Dear Parents,

Yesterday the school attended the Ash Wednesday Mass to commence our Lenten Season. Lent is a special time of prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works in the preparation of Easter. In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

During this first week of Lent our focus relates on being a follower of the example set by Jesus. At last Sunday’s Mass Fr Jim’s homily focused on the gospel of St Peter trusting in Jesus – “When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch”. “Master,” Simon replied “we have been fishing hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.” And when they had done this they netted such a huge a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear” - Luke 5 4-7

The following reflection by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit philosopher and priest, writes about trusting in God even though our “wishes” may take longer than we expect.

Trust in the Slow work of God
Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
To reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.
Yet it is the law of all progress that is made by passing through some stages of instability
And that may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually. Let them grow.
Let them shape themselves without undue haste.
Do not try to force them on as though you could be today what time
--that is to say, grace –
And circumstances
--acting on your own good will –
Will make you tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new Spirit
Gradually forming in you will be.

Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you,
And accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.
Above all, trust in the slow work of God,

School Car Park - Parents are asked to please follow the school car park rules when using the school car park. Please do not park in any area that is not a designated car park area and do not leave your car when waiting to collect children in the drive through area. Both these regulations are there for the safety and courtesy of everyone. See flyer attached.

Year 6 trip to Canberra will be on Monday, 22nd February until Friday 26th February. Parents are reminded that the camp fee of $510 per child needs to be paid by Friday 19th February. All camp fees must be paid in order for the children to go the Canberra.

Term 1 2016 – The next Professional development day for teachers is Friday 11th March. There will be no school for students.

School Photographs – Parents are asked to keep Wednesday, 9th March free as all children will be involved in school photos.

Parent/Teachers Interviews The last of the parent teacher interviews is on today, Thursday, 11th February (3:30 to 8.00pm). I would like to thank all those parents who have responded to attend the parent teacher meetings. With over 95% of parents attending parent teacher interviews this just reflects the high value parents place on their child’s education. It is very important that parents and teachers create a positive relationship early in the year in order for a successful 2016 school year.
**Extra Curricular Activities Term 1 Weeks 4 & 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th February</td>
<td>No school for Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th February</td>
<td>Caritas Project Compassion commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22nd February</td>
<td>Year 6 leave for Canberra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22nd February</td>
<td>Harmony Day Liturgy 2.30pm (3R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23rd February</td>
<td>Prep Prayer Night 6.30pm – 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th February</td>
<td>No school for Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th February</td>
<td>Inter school Swimming 1.00pm – 3.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26th February</td>
<td>Parents’ Association Twilight Movie Night</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Sacramental Dates 2016** The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th August at 2pm & 4pm on both these days. The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Sunday 29th & Saturday 4th June, 2016 at 2pm & 4pm on both these days.

**Parents’ Association AGM** - Will be held next Wednesday, 17th February. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm. All parents are invited and this gives all parents the opportunity to meet other parents and to become more involved in the school. Our Parents’ Association are to be thanked and congratulated for all the great work they do at St. Simon’s. We are fortunate to have such a supportive group of parents. See flyer attached.

**Catholic Secondary College** Parents of children in Grade 6 must have their Catholic Secondary College application for Year 7, 2017 submitted directly to the college of their choice by Friday 26th February 2016. It is ESSENTIAL that you have your application submitted by the due date. A list of Open Days is attached to Contact this week.

**Key Enrolment Dates for 2016** – The following dates will be used by Catholic secondary schools for Year 6 students in 2016 who will be enrolling in Year 7 for 2017. These are:

- **Friday 26th February 2016** Date by which all applications to colleges close.
- **Friday 22nd April 2016** Date on which offers of places to prospective Year 7 students are to be posted.
- **Friday 6th May 2016** Final date for acceptance by parents of offers made.

**Ambulance** - all families are encouraged to be members of the Ambulance Service. If a child requires to be transported by an ambulance to hospital the cost will be the responsibility of the parents.

**Email Subscription to Newsletter** If any parents are not receiving their copy of Contact by email please follow the link to add your email address to our mailing list - [http://www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au/parent-resources-1/newsletters](http://www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au/parent-resources-1/newsletters)

**Working-bee** - The first working-bee for the year will be on Saturday 5th March commencing at 9.00am and concluding with a b-b-q at 11.45am.

**Mazenod College VCE 2015** The following students who graduated from St. Simon’s in 2009, received an ATAR Score above 90 and are to be commended on such a fantastic result – Anthony Dietzel, Husham Duggan, Robert Todesco, Jake Shields, David Tait and Aaron Theodore.

The Good Manners Award goes to Alyssia Pisano (5R) and Uniform Award goes to Matthew Rowe (1B). Well done to these children

Yours sincerely,

\[Signature\]

Phil Hesse
Principal

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**WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH 2016 PREPS FULL TIME**

**FRIDAY 11TH MARCH - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 11th February</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm – 8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 14th February</td>
<td>1st Sunday Lent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 17th February</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 17th February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session(3) 2.00pm , 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 17th February</td>
<td>Parents’ Association AGM 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 21st February</td>
<td>2nd Sunday Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22nd February</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 22nd February</td>
<td>Harmony Day Liturgy 2.30pm (3R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23rd February</td>
<td>Prep Prayer Night 6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 24th February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session(4) 2.00pm , 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 24th February</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 24th February</td>
<td>Advisory Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th February</td>
<td>Inter School Swimming Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26th February</td>
<td>Twilight Movie Night 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26th February</td>
<td>Closing date for applications for Year 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26th February</td>
<td>Ron Barassi’s Birthday</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MATHS TOOLKITS** - They have now arrived and if parents wish to purchase one they can send to school $3.20 in cash in a sealed envelope with their name and grade and Maths Toolkit attention Miss Corio.

**SCHOOL WEBSITE NEWS**

[www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

To access the ‘Working with Children Check’ go to PARENTS/ USEFUL LINKS
OFFICE NEWS

SCHOOL FEES: The first instalment of $500 is due by Friday 19th February. Accounts are being sent home.

AUTOMATIC SCHOOL FEE PAYMENT: Families can collect the form from the school office if interested. This is for your convenience and will help you avoid queues at the office.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF): For concession card holders see flyer attached for more information. The application form can be downloaded from the school website by going to this link http://www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au/static/uploads/files/csef-application-form-wtfelvagotn.pdf or under Forms and Notices in the Parents Section of the school website www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au. Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29th February 2016 so that payments can be made from March 2016. The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Freeways and Bike lanes
A freeway walks into a pub one day. He goes up to the bar and orders himself a drink. He just sits down when a bike lane walks in. The freeway sees the bike lane and starts to panic so he jumps over the bar and ducks down so it won’t see him. The barman looks down at him and says, “What’s the matter with you?” Why are you hiding? You’ve got six lanes and two hard shoulders. Why are you frightened of a bike lane?”
The motorway replies, “You don’t know him like I do. He’s a cyclepath.”

ST SIMON’S MUSIC TUITION: Currently taking enrolments for 2016 for Years 2 to 6 only, private music lessons offered during school hours on a weekly rotating timetable. Instruments include acoustic guitar, electric guitar, drums, piano, keyboard and singing. Learning Music helps your child academically and socially so why not give it a go! Limited spaces, applications are available from the school office, any questions relating to the program please call Paul Howard on 0405 689 757 or email phoward@sghawthrncatholic.edu.au

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wishing the following students a very happy birthday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jamie Kok (Prep R)</th>
<th>Mili Madhav (4B)</th>
<th>Briana Iannetta (3G)</th>
<th>Laura Morabito (3G)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Morgan (Prep B)</td>
<td>Ben Di Petta (5B)</td>
<td>Mia Matta (5R)</td>
<td>Daniel Punturere (5B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivrea Hodgson (4G)</td>
<td>Caitlin Beyrooti (5R)</td>
<td>Aaron Bowers (6B)</td>
<td>Xander Allen (3Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anjalee Jacob-Herath (1B)</td>
<td>Danny Montalto (6Y)</td>
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</table>

STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

The following students have been selected from each class for their outstanding achievements within the school. We congratulate the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep B – Cameron Kaali</th>
<th>Prep G – Jack Sloan</th>
<th>Prep R – Alana Bartlett</th>
<th>Prep Y – Zac Harvey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue – Tayla Frances</td>
<td>1 Green – Amelie Lahausse</td>
<td>1 Red – Darcy Jean</td>
<td>1 Yellow – Battrik Habib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Blue – Lucy Cochrane</td>
<td>2 Green – Noah Vissenjour</td>
<td>2 Red – Charlotte Perry</td>
<td>2 Yellow – Alice Mihran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Blue – Bradley Grasso</td>
<td>3 Green – Elijah Paszcuzzi</td>
<td>3 Red – Kayla Fallace</td>
<td>3 Yellow – Adam Bowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Blue – Alanna Rubino</td>
<td>4 Green – Natalie Borovic</td>
<td>4 Red – Davina Moeung</td>
<td>5 Blue – Cassandra Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Green – Sienna Blasi</td>
<td>5 Red – Mia Matta</td>
<td>5 Yellow – Mia Vella</td>
<td>6 Blue – Joshua Ludbrook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FOR ART: This week’s award goes to Ayden Rubino (6R), Yichen Yang (6G), Olivia Esposito (6B)

CANTEEN NEWS: Unfortunately the following items are not available - Aqua Ice drinks - Orange, Mango & Pomegranate, Strawberry BIG M and Chocolate Moosies.

CANTEEN ROSTER:
- Friday 12/02: Linda H, Sarah S, Anne-Marie M, Antoinette G, Marisa B
- Monday 15/02: Maria A, Leonie G, Tanya B, Amanda M


UNIFORM SHOP:
- Tuesday 16/02: Sylvia, Lisa, Felicia, Angela
- 2.30pm – 3pm
PARISH RECONCILIATION PARENT SESSIONS — 2-3pm or 7.30-8.30pm – Every Wednesday 17th & 24th February and 2nd March.

BAKERS DELIGHT: Baker’s Delight Stud Park is providing a special fundraising opportunity for St. Simon’s Primary School. Please mention St. Simons whenever you make a purchase at Bakers Delight Stud Park and at the end of the year the school receives 10% of sales generated. This is an easy and FREE way for all families to assist our school’s fundraising efforts. Please encourage all your family and friends to participate, it costs you nothing extra but helps the school a lot. We will advise the final fundraising amount at the end of the year.

Thanks for supporting our ongoing fundraising efforts. Tamara Dell’Aquila, Canteen Co-Ordinator.

PARENT’S ASSOCIATION NEWS

See flyer attached.

MOVIE NIGHT: WE HAVE 3 MAJOR MOVIE NIGHT SPONSORS (All families associated with our school or community)
- IMB Bank, Glen Waverley
- Dolce Sapori Italian Pasticceria – Pinewood
- Paul Sadler Swinland – Rowville

Tickets will go on sale on Monday via TryBooking and/or via the hub system with a $2 handling fee.

Tickets are $7 Adult, $5 Child between 4-16, Children under 3 free. Family tickets $20 - 1 A & 3 C or 2 A & 2 C

Note: All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

ST. SIMON’S COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB

THE KNIGHT’S DEDICATED JUNIOR GIRLS’ AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL: Information Night Thursday 18th February 7pm at Stud Park Pavilion. Players wanted Girls U12, U15. Registrations now open for more information contact Brad Slater – brad22slater@gmail.com ph 0418 325 018 or stsimonsknights@gmail.com


ROWVILLE FOOTBALL CLUB: Would like to invite you to our 2nd and final Junior Registration Day for Season 2016. The details are – Sunday 14th February at Eldon Park Club Rooms from 10am to 12pm. RFC Junior Fee Structure 1st child $230, 2nd child $200, 3rd child $180. Under 8 - $180. Payments – cash, cheque or credit card. Registration fees include a 2016 Club Polo (valued at $45). All new club registrations will be required to complete a club registration form, EFL transfer form, code of conduct form (available on our website) and supply a copy of the child’s birth certificate. For any enquiries please email registrations@rowvillefc.org.au or visit website http://www.rowvillefc.org.au/

ROCK UP NETBALL — FREE PILOT PROGRAM: A different way to play. Join in, get social and enjoy the experience.


Register at www.rockupnetball.com.au For more information rockupnetball.com.au or 9321 2222.

ST. JOHN’S NETBALL CLUB: Interested in playing Netball? Come and join us! U11 Modified to Open, new players welcome. Visit our webpage or contact Maryanne Archer. Email regsecretary.stjohnsnetball@gmail.com Phone 9756 0096.

Website – https://stjohnsnetballclub.wordpress.com

MARGARET WICKHAM MUSIC SCHOOL, ROWVILLE: Private music lessons enrol today! Phone 0434 831 855 or email whwickham@odo.com.au Margaret has been teaching in Rowville area for twenty years and has enjoyed seeing her students achieve high results in both classical and modern AMEB exams and VCE music. Learning music helps to develop your child’s creative and motor skills. The piano and keyboard are both excellent for learning different styles of music and provides a springboard for learning other instruments.


SUPER SPEAK: Is Melbourne’s award winning public speaking & drama programme for 6 – 15 year olds, runs fun weekly classes for students to help them to develop confidence and skill in presentations, performance and everyday communication. Rowville classes are held on Monday afternoons. For more information, timetable and enrolments visit www.superspeak.com.au or call 9572 5249.

CONTACT by email

Family name: ____________________________

Grade of eldest child at school: ____________________________

Preferred email contact address: ____________________________
Dear Parents,

Each year we conduct a Classroom Helpers Workshop for parents/guardians who would like to assist with Literacy activities in the Prep-Year 2 classes. This year our Classroom helpers program will have a dual focus i.e. Literacy & Numeracy.

The workshop will be conducted on Friday 19th February @ 9.00am in the School library. The workshop considers the role of classroom helpers and how they may assist with Numeracy and Literacy activities. If you have completed the Literacy Workshop in previous years, it is not necessary for you to do this workshop BUT if you wish to assist in any classroom from Prep-Yr.2 and you haven't completed the Literacy Workshop in previous years or the Classroom Helpers Workshop in the past couple of years, then you would need to complete this Workshop.

In addition to completing the Workshop parents/guardians need to obtain a current Working with Children check. Forms for this are available from the Post Office, and online via our school website under parents/useful links.

This workshop will provide participants with background knowledge and skills to effectively support classroom teachers during their Literacy and Numeracy teaching.

Please return the slip below to reserve your place for the Classroom Helpers Workshop by Wednesday 17th February, 2016.

Regards

Carmelina Corio  
Numeracy Leader  

John Downie  
Literacy Leader

Classroom Helpers Workshop Reply Slip 2016

I ........................................ (please print) would like to attend the Classroom Helpers Workshops session on Friday 19th February, 2016.

Signed ........................................

Child’s Grade ..........................

Teacher’s Name ...........................

Phone no ...............................
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

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Dear Parents,

**CAR PARK:**

It is timely to remind ourselves of the procedures in place in the car park.
The diagram below outlines the guidelines which need to be followed to ensure this area is utilized safely.

Parents are able to make use of the parking spaces closest to the school oval/ fence both before and after school. These spaces are for parents who are dropping off or picking up their children, not longer term parking. The parking spaces closest to Taylor's Lane have been reserved for **staff parking only.** You will note that the lower car park is designated for staff use only and is not to be accessed by parents, except those requiring use of the disabled car parking facility. By reserving this number of spaces we are able to ensure that all staff have a place to park when they arrive for work.

Traffic flow through the upper car park follows the arrows in the diagram whereby the left lane exits onto Taylors Lane towards Wellington Rd, and the right lane exits onto Taylors Lane towards Kelletts Rd. The left lane may be utilized by parents waiting to pick up their children yet these vehicles are **NOT** to be left unattended. Drivers must remain with their vehicle to ensure traffic flow. After school supervision of the children will occur on the footpath and verges of the upper car park assisting those children who get picked up by car. We continue to encourage families to maintain good walking habits, or utilize other drop-off/ pick-up points in adjoining areas as our car park capacity will not cater for all families using it at once!

**PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC**

Children are asked to exit the school by one of the following ways:

1. Walking across the oval and out the double gates. (The preferred way)
2. Walking up the school/parish driveway turn right onto the footpath that abuts the carpark.
3. Walking up the school/parish driveway, through the staff-only carpark and turn left onto the footpath to head down to Wellington Rd.

No children are to walk across the exit driveway onto Taylors Lane. Parents who park in the parking bays on Taylors Lane will need to exit their vehicle and meet their child at the pedestrian gate near the vehicle entry gate on Taylors Lane.
OPEN DAYS CATHOLIC SECONDARY COLLEGES

Enrolments for Year 7, 2017 for all Catholic Secondary Colleges close on Friday 26th February 2016. Below are some of the Open Days. Parents must make Applications directly to Colleges.

CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATIONAL SECONDARY COLLEGES

NAZARETH COLLEGE: We know boys and girls learn differently.
See our single gender classes in action at our Open School Tours at 9am -Tuesday 16th February. We are also hosting an Open Day on Sunday 14th February 11:30am - 1pm. Please register your attendance with our College Receptionist on 9795-8100

CATHOLIC GIRLS SECONDARY COLLEGES

AVILA COLLEGE OPEN MORNINGS: Attending an Open Morning is one of the best ways to learn more about the College. Information about fees, uniform requirement transport options and the transition program are helpful when starting at a new school to help students settle in quickly. Open Mornings in 2016 will be held on:
Tuesday 16 February
Tuesday 3 May
Wednesday 10 August
Thursday 20 October.
School Tours on the dates listed above will be conducted from 9 - 9.30am. The Principal's address is from 9.30 - 10.00am and this is followed by Morning Tea. Please allow plenty of time for parking.

On line registration is now available by visiting www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au, clicking on Quick Links and then Open Day. For further information please contact the College Registrar on 9831 9600.

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE: All families are warmly invited to attend Mater Christi College’s Open Morning on Sunday 21st February from 10am – 11am. You will have the opportunity to talk with College staff members, tour the College facilities and make enquiries about enrolment and College curriculum. Discover the modern facilities, vibrant student learning displays, performances, hospitality and fun activities. Twilight Tours – Thursday 18th February 7pm – 8pm. Weekend Tours – Sunday 20th March from 10am to 11am. Please contact the College on 9754 6611 for further information or to arrange another time or visit www.materchristi.edu.au. Address: 28 Bayview Rd, Belgrave. “School in Action” 9am to 2.30pm Tuesday 8th March.

CATHOLIC BOYS SECONDARY COLLEGES


MAZENOD COLLEGE: Open Day Tuesday 16th February from 4pm to 8pm. Last tour commences at 7pm.
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Prayer
Fasting
Works of Love

40 Days

The merciful Father protects us from evil; we must trust his merciful love
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

For the Week Ahead...

Jesus told us in St John’s Gospel that there are many rooms inside his Father’s house. There are indeed many rooms inside his Father’s “House of Mercy” – empathy, trust, tenderness, acceptance, forgiveness, compassion and understanding.

Each week of Lent, close your eyes and visit one of these “rooms”. Jesus will be at the front door to welcome you and show you in.
PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION NEWS

It’s that time of year again, the St Simons Parents Association AGM is scheduled for Wednesday the 17th February at 7:30pm in the Library, all current St Simons Parents are welcome, we would love to see you there on the night.

Like many of the other parent run services at the school, such as Canteen, Uniform Shop, Book Club and Students Banking the Parents Association relies on the volunteer services of our great parents at the school.

The PA consists of six office bearers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and up to 15 General Committee members).

Now is the time to join the PA, if we do not fill these positions at the AGM the PA will cease to continue and in accordance with the PA Constitution will be wound up.

What does this mean to you and your child at St Simons? Without a PA, there will be no Food Service Days (eg Pizza Day, Subway Day etc), there will be no Social Family Nights (eg Movie Night), Mother and Father's Day Stalls will not run, the Easter raffle will not occur, there will be no Disco or Walkathon. The morning teas that occur in our Term 4 calendar will have no support, this effects Tim's Day, St Simons Day and all the Prep Information Days and Orientation Day. The St Simons Calendar will not be produced.

The Cadbury Chocolate Drive will not go ahead, this drive with the Walkathon per annum raises close to $16,000 for the school. This money along with the other events run during the year support the annual allocation of $10,000 towards the school IT function. The other money is then allocated based on what is identified as items the school requires, this year the shade sail has finally been installed.

All these items have occurred due to parents overwhelming support, via contribution, during their child’s time at school. However, now is the time to actively support the PA by becoming a member. Don't imagine that someone else will take it on and you don't need to, the PA needs increased levels of support.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please come along to the AGM or contact Leanne on 0412 095 941.

Once again, the PA would really love to see as many parents at the AGM on Wednesday night to share the accomplishments we as a school community have achieved over the last 12 months.

Don’t forget our first Major Event for Parent’s Association this year is our-

**Family Movie Night on Friday 26th February.** We have been able to secure "Alvin and the Chipmunks The Road Chip". Gates pen from 7pm and its BYO your own picnic or enjoy the food supplied by some fabulous Food Vans.

This year we have Pizza, Hot Roast Beef Rolls, Twisted Potatoes, Hot Jam Donuts, Slushies, Ice Cream and the most importantly, a Coffee Van. Tickets will be on sale shortly via TryBooking or the tub.

We are looking for SPONSORS who would love to have their business displayed on the Big Screen prior to the beginning of the Movie, in the Newsletter each week prior to the night and 2 Major Sponsors, who will have their names on the Real Estate Board in front of the school. If you are interested would like to know more about Sponsorship please give Kathy a call on 0407 836.

Once again, hoping to see you at both Events,

Leanne Wood
Vice President
St. Simon The Apostle Primary School
Presents Twilight Movie Night

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS™
THE ROAD CHIP

Friday 26th February 2016

St. Simons Primary School Oval
Gates Open at 7:00pm

Adults $7.00
Children (under 16) $5.00
Family of 4 $20.00

BYO OR
FOOD AVAILABLE
FOR SALE
YOU ARE INVITED TO

St. Simon’s Parents Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday 17th February, 2016
Time: 7.30 p.m.
Venue: Library Building

Everyone is welcome.

Wine, beer & nibbles provided

The role of St Simons Parents’ Association is to provide a means for parents of current students to:

- Develop friendships within the School community.
- Support the School by improving the quality of resources available through effective fundraising activities.
- Enjoy a greater involvement with the School.

The Committee is actively involved in managing and coordinating a number of functions and events, such as:

➢ Mothers Day and Fathers Day Stalls
➢ Ladies Night
➢ Walkathon
➢ School Disco
➢ Chocolate Drive
➢ Other Fundraising Events

This year the Parents Association was able to contribute back to the school the following:

- Funding the total cost of the Shade Sails over the exiting Playground on the Oval
- IT Program (annual contribution of $10,000 per annum)
- Assisting and supporting the school as required

The AGM is open to the greater school community. It’s a wonderful opportunity to be updated on the previous year’s results, and enjoy a chat over wine & nibbles with other parents and our Principal, Phil Hesse.
Please tear off and return this portion by **Wednesday 10th February 2016**

**Attention: Secretary, St. Simon's Parents Association**

Name(s): __________________________ Childs Grade ____________

☐ I/we will be attending the Annual General Meeting

Please tear off and return this portion by **Wednesday 10th February 2016**

**Attention: Secretary, St. Simon's Parents Association**

Name: __________________________ SIGNATURE ____________________

Contact No. __________________

I wish to nominate for the position of:

☐ President          ☐ Vice President
☐ Secretary         ☐ Assistant Secretary
☐ Treasurer         ☐ Assistant Treasurer
☐ General Committee member ☐ Purchasing Officer

Interested in helping out but not joining, please complete below slip and return this portion by **Wednesday 10th February 2016**

**Attention: Secretary, St. Simon's Parents Association**

Name: __________________________ Childs Grade ____________

Email__________________________ Contact No. __________________

St. Simon's Parents' Association

POSITIONS VACANT

St. Simon's Parents' Association is currently seeking individuals to join the Parents' Association to help organise social and fundraising events for the schools.

If you:

- Are self-motivated
- Enjoy team work
- A desire to be actively involved in the decision making process on current and future School fundraising and social events.
- Enjoy supporting your child's education and school
- Have a passion for the school community and desire to see it develop.
- Are looking to have fun
- Have a sense of humor
- A desire to make new friendships and work with the principal and teachers

Then, this is the role for you!

This role will allow you to develop your organisation skills, leadership qualities, fundraising skills and influencing abilities to decision making and much more. Finally, you will have a real impact on your child's education and by providing valuable resources and improvements with the school.

Whether you are a full time employees, part time employees, stay at home parents with young children, if you have any amount of time you can give you SHOULD apply for these positions.

Remuneration: The gratitude of the community and the feelings of accomplishment and self fulfilment.

Apply by completing the attached nomination form or by attending the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th of February 2016 at 7.30pm. If you have any questions please contact Anthony on 0457 855 057 or Leanne on 0412 095 941.
St Simon’s Parents’ Association
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why do we need a Parents’ Association (PA)?

A. The PA helps to organise extra fundraising and social events at the school such as Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Stall, morning teas, food in-service days and social events such as the movie night.

Q. We pay fees so why do we need to fundraise?

A. Catholic students on average receive 20 percent less government funding than government schools. When fees are included, Catholic schools operate on around 90% of the cost of education in a Victorian government school.

![Average net recurrent income per student, 2010](image)


Accordingly, we need to fundraise to try and make up this difference to ensure that our children have the most up to date equipment and resources for their learning and development.

Q. Where does all the money the PA raises go?

A. Each year the PA contributes $10,000 towards the schools IT department and in consultation with the Principal, Mr Hesse, we select a project within the school to raise funds for. In 2014/2015 we have been fundraising for Shade Sails to cover the playgrounds on the oval. The second set of sails will be installed over the summer holidays. The total cost of the shade sails have been funded by funds raised through PA fundraisers.
Q. What positions are on the PA?

A. The PA consists of the Principal, teacher representatives and the following parent positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Purchasing Officer. There are also General Members and School Advisory Board Representatives.

Q. How many parents do we need on the PA?

A. We need as many parents as possible on the PA. The more parents we have means that we have more ideas, and we can spread the workload around.

Q. I work full time – I don’t have time to commit to the PA?

A. We currently have members who work different hours. Each member contributes what they can fit into their life. We meet once a month on a Wednesday at 7pm to plan events and set up sub-committees. These sub-committees plan the finer details of events. These sub-committees will organise times to meet that are suitable to its members or correspond via email.

Q. I have young kids so I can’t make meetings.

A. No problem! We often meet before and after school to count money and do paperwork in meeting room 3. Kids are more than welcome.

Q. A part from helping the school what’s in it for me?

A. A part from the satisfaction we get from helping the school and our children we have a barrel of laughs and a load of fun! We make new friends and support networks which is great when those important newsletters don’t make it home!

Q. Where can I get more information on the PA

A. You can find more information on the school website at www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au > Parents > Parents’ Association or call Anthony Madigan (President) on 0457 855 057 or Leanne Wood (Vice President) on 0412 095 941

Q. How do I Join?

A. Attend the AGM on Wednesday 17th of February at 7.30pm or fill in the nomination form.
REGISTER NOW!

St Simons Auskick
Stud Park Reserve, Fulham Rd Rowville
Season commences Sat 9th April at 9.30am
Boys & Girls, ages 4 - 12 welcome
For more info call Wayne Pieterse 0418 454 742
or go to aflauskick.com.au and select St Simons

AFLAUSKICK.COM.AU /twitter/youtube/instagram