given freely and cheerfully of their time to organize and support major “one off” projects as well as continued support to teachers in the classroom.

Finally special mention must go to our Parish Priest, Fr Sean O’Connell. Father’s quiet, unassuming manner belies his commitment and care for St Paul’s Parish and School. He is a dedicated Spiritual Leader as well as a talented manager in both an organisational and a financial sense.