Dear Members of St Paul’s School Community

Thank you to the parents and staff who attended the AGM on Tuesday night. Your support and interest in the school is greatly appreciated.

Our thanks go to the exiting St Paul’s School Board members, Kirsten Dechan and Emma Crean, for their service on the Board. We welcome two new Board members for 2017, Amanda Garman and Cal Willcox. Luka Margaretic, Nola McIntyre, Simon Borck, Malaika Jordan, Suzanne Woods, and Angelina Bowden-Jones will remain on the Board for 2017. We appreciate and thank these people for their generosity in sharing their time and efforts for the good of the school community.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the departing P & F Executive Committee members, Juliet Bruining (President), Emma Gregory (Deputy President) and Lina Coletti (Secretary). Mary Abbott (Treasurer) and Rachael O’Callaghan (Fundraising Coordinator), will be continuing in their roles in 2017. We congratulate this year’s P&F on their great achievements and thank them for their commitment and hard work this year. The P&F are seeking a President, Vice President and Secretary. Please consider nominating yourself, or anyone else who is willing and able, to take on one of these positions.

Accolades
This week, a representative from WorkSafe WA visited the school. He was most impressed with the excellent condition of the school grounds and play areas, and commented that St Paul’s Primary School is one of the best maintained schools that he has ever seen!

Parent Helpers’ Thank You Morning Tea
Invitations have been sent home for the Parent Helpers’ Thank you Morning Tea at 9.00am this Friday 25 November. We would love to see you there to thank you for the support you give to the school for the benefit of your children.

Swimming
Swimming lessons conclude tomorrow. We thank all parents for their support in ensuring that their children were adequately prepared each day. If your child has passed their next level they should receive a certificate. This is your evidence when enrolling your child in future swimming lessons.

2017 Pre Kindy Orientation Session
Next Monday, 28 November from 9.30-10.30am, the Pre Kindy children will participate in an orientation session. They will have a wonderful time completing a variety of interesting activities to familiarise them with the Pre Kindy environment. Thank you in advance to the 2017 Pre Kindy team, Liz Scaglierini and Rebecca Glynn, for providing a welcoming experience for these children and their parents.

GOD OF HOPE
God of hope, who brought love into this world,
Be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
Be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
Be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
Be the centre, the focus of our lives always and particularly this Advent time.
Year 5 Mother/Daughter Workshop
Next Tuesday, 29 November at 2.00pm in the Heritage Hall, Sally Steffanoni, our Community Health Nurse, will be presenting an informative talk for the Year 5 mothers and daughters. This is a great bonding experience for mothers and their daughters, and will provide an opportunity for further discussion about the issues girls face as they grow up.

Kindy Concert
Next Thursday, 1 December, at 10.00am, the Kindy class will be holding their end of year concert and morning tea for their parents. It is always a heart-warming experience to see them perform for their mums and dads. The Kindy children have certainly come a long way since the start of the year and are now well and truly ready for Pre Primary next year. Thank you to Mac Callisto and the Kindy Educational Assistants, Mary Kerrigan and Connie Mezzatesta, for ensuring that the children had a wonderful year in Kindy.

Year 6 Graduation Mass, Awards Ceremony and Dinner Dance
There is much anticipation in the school as the Year 6 students prepare for their Graduation Mass, Awards Ceremony and Dinner Dance next Friday 2 December, commencing at 6.30pm in the church. The Year 6 students have been attending social dancing lessons with Kaye Gilkison and practising their special farewell song in readiness for this exciting event. Thank you to Penny Gazia, Leah Lee and all the Year 5 parents who are organising the dinner for the Yr 6 students and parents.

Joanna Noonan
PRINCIPAL

PERTH CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

Since 1929, the volunteer presence at Princess Margaret Hospital has been extremely important to the experience that our patients and families have during their time here.

Their concern for people and their ability to create an atmosphere of friendliness and goodwill is invaluable.

With the exciting move to Perth Children’s Hospital we are expanding the volunteer team and we are recruiting now for various roles. I

f you want to make a positive difference to the lives of children and their families who visit the hospital then we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Andy Wahid, Coordinator Volunteer Services 08 9340 8716 or email andy.wahid@health.wa.gov.au for further information.
ST PAUL’S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MT LAWLEY - FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT - 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 28 November</td>
<td>Prayer Assembly 8.45am Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29 November</td>
<td>Communal Reconciliation 9.15am Year 3-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 1 December</td>
<td>Kindy Christmas Concert 10.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 2 December</td>
<td>Graduation Mass, Awards and Dinner 6.30pm Year 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 4 December</td>
<td>Parish/School Mass 9.30am Pre Primary leading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reconciliation

Congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation last Thursday 17 November. It was a memorable occasion and it was wonderful to see so many families supporting their children and also receiving the Sacrament on the night. May this be the beginning of many other times the children will receive the Sacrament throughout their lives, knowing that Jesus always forgives and loves us.

Reconciliation (Years 3-6)

Next Tuesday 29 November at 9.15am, the children from Year 3 to 6 will have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. We thank Fr Tim for organising this for the children in preparation for Christmas.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal 2016

Tomorrow we will finalise the Christmas hampers for St Vincent de Paul and would like to thank all our families for your generosity. They will be collected on Monday 28th at our Prayer Assembly by Mr Peter Quinn, who is the Parish representative for St Paul’s Church. These will be administered to the families in our community that will benefit from our generous gifts. May God bless all our St Paul’s Community who kindly give willingly. Thank you.

Parish/School Mass

On Sunday 4 December, at 9.30am, we have our final Parish/School Mass for the year hosted by the Pre Primary children and their families. It would be wonderful if we had an outstanding turn out for our last Parish/School Mass. Please make an extra effort to come to this Mass and support our younger children.

1st Sunday of Advent

This Sunday in the church calendar is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a Latin word that actually means “coming.” Advent is a time of preparation and waiting for the birth of Jesus and officially begins four Sundays before Christmas. This is also the beginning of the new liturgical year for the Church.

During Advent no flowers decorate churches, but it is usual to have an Advent Crown also known as an Advent Wreath. These are made from a circle of evergreen plants like holly and ivy, which symbolizes God with no beginning or end. The evergreen is a reminder that God does not change. The holly is also a symbol of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. Four candles are fixed round the circle with another in the middle.

The first purple candle represents hope. It is often called the prophets’ candle. The first Sunday in Advent focuses on the prophecies of the Bible describing the coming of Christ.

Mac Callisto
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week:

Jordan Marocchi
Isabella Meehan

WEEK AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 25</td>
<td>Parent Helpers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you Morning Tea</td>
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<td></td>
<td>END OF SWIMMING</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 28</td>
<td>Prayer Assembly Yr 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pre Kindy 2017</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Orientation 9:30– 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 29</td>
<td>No Class Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communal Reconciliation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yrs 3-6 9:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 1</td>
<td>NO MASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 2</td>
<td>Assembly Yr 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduation Mass, Awards and Dinner Dance 6:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
End of Year Concert

The students from Pre Primary to Year 6 are excitedly practising for the End of Year concert on Wednesday 7 December at 6.00pm. To ensure that the evening runs smoothly, we are asking the children to assemble in their classrooms at 5:45pm. The concert will be in two parts, starting with the Christmas carols and concluding with the Edu-dance performances. The concert will take place on the courts, weather permitting. Costume requirements have been emailed to parents and can be found in this newsletter. We look forward to a memorable event and hope the weather is nice to us!

Jesse Yock
Assistant Principal

SEQTA REPORTING SEMESTER 2 2016

This semester we will again be using SEQTA to produce our end of year reports.

An extra component of this system is known as SEQTA ENGAGE. This is an online parent portal, which is able to provide you with your child’s past and present reports.

SEQTA ENGAGE will allow the school to provide your child’s report through paperless means. Parents were previously sent an email to provision their individual account (last semester). Once you log in with your chosen login details you will see a menu on the left hand side. The Reports label is the way you can access your child’s semester report. Reports will be made available on line for you to see on any electronic device and print if you wish. Your child’s Semester 2 report will be available from Friday 9 December, 2016.

The school web link to access SEQTA ENGAGE is:


Your login details will be the same as Semester One. These are chosen by parents and not provided by the school. As such we cannot tell parents what their login details are. If you have forgotten your login details or cannot access the online portal please email Jesse Yock (contact details below) and we will reset your account.

Please note that parents who are unable to access their child’s report using an electronic device may request a paper copy from the school office.

All SEQTA related enquiries should be directed to Jesse Yock at yock.jesse@stpaulsmtl.wa.edu.au
Numeracy in Year One

This term in Numeracy we have been practising telling the time to the o’clock and the half hour. We made clocks and have been showing the times on these. Money, money, money! We know all the coin names and their features.

We have been working in our maths rotations, working on Area, Mathletics, Addition and Subtraction.

We had a fabulous time at the ‘World of Maths’ incursion last Friday. We experimented and problem solved with all the activities. It was great fun.

Jerelyn Tierney

YEAR 1 TEACHER
Surfing Groms
Well done Surfing Groms. We were catching our own waves and we swam 25m successfully for our assessment. We all know the different parts of the surfboard. Make sure that you tick off what you have achieved in your log books. We will finish up our program in Week 9.

Spring Netball Competition
We finished on a high for our Spring Netball Competition with both Year 3 and Year 4/5’s winning their last game for the season. A big congratulations to our netballers. Thank you to Deb and Sophie Lamers for coaching and managing our Year 3 team and to Helen Chatzimail for being a brilliant team manager. We are looking forward to continuing our netball into 2017!

Year 5’s Perth Lynx Incursion
A big thank you to Ash Grant for taking the Year 5’s for their basketball incursion. The Year 5’s have some tricky basketball skills that they will continue to practise during the Summer Sports Program. Check out the photos from our Perth Lynx Incursion.

Loretta Kerse
PE SPECIALIST
Year 6 Ballroom Dancing

This term the Year 6 students have been preparing for the Graduation Dinner Dance by participating in structured dancing lessons each week, run by Gilkinson's Dancing Academy. The students learn a number of individual and partner dances including the progressive jive, patter cake polker, ally cat, electric slide and slow rhythm. We look forward to seeing their skills in action on Graduation night, next Friday 2 December.
EDU-DANCE CONCERT COSTUME LIST 2016

PRE-PRIMARY – “80’S Disco Dudes”
* Fluoro or bright coloured trousers/shorts/skirt
* White t-shirt
* Tie provided by Mrs Voysey (Edu-dance teacher)

YEAR 1 – “Wreck It Ralph”
* School shorts
* Red t-shirt
* Handkerchief

YEAR 2 – “Ghost Busting Turtles”
* School shorts
* Green t-shirt
* Ghostbuster “no go” picture stuck on front of shirt (provided by Edu-dance teacher on the night)

YEAR 3 – “Emoji”
* School shorts
* Any bright coloured shirt (except yellow) - Emoji face stuck on front of shirt (provided by Edu-dance teacher on the night)
* Crazy/teased hair

YEAR 4 – “Welcome to Planet Earth”
* Black pants (dark blue pants may be worn if black not available)
* Faction t-shirts
* Face paint (to be done by Edu-dance teacher on the night)
* Girls to wear hair in one ponytail high on top if possible

YEAR 5/6 – “Invitation to Chill and Dance”
* White-T shirt- dark longish /track pants rolled up to the knee, ¾ pants or leggings.
* Coloured long stripy socks
* Girls tie hair up high (either pony tail or pigtails) and tease to look wild
* Boys can spike/tease hair

All Students must wear sneakers/runners
2017 MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are invited from the parents of any interested students in Years 3 or 4 (2017) who would like to learn either the flute or clarinet for the 2017 academic year.

Four full scholarships to learn either instrument (2 flute, 2 clarinet) are being offered.

Please see below the application form or ask Mrs Quin in the office or contact Mr Dabbs for any further information.

Mr. Nick Dabbs
MUSIC SPECIALIST
dabbs.nick@stpaulsmtl.wa.edu.au

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St Paul’s 2017 Music Scholarship (Flute/Clarinet)

Student: ________________________________  Class in 2017: ________________

Instrument for which you are applying: ________________________________________

I understand that my child will:

1. Commit to a practice session for at least 10 minutes per day
2. Remain as a student at St Paul’s until the end of Year 6
3. Participate in the school ensemble each Thursday morning at 8.00am. (This will not be necessary for the 1st term of lessons)

I also understand that:

1. I/we the parents will need to contribute around $165 towards the lesson cost for the year. The school, the parish and Keyed Up Music will meet the remainder of the cost.
2. I/we the parents are responsible for the hire and/or purchase of an instrument.*
3. The scholarship will cease at the end of the 2017 academic year, with the possibility of it being extended at the school’s discretion.

Parent’s Signature: ________________________________  Date: ____________________

Student’s Signature: ________________________________  Date: ____________________

* We are trying to source instruments through various avenues. The costs of hiring/buying an instrument will soon become clearer, once we have made contact with the various suppliers.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thank you so much to everybody who attended the AGM on Tuesday evening. The atmosphere in the room was just wonderful as we all came to together to celebrate the happiness of our children at St Paul’s, and what has been achieved by the winning combination of our incredible, dedicated teachers and staff; our professional and committed Board; our hard-working Parish Priest and close-knit Parish; and our P&F, in 2016. Thank you to the inspirational and dedicated members of the 2016 Executive Committee, our Sub-Committee leaders and all the 2016 Class Representatives, who were so enthusiastic, positive and committed throughout the year.

We warmly welcome our new 2017 Class Representatives. We are so looking forward to an exciting 2017 shared with you, planning excellent, exciting and formative educational and social adventures for our St Paul’s school children together.

A full list of the 2017 Class Representatives will be published next week.

DAD’S GROUP PLAY IN THE PARK

Don’t forget the Dads Group’s play in the park, which will take place in the big playground at Yokine Reserve from 4pm until 6pm (with BYO picnic and drinks) on Saturday, 26 November 2016. All Dads and father figures are invited to come along with their children and have fun.

SCHOOL’S OUT END OF YEAR WIND UP

On the last day of school for the year, which is Friday, 9 December 2016, all children and their families (including younger and older siblings) are warmly invited to come along to the Beach House from 5:30pm until 8pm to relax, have fun and celebrate the end of the school year. A flyer containing more details will be sent home shortly.

NETBALL

We are so proud of our St Paul’s Year 3 All Stars! After playing so competitively all season, against teams with far more experience and time to practise their skills, and after having so many close game results (often with 1 point in the result), they WON their game on Tuesday afternoon!!!!!! We are so proud of you, our Year 3 All Stars. Well done to all of you. You have learned so much and come so far over the season. We can’t wait to see what you do next.

Congratulations also to the Yr 4/5 Diamonds, who ended their season with another great win, against the Hollywood Hotshots. They won by their greatest margin yet and finished their very first netball season winning 4 out of 6 games. The players of the match were Alannah Casale, Ruby Parker and Jessica Bruining. Well done, girls. We are so proud of our St Paul’s Diamonds.

Juliet Bruining  
P&F President

NEXT WEEK’S LUNCH ORDER ROSTER:

MONDAY 28: Lina Coletti  
WEDNESDAY 29: Carla Morris-Luck  
FRIDAY 2: Alex Ebey

PARISH NEWS

ST PAUL’S PARISH ALTAR SERVER ROSTER
26 & 27 November 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6pm Mass</th>
<th>8am Mass</th>
<th>9:30am Mass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S Clare</td>
<td>G Pereira</td>
<td>B Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Clare</td>
<td>M Crock</td>
<td>A Ramos</td>
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<tr>
<td>K &amp; A Sack</td>
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<td>A Olivieri</td>
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</table>
ST PAUL’S DADS GROUP PRESENTS

An Afternoon in the Park

Join us for free play and a BYO BBQ

Yokine “Adventure Playground”
7 Wordsworth Ave, Yokine.

Saturday 26th November

From 4:00-6:00pm

A St Paul’s Dads Group event for the kids, fathers and father figures of St Paul’s!

CALLING ALL FATHERS & FATHER FIGURES OF ST PAUL’S

I think we’d all agree that the St Paul’s Dads Group has had a successful inaugural year. Looking to build on this, the Committee are meeting in early December to appoint roles and discuss next year’s events. If you’d like to be involved in the Committee, please contact StPaulsDads@gmail.com
Enrolling is quick and easy! Simply enrol and set up your account online at "extend.com.au"
Please note – all children must be enrolled before attending.

OPERATING HOURS AND FEES:

Commencing Term 1 2017
After School Care: 2.45pm – 6.00pm
$26.00 permanent, $30.00 casual
*YOU PAY BETWEEN: $7.15 - $13.00 for a permanent booking

Emergency on-the-day bookings incur an additional $5 fee, which is no more than $2.50 after fee relief.

*Child Care Benefits and the non-income tested 50% Child Care Rebate of up to $7500 apply for eligible families. Fees are per child per session.

FEE RELIEF – THE FACTS
Fact 1: The Child Care Rebate (CCR) is NOT income tested! We encourage you to apply!
Fact 2: 50% is the minimum reduction you may receive in your fees. Further benefits may apply to you.

Read further information and estimate your out of pocket expense at "extend.com.au"

QUESTIONS?
Check out the FAQs on our website which contains useful information for new parents.

PARENT PORTAL: "extend.com.au"
Welcome to Extend

About Us

Since 2002, our goal at Extend has been to enrich the lives of children through out of school hours programs. As a national organisation, Extend caters daily for thousands of children in Independent, Catholic and Government schools across Australia.

Our focus is quality for kids, safety, respect, and of course, FUN!

Find out more at extend.com.au

Getting started

EASY ENROLMENT
Simply set up your own account online via our Parent Portal

SPEEDY CONFIRMATION
Receive confirmation of enrolment within 24 hours so that you can begin to manage your own bookings.

NO UPFRONT FEE
The annual enrolment fee isn’t charged to your account until you make a booking.

TO ENROL, VISIT OUR PARENT PORTAL AT:

extend.com.au

To see operating hours and fees, search for your school via the 'Find my School' function at extend.com.au

Affordable Fees

MYTH:
“We won’t qualify for any child care entitlements. Our income is too high.”

This is NOT true!

Get the facts:

FACT #1
The Child Care Rebate (CCR) is NOT income tested!

FACT #2
50% is the minimum reduction you may receive in your fees

All we need is a CRN and Date of Birth for you and each child attending.

Complete this when enrolling online or simply log in via the Parent Portal to update your details.

Read further information and try our Fee Relief calculator at our website.

If you are not receiving child care fee relief, contact our Customer Service team to discuss.
WAAPA Summer School 2017

This summer The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) is offering an exciting school holiday program for children and young people.

The Summer School includes classes in drama, acting, screen acting, musical theatre, Shakespeare and theatre production.

For information about the many courses on offer please visit: waapa.ecu.edu.au/summer-school or contact Gabrielle Metcalf.

CYCD

Complete Youth Cricket Development

Join us on January 9th tall the 12th, 9.00am to 1.00pm each day
For 4 days of cricket fun. Western Warriors players will visit the camp.

Cost $120 – Earlybird offer before Jan 1st (save 10%)

Call David Virgo M: 0439 091 418 or email info@cycd.com.au

# St Paul's Primary School Parent Calendar

**Term Four 2016**

**Mission Focus – ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>OCT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15/16</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Pupil Free Day Staff PD</td>
<td>11 Students commence Prayer Assembly - Yr 2 No Class Prayer Y6 Ballroom Dancing</td>
<td>12 EDUDANCE Y5/6 Surfing Program</td>
<td>13 Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Whole School Opening Mass 9.15am (PP-Y6) Yr 5</td>
<td>14 P &amp; F Meeting 9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 Month of October (Rosary)</td>
<td>17 Prayer Assembly - Yr 1 (Pray the Rosary)</td>
<td>18 Class Prayer 9:00 Yr 5 Sci-Tech Challenge Day Y5/6 Y6 Ballroom Dancing</td>
<td>19 EDUDANCE Y5/6 Surfing Program</td>
<td>20 Mass 9:15am (Y4-6) Yr 4 St Luke Parent / Candidate Reconciliation Workshop 6:30pm Barbier Hall</td>
<td>21 Assembly – Year 2 22/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 Month of October (Rosary)</td>
<td>24 Prayer Assembly - Yr 5 (Pray the Rosary)</td>
<td>25 Class Prayer 9:00 Yr 4 Y6 Ballroom Dancing Board Meeting 6:30pm</td>
<td>26 EDUDANCE Y5/6 Surfing Program</td>
<td>27 Mass 9:15am (Y4-6) Yr 6 Sts Simon &amp; Jude Parent Reconciliation Meeting 6:30pm Church</td>
<td>28 29/30</td>
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<td>NOV</td>
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<td>5/6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>31 1 ALL SAINTS DAY Melbourne Cup Day Y6 Ballroom Dancing Class Prayer 9:00 Yr 3</td>
<td>2 ALL SOULS DAY EDUDANCE Y5/6 Surfing Program</td>
<td>3 Saint Martin De Porres Mass 9:15am (Y4-6) Yr 5</td>
<td>4 Assembly – Year 1</td>
<td>5/6 Parish/School Mass 9:30am All classes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12/13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 Prayer Assembly - Yr 3</td>
<td>8 Class Prayer 9:00 Yr 2 Y6 Ballroom Dancing</td>
<td>9 Cyber Safety Parent Workshop 6-7pm EDUDANCE Y5/6 Surfing Program</td>
<td>10 St Leo the Great Mass 9:15am (Y4-6) Yr 4 Kindy 2017 Parent Information Night 6:30pm</td>
<td>11 Remembrance Day Prayer Liturgy 10:40am Yr 6 P &amp; F Meeting 9am</td>
<td>19/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>14 SWIM WEEK</td>
<td>15 Reconciliation Retreat No Class Prayer Y6 Ballroom Dancing Kindy 2017 Orientation 10.00-11.00</td>
<td>16 EDUDANCE Y5/6 Surfing Program</td>
<td>17 Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Mass 9:15am (Y4-6) Yr 5 First Reconciliation Liturgy 6:30pm St Paul's Church</td>
<td>18 Assembly – Year 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SWIM WEEK</td>
<td>21 Swimming Prayer Assembly - Yr 2 Pre-Kindy 2017 Parent Information Night 6.30pm</td>
<td>22 Swimming Class Prayer 9:00 PP AGM 6:30pm Barbier Hall</td>
<td>23 Swimming PP Orientation 10-11am (students only) EDUDANCE Y5/6 Surfing Program</td>
<td>24 Swimming No Mass</td>
<td>26/27 1st Sunday of Advent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>NOV/ DEC</td>
<td>28 Prayer Assembly - Yr 1 Pre Kindy 2017 Orientation 9:30-10:30</td>
<td>29 No Class Prayer COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION (YR 3-4) 9.15am 2pm Yr 5 Mother/Daughter workshop</td>
<td>30 EDUDANCE Y5/6 Surfing Program</td>
<td>3 NO MASS Kindy Christmas Concert 10am</td>
<td>3/4 Parish/School Mass 9:30am PP</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Prayer Assembly – Yr 6 Pre-Kindy Christmas Celebration</td>
<td>6 No Class Prayer</td>
<td>7 EDUDANCE Y5/6 Surfing Program End of Year Concert 6:00pm</td>
<td>8 Immaculate Conception Thanksgiving Whole School Mass (PP-Y6) Yr 4 9:15am</td>
<td>9 End of Term REPORTS GO ONLINE 4pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ST PAUL’S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MT LAWLEY - FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT - 15
It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

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It takes strong parenting ...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit”! Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”.

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching-up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.