



2 March 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,

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 a couple of weeks ago. **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.**



RUN4FUN...an ExPLoSion of CoLOuR

Squeals of delight and exclamations overheard such as, “this is the best day everrrrrr!” from an excitable young preppie, greeted the starting line at the entrance of our school (balloons and an inflatable banner) for Friday’s much anticipated **RUN4FUN**.

Lying in wait for our eager participants were Lucy (one of our mums) and other members of the Doreen CFA who happily sprayed them with water followed by some mums and staff adding a splash of colour to each child as they ran the gauntlet and embarked on their exciting adventure.



The young adventurers meandered down along the winding paths and then jogged past the open grassed space before they sprinted back to where they encountered a countless number of fun obstacles set up by volunteers from our SPARKLE Parents Team. The children were splashed in an avalanche of colour dished-out by some mischievous staff and volunteer parents who took great delight in having this unique opportunity bestowed upon them. Naturally some of our unsuspecting spectators (including nanas) were also inadvertently caught in the firing line (accidentally I’m sure) and joined in with the fun and laughter.

To conclude this “Spatacular” event, our staff and other willing parents assembled in the middle of the grassed area for the grand finale! Then in time with the countdown, we tore open our sachets of colour and colour bombed ourselves, much to the delight of the children who rushed into the space to join in the celebrations.

After the fun, we all returned safely to SPA where we thanked everyone for their participation and generosity. Special thanks are extended to **Kate Solyom** (mother of Hudson) and **Karina Beattie** (mother of Kyan and Noah) and our **SPARKLE Parents Team** (who initially supported this fundraising proposal in late 2019) and their incredible team of volunteer helpers.



The final total raised through the goodwill and generosity of our families will be announced shortly and will be used to support our **SPARKLE Parents’ Team fundraising efforts for 2020 (special focus on the purchasing and installation of our artificial turf outside the school office) and “Lillies For Hope” charity**. Thank you to all who supported this incredible fundraising and community building initiative.

STOP PRESS: Families are reminded **to go online to claim any prizes** for which your child is eligible to receive. **Closing Date to Claim Prizes... Saturday 7 March.** **Please also return any cash donations** to the school this week.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

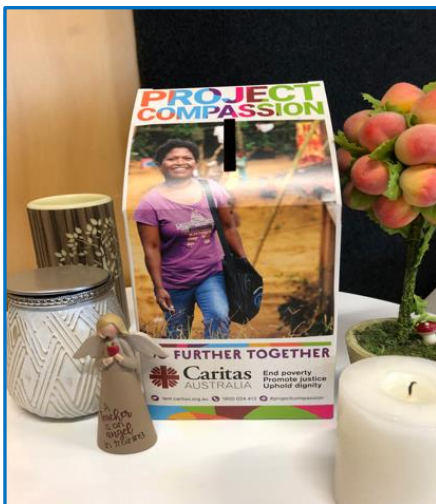
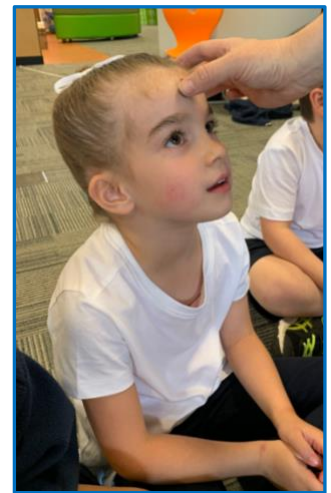
Last Wednesday our school community gathered together to celebrate Ash Wednesday during our school Mass supported by a number of parents and families.

The children, although very curious, reverently received their blessing with ashes on their foreheads and returned to their spaces to reflect on their choices and their desire to “be the hands, heart and voice of Jesus” bringing them closer to God.

Lent, which commenced on Ash Wednesday 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.

The staff will help the children to focus on ways they can embrace the Season of Lent and Easter in the coming weeks and a number of Holy Week learning experiences have been planned for our children and our school communities. Families will be most welcome to share in the experience towards the end of this term.

NB: Our young preppies, being at home on Ash Wednesday **received their ashes last Friday** during a special prayer liturgy just for preps so it would be interesting for parents to have a chat with your children about the blessing.



STOP PRESS: Ash Wednesday also commences the **PROJECT COMPASSION campaign** throughout parishes across Australia when we are asked to give generously to those needing our support in communities overseas. Funds raised by Project Compassion will help to End Poverty, Promote Justice & Uphold Dignity Please support this worthy cause.

As we journey through the season of Lent, may we be more attentive to those we encounter in our ordinary lives and not ask ourselves what to give up, but how to give more.

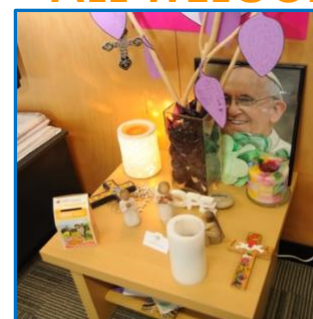
Shrove “Pancake” Tuesday

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 we celebrated “Pancake” Tuesday when the children and staff enjoyed a tasty pancake treat on Tuesday.

PRAYER CIRCLE TIME – 8.55am – 9.05am – ALL WELCOME

Families are also most welcome to join our prayer circle with their children before leaving the building. Our typical school day commences at 8.55am each morning with the children seated reverently around the prayer cloth and classroom prayer candle (blessed at our opening mass).



ACTIVE TRAVEL NEWS - FRIDAY 13 MARCH

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.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY – WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH

A flyer from Arthur Reed Photos will be sent home shortly

Our Annual School Photos will be taken on 18 March and you will be requested to register online beforehand, especially if you require a siblings (sisters and brothers) photograph to be taken on the day.

For 2020, all orders will be processed online with Arthur Reed Photos. Therefore, there will be no need to return any forms or payment to school before photo day however if you do not have internet access you may contact the school for an order form.

NB: School photo ordering details will be issued closer to photo day.

SAY CHEESE!



A SPECIAL REMINDER

All children will be required to arrive in their full **Summer School Uniform**

SUMMER DRESS for the **GIRLS** with black school shoes/sandals.

BOYS will need to wear their **RED SPORTS TOP** (not their Blue polo) **with black school shoes.**

NB: Fleecy jackets are not required. Runners, sports shorts or skorts – NOT PERMITTED.

BELL TIMES – DOORS OPEN AT 8.40am

SCHOOL COMMENCES AT 8.55am

Of course families are always most welcome to enter into our classroom spaces with their children from 8.40am each morning where the children will have an opportunity to proudly explain their learning focus on display or discuss their work books or simply talk with their friends, teachers and parents.



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.

Meet Joanne - The CommBank Rep this Friday @ 8.30am

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.

NB: Joanne, our CommBank Representative will be onsite to meet interested parents this **Friday 6 March from 8.30am – 9.00am.**

ROAD SAFETY ALERT – PARENTAL DUTY OF CARE

As a child safety issue, parents are reminded that after school, the children should wait at the front school gate under staff supervision until they are collected by their parent/guardian. Children, especially younger ones who wait for their parents at a pre-determined place or around the corner out of eyesight are unsupervised and may be placed in an unsafe situation.

Children who are not collected by 3.45pm are taken to the school office and remain there until their parents arrive.

STAFF ONLY CARPARK – DISABLED PARKING EXEMPTED.

Please be aware that there are two designated car parks for **disabled parking** within our Staff car park for drivers **displaying the current disabled passes** when collecting their children.

However, due to our lack of car parking spaces for our staff, families are not permitted to park in the staff car park. It remains a safety issue for children who are walking through our staff car park unsupervised before and after school.

ON THE SPOT FINES FOR TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENTS

Local Traffic By-laws officers will continue to monitor the traffic flow and parking around the school entrance and **will issue on the spot fines for vehicles illegally parked.**

We have also been informed that the **traffic officers** will be making random visits and issuing **on the spot fines for vehicles illegally parked on nature strips, across driveways, driving over footpaths and breaking the road rules outside our school boundaries** such as parents jay-walking especially as there are employed traffic supervisors keeping our pedestrians safe.

Please continue to be exemplary role models for our children by only crossing at the designated supervised school crossing and obeying the whistle. [Please take care for the safety of all, not just your child.](#)



eSafety Parent Information Evening – 23 March @ SPA

As part of our **Family Schools Partnership Program** involving **St Mary's Whittlesea, St Joseph's Mernda, St Peter's Epping And St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Epping North** we are pleased to announce that our first **Family Welfare Information Evening** will be an **eSafety presentation** through the **eSafety Commission.**



eSafety presentations can help parents and carers, and other youth-focused groups in the community, **to better understand online safety issues and their impact on young people.**

This presentation explores the latest research into online safety, technology trends and the benefits and risks of social media. It includes case studies and targeted advice on helping young people to have safe, enjoyable online experiences.

The presentation is one to two hours long including question time, and is delivered by online safety experts from eSafety. **Please keep 7.00 - 8:30 pm free on the 23 March for eSafety Parent Information Night presented by Greg Gerbhart from the eSafety Commissioner's Outreach Group.**

Please click on the link below to register your interest:
<https://forms.gle/i7t8NCDVLTpy9W46>



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**.

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 be filled and sent home providing the uniform is in stock.

ENROLMENT INFORMATION NIGHT 2021



FOR NEW PROSPECTIVE PARENTS
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH
Senior Learning Building
7.00pm – 8.15pm (Baby-sitting available)

FYI: A repeat session of this night will be held on Wednesday 29 April

WORKING BEE - SATURDAY 14 MARCH (8:30am – 1:00pm)

Families are invited to bring along rakes, shovels, wheel-barrows, power tools, gloves, Whipper Snippers, Motor Mowers and other handy tools. (We do have a limited supply of gardening tools so please bring them along on standby). Jeremy Oakey, Co-ordinator of the Working Bees and Maintenance Committee will be there to greet you.

Food, drinks and hospitality will be provided. Morning Tea and a B.B.Q. lunch will be provided. (Food and raffle prize donations most welcome)



EARTH WORKS UPDATE

Works to our **Hardstand and driveway** (which will lead to the new learning building), entering from Eminence Blvd, are on track to be completed over the next fortnight (depending on the weather). We will also commence compacting works to the area for the artificial turf before we lay the **long-awaited courts** this month.

Due to the fundraising efforts of our SPARKLE Parents Team and the generosity of families for our **RUN4FUN** event, **artificial turf adjoining the school office and Performing Arts/Science/Uniform Shop Building** will be purchased and laid during the term holidays as will repair work to the concrete on the stair landing.

Warm regards,

Phil Doherty (Principal)

Stop Press: LUNCH ORDER DAY This Thursday

A SPECIAL REQUEST: For Up-to Date information it's imperative for families to download the free "Flexibuzz" App. (Information attached)

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 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.



Important Term One Dates

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

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

Tuesday 14 April

Wednesday 15 April

Wednesday 15 April

Friday 17 April

Saturday 18 April

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