



17 February 2020

## **“Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus”**

**School Theme 2020**

### **Our Commitment to Child Safety:**

“At St Paul the Apostle Catholic Primary School we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel.”

Dear Parents and families,

## **CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE ON A SMOOTH START**

It's pleasing to report that our children, staff and parents, especially our young preppies and a number of new students in other Year Levels have settled well into our new school year which is filled with so much promise and hope as we embark on our sixth year as a vibrant contemporary learning community.

With a sense of anticipation, sprinkled with a little trepidation, our new Preppies have quickly familiarised themselves with our school culture. With eyes wide-opened, it wasn't long before they quickly immersed themselves into school life, most evident by their focus and curiosity when they recently attended our school assembly and our whole school Mass celebration last week. The calmness present throughout the school certainly reflects the importance of the love, support, assurance and guidance of parents and families in helping their children prepare for the new school year and by the tireless efforts of their dedicated pre-school and child care staff.

Continuing on from the successes of a very rewarding school year in 2020, our first two full weeks commenced with much the same vitality and excitement. In a true sense of partnership and a shared vision for our children, the staff have meticulously planned to provide our children and community with a number of memorable and innovative learning experiences and countless opportunities to grow and shine this year.

I thank the staff for meeting throughout their holidays to ensure this smooth transition. Particular thanks should be passed on to our staff who once again warmly welcomed the children to the new school year by planning our SWELL Week (Student Wellbeing) activities. This allowed the children to develop a sense of belonging through their engagement in our SWELL Week activities.

## SCHOOL ENROLMENTS 2020

Our enrolments continue to climb steadily and we currently have **343 children** enrolled with **42 staff** and **240 families**. This year our children will learn in **fifteen classroom learning spaces** (**3 x Preps**, **6 x Years One/Two (Junior Level)**, **4 x Years Three/Four (Middle Level)** and **2 x Years Five/Six (Senior Level)**) with ample space to learn and thrive. Even with 343 children, there remains plenty of space in the outdoor recreation areas and it won't be too long before the much anticipated synthetic Grass Courts are installed on the area adjoining the new learning building.

## SCHOOL HOURS: 8.55am – 3.25pm

Parents are reminded that children are welcome to enter our school environment from **8.30am** and families may enter into the classroom learning spaces from **8.40am**, giving them ample time to unpack and settle in before sitting around the prayer cloth at **8.55am** sharp. To ensure that the children are calm and focused before the 8.55am bell, **ball games and the Adventure playground are not permitted before school**.

## SWELL WEEK

**SWELL Week (Student Wellbeing Week)** was introduced here at SPA in our first year (2015) and now occurs in the first full week of each school year and the first day of each term. Our children and staff have been engaged in a variety of challenging and enjoyable learning activities aimed at helping them to assimilate into their new learning environment.

Throughout SWELL Week, our children and staff have had the opportunity to share their own personal stories, explore their hopes and dreams for their classroom and learning environment (Class Memorandum) and develop their shared expectations for the way people learn and play and treat each other. **The Class Memorandum** includes a joint summary of what the children sharing what they **VALUE, STAND FOR and BELIEVE** in.

**We believe that SWELL Week builds resilience, promotes wellbeing and inclusiveness and provides the platform for a successful year of learning.** I thank the teachers, staff and Student Wellbeing Team (led by Geraldine Crowe - Student Wellbeing Leader and Jenny McCormack – School Counsellor) for planning this very effective transition program.

## MAKING OUR EXPECTATIONS VISIBLE

To further enhance our learning culture here at SPA and with an emphasis on safety and wellbeing, each class also selected an area around the school environment, highlighting the behaviours and attitudes expected within these areas as respectful and responsible learners.



The school photographic displays and captions placed at strategic locations around the schools such as the toilets, kiss and drop and welcome court etc., and visited by each class, remind us of the expectations when passing through and using these areas.

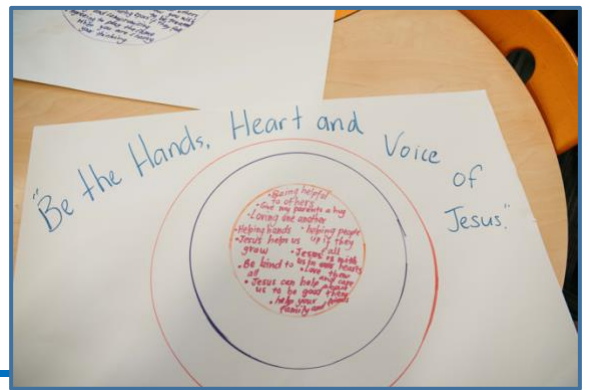
## “Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus.” School Theme 2020

Throughout SWELL Week, the children in each Year Level have used the a variety of **thinking routines** including the **Chalk Talk** (a conversation on paper without speaking), or the **3 Y's** (Why does it matter to me, our community and the world) to unpack and deepen their understanding about our school theme for 2020, **“Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus”**.



This enabled them to make connections with the previous school themes and to strengthen their understanding about having empathy for others and to act justly and with love.

This theme builds upon our previous themes of, "Love One Another As I Have Loved You," 2019 "We Are Called To Be More" 2018 and "We Walk Together As One" 2017.



As part of SWELL WEEK, we reflected on our school theme 'Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus'. We used the 3Y's thinking routine to unpack our understanding by considering personal, local and global connections. The three questions we considered were:

- Why might this theme matter to me?
- Why might this theme matter to our community?
- Why might this theme matter to our world?

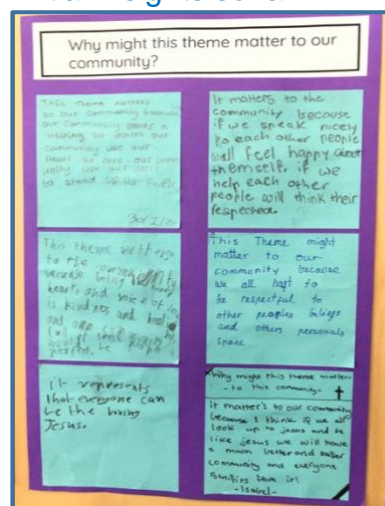
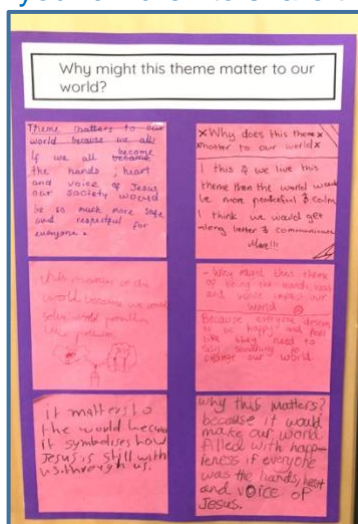
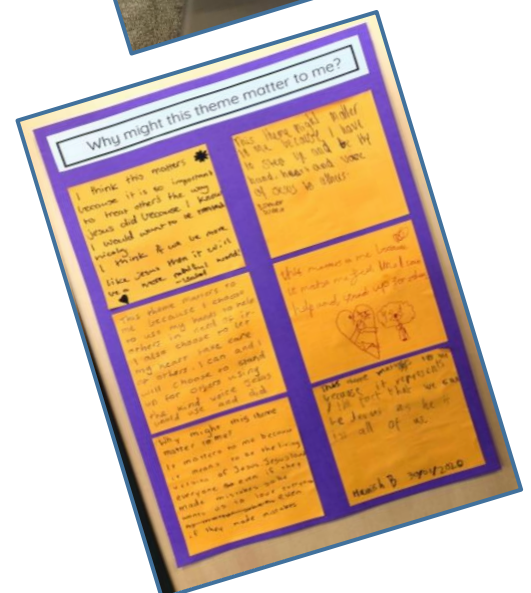
We were given the opportunity to respond and share our thoughts.



## THE 3Y's THINKING ROUTINE

In collaborative groups, the children were asked to articulate their thinking about key words within the theme, "Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus" - to help them to develop a shared understanding of the theme

and how they could "reach out and spread God's message of love to the world through their words and actions." incorporating Social Justice and Social Outreach. It would be worthwhile asking your children to share their initial insights so far.



As co-learners, our staff also gathered in groups on our first two days and shared their insights and thinking through several thinking routines routine to allow them to reflect on the school theme before introducing it to their children.

Here are some examples of the initial thinking by children as they began to explore what this theme might mean.

## ABSENCES and LATE ARRIVALS (After 8.55am)

In compliance with our **Child Safety Policies**, we follow Government Legislative requirements and Catholic Education Melbourne directives and therefore **children who arrive after 9.00am will be marked on our electronic roll as absent**. Parents will then be notified electronically alerting them that their child is absent and are required to provide an explanation to be formally recorded.

If your child is absent, please inform the school office in writing, emails, in person or through our school's Flexi-buzz App. **For late arrivals after 8.55am, a parent or carer must accompany the child to the school office, sign them in and collect a late pass.**

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS & EARTHWORKS UPDATE

On their arrival at SPA during our first week of the new school year, our children and families were excited to witness the newly installed **double red slides** connecting our welcome court to the next level below and patiently waited until the slides were officially opened by our Year Six children and the new staff.

Children in our **Middle and Senior Year Levels** and school families were delighted to enter their **new learning building** where they were welcomed by their teachers and staff who had spent a great deal of time setting up this contemporary learning environment.



## EARTH WORKS UPDATE

Currently, all the works are focused on completing **Hardstand and driveway** (which will lead to the new learning building), entering from Eminence Blvd. This was a council compliance requirement that was imposed after the budget and contract had been finalised for the stage two building program. This resulted in the delay to not only the completion of stage two but we have had to **request an additional \$250,000 loan to cover the shortfall** in this unexpected, unbudgeted but necessary requirement.

However from a health and safety perspective, this requirement is necessary to allow a fully loaded fire truck to enter our site and park on our concrete hardstand in case of a fire sometime in the future. SPA will also benefit from a crossover into the school grounds and additional onsite staff carparking. (NB: We currently have 42 staff but 26 carparking spaces available).



At the end of 2019, **the Catholic Education Melbourne** directed us to refrain from spending large ticket items, including the completion of our **Artificial turf on the area beside the new learning building designated for our dual basketball courts and running track** until the additional loan had been acquired.

Once work has been completed to the hardstand and driveway (scheduled for the end of February), we will then be able to rectify the compacting issues to the area for the artificial turf before we lay the long-awaited courts.



Our site management team met with a new earth moving company last Thursday to seek a permanent and speedy solution to rectify the compacting issue and we will be receiving their recommendations this week. This should allow work to commence within several weeks.

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPA MAINTENANCE TEAM**

In the meantime, I thank **Jeremy Oakey** and several members of the SPA Maintenance Team who donated their time, during harsh weather conditions, cleaning up the school grounds before the commencement of school year and again yesterday during their mini working bee. I'd like to publicly recognise the efforts of **Jeremy, Peter and Kerrie Densley, Dave Picone, Leigh Hornsby, Brett Coe and Aaron Callegari** (one of our new Prep dads).

Please Keep this date free:

**SPA WORKING BEE SATURDAY 14 MARCH: 8.30am – 1.00pm.**

### **SPARKLE PARENTS' TEAM FUNDRAISING EFFORTS 2019&2020**

Last Wednesday, a group of enthusiastic parents from our SPARKLE Parents' Team gathered together for our first meeting where a number of exciting initiatives and updates were tabled throughout this rather lengthy first meeting, chaired by Belinda Galloway.

**The SPARKLE Parents' Team** (**S**chool **P**artnerships **A**ctively **R**e-imagining **K**ids **L**earning **E**xperiences) was formed in 2015 our first year, with a team of parents meeting regularly to initiate and coordinate a variety of school activities to support the children in their learning and to build our emerging school culture. Over the past five years, our school community has benefited from their wonderful efforts, supported by the entire school community. We thank them for their wisdom, feedback and tireless efforts in such school initiatives including social, fundraising, gardening, facilities and maintenance, working bees and community engagement (ANZAC Day, Parish Fete).

**Belinda Galloway**, our passionate Chairperson leads a dynamic team of equally passionate mums and dads who provide advice and support to ensure that our children and school community have the best resources to assist our staff to enhance student wellbeing and to improve student learning outcomes.

**The Major Fundraising items for 2019** included **the Friendship Buddy Benches** (located in the Welcome Court) and **the Digital Signage** to be installed this term after much deliberation as to the best options available...future proofing our technology. We thank the team and our families for their wonderful fundraising efforts. **(NB: This was one of those big Ticket Items we refrained from buying at the end of 2019.)**

**Our initial brainstorming for Major Fundraising items for 2020** includes contributing funds to complete **our artificial turf for the small area** next to the school office and a variety of **fun and educational games permanently painted onto our concrete area on the second level below.**

## Ash Wednesday Mass – Wednesday 26 February at 12.00pm

We will celebrate **Ash Wednesday** (a Holy Day of Obligation on the Church's calendar) during our school Mass on Wednesday 26 February which starts at 12.00pm.

**The blessing with ashes** (burnt remnants from the palms blessed at Palm Sunday last year) placed on the forehead, symbolically expresses our repentance and our desire to, "Turn away from sin, to be faithful to the Good News of the Gospel and to turn back to God."

**Lent is the most important season on the Church's calendar, held over forty days leading to the death and resurrection of Jesus in Holy Week.** During Lent, we can deepen our relationship with God and the church and prepare ourselves to celebrate Easter by living out the Good News of God's love and His promise of salvation. The staff will continue to support parents by helping the children to focus on ways they can embrace the Season of Lent and Easter in the coming weeks.

Families and parishioners are more than welcome to join us in our celebration however due to our ever growing enrolments, seats will be at a premium in our New Learning Building.

**NB: Our young preppies**, being at home (or being tested at school) on Ash Wednesday **will receive their ashes on Thursday** during a special prayer liturgy.

## **SHROVE (Pancake) TUESDAY & ASH WEDNESDAY** **TUESDAY 25 & WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY**

### **Shrove "Pancake" Tuesday 25 February**

**Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of the Church's Season of Lent**, which historically was a time of fasting (going without those little luxuries in life) and almsgiving.

**To prepare for the fasting period, historically Shrove Tuesday was a time when families emptied their cupboards** which then became "Pancake" Tuesday and gave families the chance to use up their sugar, eggs, butter and toppings on the day before Lent commenced.

Therefore, in keeping with this tasty tradition, our children will enjoy a special treat when they gather to eat a pancake (with their favourite topping) lovingly prepared by our **SPARKLE Parents Team** along with any enthusiastic **parent helpers** who would like to pop-in from **9.30am 'til recess**. **Special Allergy free pancakes will be available or parents can send one along for their child with severe allergies.** Stay tuned for further details.

## **ACTIVE TRAVEL NEWS**

A number of families have taken the opportunity to either walk or ride to school on our Active Travel paths or drop into a park for a play before arriving at school evident by the number of bikes, scooters and helmets stored in our bike racks outside the Junior Learning Building. Other families park a few hundred metres from school and walk and scoot to SPA, alleviating the congestion around the school.

Some parents and in particular mums have already arranged to rendezvous at the school gates to begin their walking groups. What wonderful role models for our children so why don't you join them or start your own walking group?

Our first Walk Ride and Scoot to School day this year has been scheduled to coincide with the **NATIONAL WALK, RIDE and SCOOT to SCHOOL day on FRIDAY 13 MARCH**. Our SPARKLE Parents' Team will once again greet parents arriving at school on that day with a cuppa and hospitality and we'll arrange for a piece of fruit for each of our Active Travel participants.

## SPA'S GOT TALENT – SCHOOL CHOIR NEWS

It is with great excitement that the **SPA CHOIR** will recommence shortly showcasing the talents of our children from Years Two - Six. This year, the choir will be rehearsing once a fortnight on a Friday at lunchtime.

In addition to the SPA Choir, the “**SMALL ENSEMBLE**” will take a new form this year and include not only a **select group of talented singers, but also, dancers, percussionists and other instrumental players**. Children from Years Two-Six, who have spent some time developing skills in these areas will be most welcome to audition for our Ensemble.

It is important for parents to speak with their children about the requirements and commitment necessary as a member of our school choir and small ensemble. Children must attend the fortnightly rehearsal and come with complete enthusiasm and readiness to learn, sing, dance and play music. Singers in the small ensemble, must also be active members of the SPA Choir.

It is an expectation that every member of the SPA Choir attends at least **one or more of our** Parish Sacramental masses throughout the year. Attending and singing at these events is a way for the students to support their fellow peers and display their efforts to our wider community. Details and sign up forms will be sent home shortly. **Elly Pagonis (Performing Arts/Choir teacher)**.

## PARISH FEAST DAY PICNIC

Last Saturday evening, around 100 parishioners (including a number of families and staff from SPA) and staff from our three Catholic Parish Primary Schools gathered together for our Parish Feast day of Christ the Light at St Joseph's School Mernda. Following the parish mass, families stayed for the parish BBQ, which due to the inclement weather was held indoors, creating a more conducive environment for people to mingle after all.

Amongst the fun, laughter and chatter of the very social picnic gathering, time was taken for people to renew old acquaintances and to make new friendships and connections which helped to strengthen our sense of welcome, hospitality and inclusivity within our parish community. I'd like to thank **Fr Martin, Chris Blake** and **Bill Frilay** from our Parish Leadership team who led the Feast day Planning Team and ensured its success.

## LAUNCH OF THE NEW PARISH WEBSITE

**NEW PARISH WEBSITE** <https://www.christthelightparish.org.au>

Coinciding with the parish picnic, the new updated parish website was launched on the weekend at the parish masses, the result of many months of collaboration and shared expertise by the Parish Communications Team.

The aim of the new website is to have information made available to all the parishioners in an easy and effective way. It will include all of our Parish information, activities and key dates for all of the Sacraments. There will also be a section on the Parish news and other events coming up. The new website is mobile friendly and will fit quite well on most of the mobile phones. **We thank the Communications Team, George Thommana, Monique Heckmann, Chris Blake, Anne McGuire, Malou Leone, Lasith Fernando** for their efforts in producing this new website.

## Flexibuzz

Our main form of communication is the **Flexibuzz app for schools**. It is a free downloadable app that connects you to documents such as the newsletter, calendar dates and push notification reminders and important news. It also has the potential to expand into a communication channel for different groups working within the school.

Simply download the **Flexibuzz app** to your phone or tablet. **Register/Login** – spa3754. **Find** - type “St Paul the Apostle” into the search bar. **Inbox** click on “Whole School”. Follow the procedures.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

We are delighted to welcome several new members to our teaching staff at SPA Doreen in 2020. Each of these teachers bring their own unique talents and a shared vision for student wellbeing and improving student learning outcomes.

### NEW TEACHING STAFF:

We welcome **Adriana Bownds** an experienced and passionate teacher and leader (previously REL, acting deputy and acting principal) from St Francis Xavier school Montmorency who has joined our staff as our new **Religious Education Leader** and **Middle Level Team Leader**.

We welcome **Danielle Di Stefano** another experienced and passionate teacher and (previously Mathematics leader) from St Damian's school Bundoora who has joined **our Prep Team** this year.

We welcome **Emma Dunstan** a graduate teacher who joins our Junior Level Team. Emma is becoming familiar with our school since her appointment, immersing herself into our culture and being involved in our preparation with her **Junior Level Team** prior to school commencing. Emma successfully balanced her studies and work life in her previous roles as a Bookings Officer and a Pharmacy technician at Warringal Private Pharmacy and Hospital.

We welcome **Teresa Hanley** another experienced and passionate teacher and leader (formerly REL at St Peter's school Epping) who joins the **Senior Level Team** one day a week in Senior ID.

**We wish our new team every success and fulfilment as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey.**

### NEW LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS (LSO):

We are delighted to welcome several new members to our staff at SPA Doreen in 2020. Each of these Learning Support Officers bring their own unique talents and a shared vision for student wellbeing and improving student learning outcomes.

We welcome **Bernadette Douglas** an experienced LSO on the staff of St Damian's school Bundoora. Bernadette will share her time between both schools.

We welcome **Lisa Jaeger** who brings extensive experience as LSO on the staff of Laurimar Primary School.

We welcome **Sheena Becker** a mum at SPA worked casually as an LSO in term four and has extensive experience in the dental industry.

We welcome **Kayla Scott** who will graduate next term with a Bachelor of Education from Australian Catholic University. Kayla will be supporting the Middle Year Level and is very familiar with our culture having completed two teaching rounds and volunteering as an LSO here at SPA and has extensive experience at the YMCA.

We welcome **Corinne D'Annibale** a new Prep mum at SPA who has experience as a pre-school teacher in Italy before settling in Australia. Corinne has been employed as an LSO as a Languages Assistant to support our ever expanding Italian Language program. Brava.

We welcome **Maree Power** an experienced school bursar with an accountancy background from St Francis Xavier school Montmorency who has joined our administration team in the school office and will share her time between both schools.

## PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - CONFIRMATION

Recently a large number of parents and families attended the 2020 **Sacramental Registration Night** at the Nazareth Centre at St Joseph's School Mernda for the Year Six children from our parish wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.



**“Confirmation** aims to lead our young Christians toward a closer union with Christ, their church community and the life-giving actions and gifts of the holy spirit and to accept their responsibility as witnesses to Jesus Christ.”

If your child is in Senior Year Level, they will automatically be part of the preparation for our Sacrament within our classroom Religious Education program. However, it remains a family decision as to whether or not their Year Six child will follow on and receive the Sacrament in the formal church ceremony, providing all prerequisites have been met.

**For parents who were unable to attend the Registration night**, please contact Adriana Bownds (our new Religious Education Leader) for further information and the program outline and to obtain the **url link** to enable you to go online to select your ceremony date and time for the sacrament.

## **RUN<sup>4</sup>FUN – FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY**

We are delighted that the majority of our families have already registered into **CDF Pay** to pay for the **\$5.00 registration Fee per child** to allow them to join in the fun at **RUN<sup>4</sup>one** our Major Fundraising Events for 2020. Families are now beginning to seek sponsorship which will support our **SPARKLE Parents’ Team fundraising efforts** and **“Lillies For Hope”** charity.

**DATE: FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY**

**LOCATION:** Active travel path beside **Isidore Drive**, diagonally across **Bassetts Road** from the school. (In the grassed area near the adventure playground only about a six minute stroll from SPA where fun obstacles will be placed in their way.

**TIME:** Departs SPA @ 1.30pm to arrive back by 2.45pm

**BYO:** White t-shirt (which will be drenched in coloured powder – high quality corn starch which is non-toxic, biodegradable and environmentally friendly and skin safe), a **small towel** (optional) and school sports uniform.

**STOP PRESS:** The **Doreen CFA** will be present at the finishing line and **use a fine mist spray of drinkable water** to add to the fun (for those who would like the spray). The children staff and families will return to SPA for some music and a dance to dry off before the end of the school day.

**NB:** Children who are not allowed to participate will continue their learning program back at school during that afternoon.

## **STUDENT BANKING**

**Student banking is on Friday mornings.** This important service is operated by volunteer parents from our SPARKLE Parents’ Team. If your child is new to school banking or a child who wishes to open an account, they’ll need a CommBank Youthsaver account. To open a Youthsaver account for your child please see the school office.

## **STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING-PUPIL FREE DAY TUESDAY 10 MARCH – NO SCHOOL**

With the addition of ten new members of staff, the school was buzzing as we spent the first two days of term, revisiting our vision and mission statements and planning some very challenging and engaging learning activities and inquiries.

Later in the year our staff will be engaged in our two-day workshop here at SPA Doreen facilitated by **Dr Ron Ritchhart - Harvard with the focus on “Exploring a Culture of Thinking.”** Educators from around Victoria will once again be invited to attend and for this year a Masterclass day will also be offered too.

**We will be holding a Professional learning – Pupil Free Day on Tuesday 10 March.** To help families, we have chosen this date to coincide with the Labour Day Long Weekend as a number of families take an extended break at this time. **Camp Australia** has also agreed to run a full day program and families can book online directly. Details regarding **how to register** for the program was **sent out as a Flexi-buzz item** this afternoon. **The focus** for our Professional Learning day will centre around **Child Safe policies and practices and revisiting our behaviour management and behaviours for learning approaches.**

**STOP PRESS:** As our school cultures of thinking reputation spreads, leaders from the **Finland International School in the Maldives** have asked whether they can **visit our school** to observe our incredible learning culture first hand when they visit Melbourne for the Project Zero Conference in May.

Throughout any given school year, we receive many similar requests from a number of schools & Universities and leaders throughout Victoria. A number of our staff will also be participating in the two day Project Zero seminar over that weekend.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop is **open every Thursday from 3.25pm until 4.00pm** and is managed by two of our dedicated mums from our SPARKLE Parents Team – **Emma Wills and Donna Gratton.**

Our Uniform Shop has now moved to the Multi-purpose building (previously the Junior Learning Building) behind the office. While in the uniform shop please carefully monitor the whereabouts of your children at all times as our Performing Arts and Science classes are held in this building. Expensive equipment, teaching resources and files are kept in this area so it was disappointing to find that musical instruments were taken from the area and cupboards opened recently.

**Please be aware that there are a large number of uniform items (many ordered on line several weeks ago) currently on back order which both Donna and Emma have been following up vigilantly with PSW on a regular basis. As soon as they arrive the orders will be sent home with your child.**

Orders can be placed at any time by completing a uniform order form (available from the office) with your payment details. Leave your order at the school office or with your child to put in the classroom bucket system. Orders will then be filled and sent home providing the uniform item is in stock. Many thanks once again to all of our volunteer Uniform Shop mums who work tirelessly processing orders.

## LET'S BE SUNSMART

The hot weather conditions along with high UV days over summer remind us of how lucky we are to have copious outdoor sheltered areas and each room air conditioned, enabling each class to learn and play in cooler protected environments and to remain indoors when temperature reach over 33 degrees.

As an accredited SunSmart school, children and staff must wear their SPA school Sunsmart hats (which can be purchased from the Uniform Shop and School Office) during the months of September to April. Sunglasses, sunscreen and bottles of water are also strongly encouraged and parents are invited to continue to model appropriate sun-smart behaviours.

## OUR PARISH INVITES FAMILIES IN YEAR ONE/TWO

The Parish of Christ the Light would like to invite our Year One and Two students and families into the Celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday 29 February and Sunday 1 March.

Our students are gradually being initiated into our Catholic community. As well as learning to pray and celebrate their faith journey within our schools, it is also important for them to begin to discover a sense of belonging to the broader Parish of Christ the Light. At those Masses we would like to involve the children in various ways. Their teachers will organise the particular parts of the Eucharist they could be involved in.

Our weekend Masses across the Parish of Christ the Light are held:

**St Mary's Church, Whittlesea: Sunday 1st March @ 10am**

**St Joseph's Nazareth Centre: Saturday 29th February @ 5.30pm**

**Sunday 1st March @ 10.30am**

You will be welcomed at the Mass time which suits your families other weekend commitments.  
Fr Martin Ashe Parish Priest

## ALLERGIES ALERT – NO SHARING OF FOOD

Within our school community we have a growing number of children who have diagnosed Food Allergies and Intolerance to **Eggs, Nuts, Dairy, Lactose, Kiwi and Wheat (as well as dust, fish and shell fish)**. Chocolate bars, cereals, lollies, canned fish, muesli bars and the like can contain many of the allergen derivatives.

The reaction to the eating or contact with these allergens can be quite severe and even potentially life threatening. We believe that it is our responsibility to alert the whole school community to this situation and work together to ensure the safety of these children.

**In the event of a severe allergic reaction, our Emergency Management Plan** (in strict accordance with medical advice and guidelines) will be activated and **may include the use of an epi-pen(adrenalin) for children** (with a medical plan) and an ambulance being called.

It is not only the eating of these allergens that is a problem, but also cross contamination: traces left on hands, skin, breath, clothing, furniture and fittings and close contact with others who have eaten these allergens. We are asking you to be mindful of what you provide in your children's lunchbox and encourage you not to include these allergens in any way.

As an added precaution, **I request families to refrain from bringing food containing nuts (including Nutella to avoid confusion), peanut butter, fish, eggs and kiwi fruit to school.**

Within our school there is no sharing of food and no food is to be taken outside. We understand the importance of celebrating **birthdays**. Therefore we ask that if you decide to bring something in to celebrate your child's birthday, please speak to your child's teacher prior to their birthday, so we can discuss the available options, that are safe for everyone. Lollies that are individually wrapped and have ingredients clearly labelled are always a safe option as are non-food items. Any birthday treats for the class will be handed out at the end of the day and children should take these treats home.

**During special food and treat days at school events, families will be notified** and parents of children with allergies are asked to provide a special treat to be stored in the school office for special these occasions.



**PLEASE NOTE:** Should your child have a known allergy or medical condition that the school is not aware of, please contact the School Office immediately. This is most helpful especially during times when the children are cooking at school. We can then start the process and have medical plans put into practice within our school community.

Thank you for your cooperation with this serious health and safety matter.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students.

### HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

### MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)



## What's On In Term One

### Calendar of Dates for Term One 2020

Much thought and planning has gone into creating our School Calendar for 2020 highlighting the important dates for Term One 2020 for families to note in your diaries for future reference.

Our School website [www.spadoreen.catholic.edu.au](http://www.spadoreen.catholic.edu.au) enables families to have the convenience of accessing up to date information on the Calendar of Events for 2020 highlighting key events throughout the school year and periodic updates.

Warm regards,

Phil Doherty (Principal)

## Important Term One Dates

Wednesday 19 February

Friday 21 February

Saturday 22 February

Sunday 23 February

Tuesday 25 February

Tuesday 25 February

Wednesday 26 February

Wednesday 26 February

Friday 28 February

Friday 28 February

Saturday 29 February

Sunday 1 March

**Wednesday 4 March**

**Thursday 5 March**

Friday 6 March

Friday 6 March

**Monday 9 March**

**Tuesday 10 March**

**Wednesday 11 March**

**Thursday 12 March**

Friday 13 March

Friday 13 March

Saturday 14 March

Saturday 14 March

Sunday 15 March

Sunday 15 March

Tuesday 17 March

Wednesday 18 March

Wednesday 18 March

Friday 20 March

Friday 20 March

Wednesday 25 March

Wednesday 25 March

Wednesday 25 March

Friday 27 March

Friday 27 March

**Friday 27 March**

Friday 10 April

Sunday 12 April

## **TERM TWO**

**Tuesday 14 April**

Wednesday 15 April

Wednesday 15 April

Friday 17 April

Saturday 18 April

No School for Prep Students

Interschool Sport Year Four – Six: 9.00am – 11.00am

**Confirmation** Companion Card 5.30pm @ St Joseph's Mernda

**Confirmation** Companion Card 10.00am St Mary's Whittlesea & 8.00am & 10.30am Nazareth Centre Mernda

Shrove Tuesday

Level Information Night For SPA Parents – 7.00pm – 8.15pm

Ash Wednesday Mass 12noon

No School for Prep Students

Interschool Sport Year Four – Six: 9.00am – 11.00am

Run4Fun SPARKLE Parents' Team Fundraiser - 1.30pm

**Junior school families invited to parish mass @ 5.30pm Mernda**

**Junior school families invited to parish mass @ 10.30am Mernda**

Goal Setting Meetings - Middle & Senior (Year Three-Six) Year Levels

SPARKLE Parents' Team LUNCH ORDER DAY

Interschool Sport Year Four – Six: 9.00am – 11.00am

Dr Ron Ritchhart (Harvard) visits SPA

**Labour Day Public Holiday – No School**

**Staff Professional Learning Day – No School**

Goal Setting Meetings - Prep Year Level

Goal Setting Meetings - Junior (Years One & Two) Year Levels

National Walk, Ride Scoot to school day & Cuppa for parents

Interschool Sport Year Four – Six: 9.00am – 11.00am

School Working Bee: 8.30am – 1.00pm

Confirmation Presentation of Creed 5.30pm @ Mernda

Confirmation Presentation of Creed 10.00am St Mary's Whittlesea & 8.00am & 10.30am St Joseph's Mernda

Catholic Education Week commences

St Patrick's Day Mass & Picnic @ St Pat's Cathedral (Year Six)

Whole School Photo day

2021 SPA Enrolment Information Night No: 1 (7.00pm-8.15pm)

Young Leaders Day Excursion - Senior Classes

Interschool Sport Year Four – Six: 9.00am – 11.00am

eSafety Presentation for Parents of Family Schools Partnerships

Schools @ SPA: 7.00pm - 8.30pm - All Parents Welcome

Harmony Day "Everyone Belongs"

Twilight Sports & Family Social Night 5.00pm–8.30pm @ Mernda

Interschool Sport Year Four – Six: 9.00am – 11.00am

SPARKLE Parents Team - DONUT DAY @ Recess

**Term One Concludes – 1.30pm (No Lunch Required)**

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

**Term Two commences - 8.55am**

Year Six Confirmation Retreat Day @ St Joseph's Mernda

Confirmation Family Faith Night: 7.00pm @ St Joseph's Mernda

Sacrament of Confirmation: 7.30pm @ St Mary's Whittlesea

Sacrament of Confirmation: 2.00pm & 4.00pm @ Whittlesea