Dear Parents,

As we enter the third week of Advent the focus is on ‘taking a chance’ that we are given when we decide to follow Jesus. Advent is a time when we can focus on our direction in life.

We are sent to proclaim to all those we meet – through our actions and words – that God is not distant from our poverty and pain, but rather that God is born into the stable of our poverty.

In a homily given at Midnight Mass in 2007, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reminded us that, “The message of Christmas makes us recognise the darkness of a closed world…. Yet it also tells us that God does not allow himself to be shut out.” God finds a space, even if it means entering through the stable of our hearts.

Though, as the Pope Emeritus goes on to say, for God to enter in through such a stable, we must ask ourselves some very important Advent questions like, “Do we have time and space for God?…. Can God enter into our lives? ….Does God find room in us or have we occupied all the available space in our thoughts, our actions, our lives for ourselves?”

As we know, these are questions we can only answer for ourselves, though let us pray that amidst all of the busyness and frenetic pace of this time of year we will do all we can during these final weeks of Advent to not only “rejoice” but to open our hearts to Jesus – the One who was born in the poverty of a stable; the One who, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, calls us to remind others “to have courage and not be afraid”.

Come Lord Jesus, Come Babe of Bethlehem and be born once more in our hearts. Amen. Fr. David Catterall PP

**New Staff** I would like to welcome the following teachers who will be joining St. Simon’s staff in 2017. We welcome back Mrs Ivana Dabb, Miss Caterina Iannelli, Miss Anna Mautone, Miss Taylor Phelan, Miss Rachel Calvillo, Miss Philippa Tarlinton, Miss Carly Barca & Mrs Brianna Scire-Sciretello. We welcome all these staff to St. Simon’s Primary School and wish them all the very best for 2017.

**Year 6 Graduation** - Will be on tomorrow night, Friday 9th December, commencing with Mass at 6.00pm. Please note that Grade 6 students are expected to attend school until Friday 16th December when the school will be dismissed early at 1.15pm.

**Book lists** - There are still many prepaid boxes of books that have not been collected. Please come to the office to collect any prepaid boxes that you have not collected before the end of term.


**Extra Curricular Activities Term 4 Week 11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 12th December</th>
<th>Advent Week 4 Liturgy (5Y) 2.30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13th December</td>
<td>Prep Christmas Concert Hall 2.15pm Prep R &amp; G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14th December</td>
<td>St. Simon’s Orientation for Years 1-6, 2017 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14th December</td>
<td>Prep Christmas Concert Hall 2.15pm Prep B &amp; Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14th December</td>
<td>Reports sent home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 15th December</td>
<td>Year 6 to Jells Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16th December</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Mass 9.30am (5G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16th December</td>
<td>Allan Tudge Aston Shield Presentation 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16th December</td>
<td>Students finish early dismissal 1.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16th December</td>
<td>Term 4 ends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**School reports and class locations** for 2017 will be sent home on Wednesday 14th December.

**Class Placements** 2017 Accompanying your child’s school report is a letter informing parents of your child’s class placement for 2017. These placements have been determined according to school policy. As such, and as outlined in this policy, the principal has ultimate responsibility for determining class placements and no changes will be made.
Thank you Letter — The following letter was sent to our Outdoor Education Leader, Mr Nick Frederiksen. I am so proud of our teachers and children when I received this letter. The children also reflect the values of their parents.

Nick,
A note to say what a pleasure it was to work with your staff and students in the past two days. The students are a credit to their families, the school, their teachers and themselves. They behaved very well and co-operated in the activity with enthusiasm. Please pass on to all concerned our thanks and appreciation.

Parish Christmas Carols — The school in conjunction with the parish invites children to be part of our school / parish Christmas Carol evening on Sunday, 18th December at 7.00pm. If you would like your children to be part of this event please read the information sheet attached to this issue of contact. Our School Choir will be performing and children can be involved in our Nativity Play. All children in the school are invited to participate.

School Office The school office will be closed from 12.30pm on Friday 16th December and will open on Monday 30th January 2017 at 8.30am.

School Reports — Will be sent home Wednesday 14th December.


Prep Music Christmas Concert - Will be held in the hall at 2.15pm on Tuesday 13th December for Prep R & Prep G and Wednesday 14th December for Prep B & Prep Y. Parents are welcome to attend.

The Good Manners Award goes to Valentina Vukovic (2B) and Uniform Award goes to Nathania Rajasingham (3G). Well done to these children.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Phil Hesse
Principal

TERM 4 ENDS FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER AT 1.15PM
TERM 1 RESUMES TUESDAY 31ST JANUARY FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 1 TO 6
PREPS START GROUP A - THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY & GROUP B - FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2017
MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2017 ALL PREPS RETURN

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8th Dec.</td>
<td>Advent Week 3 Liturgy (5 Blue) 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9th Dec.</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 12th Dec.</td>
<td>Advent Week 4 Liturgy (5Y) at 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13th Dec.</td>
<td>Prep R &amp; G Christmas Concert Hall 2.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 14th Dec.</td>
<td>St Simon’s Orientation Yrs 1 – 6, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 14th Dec.</td>
<td>Prep B &amp; Y Christmas Concert Hall 2.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 14th Dec.</td>
<td>Reports sent home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 14th Dec.</td>
<td>Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 15th Dec.</td>
<td>Year 6 to Jells Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16th Dec.</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Mass 9.30am (5G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16th Dec.</td>
<td>Students finish early 1.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16th Dec.</td>
<td>Term 4 ends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 18th Dec.</td>
<td>Parish Christmas Carols 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 25th Dec.</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 26th Dec.</td>
<td>Boxing Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 28th/Sun 29th</td>
<td>Reconciliation Commitment Masses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 30th Jan</td>
<td>Staff return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 30th Jan</td>
<td>Uniform shop open 10am to 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31st Jan</td>
<td>Students (Gr. 1 to 6) return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 2nd Feb</td>
<td>Preps return Group A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd Feb.</td>
<td>Preps return Group B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 4th/Sun 5th</td>
<td>Reconciliation Commitment Masses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 5th Feb</td>
<td>Staff Commitment Mass 9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6th Feb</td>
<td>All Preps return</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 2017 SCHOOL LEVIES

The deadline for payment was Wednesday 7th December 2016. PLEASE DON’T LEAVE PAYMENT TO THE LAST DAY. IF NOT POSSIBLE, PLEASE BE PREPARED TO WAIT IN THE QUEUE.

LEVIES FOR PREP TO YEAR 5 - $320 PER CHILD AND YEAR 6 - $340 PER CHILD. These levies can be paid from now on, don’t forget EFTPOS facilities are available.

For those parents who pay monthly please note that levies need to be paid by the due date. Next year’s instalment plan will be sent home in February

JOKES OF THE WEEK

An 80 year old woman was arrested for shoplifting. When she went before the judge, he asked her "What did you steal?"
She replied: "A can of peaches."
The judge then asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches and she replied that she was hungry.
The judge then asked her how many peaches were in the can."
She replied: "Six."
The judge said: "Then I will give you six days in jail."
Before the judge could conclude the trial, the woman’s husband spoke up and asked the judge if he could say something.
The judge said: "What is it?"
The husband said: "She also stole a can of peas."
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS: Congratulations to the environmental leaders on the market stall last Thursday afternoon. They sold celery, beetroot, spinach, oregano, thyme and crazy carrots all grown in St Simons very own kitchen garden. Thank you to all parents, friends and family for all your support. Michael Porcino and Emma Camilleri raised $41.50 to go towards more crops for next years Environmental group. Thanks again!

Melinda Wharton
Environmental leader coordinator

ISABELLE & PHOENIX HAIR DONATION FUNDRAISER:

Isabelle (4 Green)
I am cutting my hair because I want to help children with Alopecia. I also wanted to cut my hair because I was inspired by my friend Phoenix.

Phoenix (4 Red)
If I had alopecia I would appreciate help to get a wig.
I have a lot of hair to share with others.

On the 21st of December, they will be cutting 35cms of their hair to raise awareness for this cause and raise funds for Variety.

Donation Link https://alopecia.everydayhero.com/au/locks-for-little-princesses-1

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wishing the following staff and students a very happy birthday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kathy Siwek</th>
<th>Phil Hesse</th>
<th>Sharanya Ahielan (2G)</th>
<th>Charli Hollioake (4R)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tyan Pieterse (1R)</td>
<td>Taylor Stumpf (1Y)</td>
<td>Jaxon Bright (1R)</td>
<td>Giovanni Congiu (5Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zac Ha (5Y)</td>
<td>Daniel Nittoli (4G)</td>
<td>Thomas Carni (1R)</td>
<td>Will Burton (4R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella Dissegna (3R)</td>
<td>Caelin Milne (3R)</td>
<td>Savanna Lucchesi (Prep G)</td>
<td>Adam Bologna (6B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Muccitelli (6Y)</td>
<td>Jake Olarenshaw (2R)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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:

Prep B – Bianca Barbotin
Prep G – Savanna Lucchesi
Prep R – Mitchell Cooke
Prep Y – Alessia Costanzo

1 Blue – Mia Kruger
1 Green – Kristina Vukovic
1 Red – Whole Class
1 Yellow –

2 Blue – Savannah Foti
Matthew Costanzo
Lilly Medlock
2 Green – Samuel Alexander
2 R – Braeden Farrugia
2 Yellow – Riley Therese
Joshua Mudie

3 Blue –
3 Green – Anton De Rose
3 R – Sebastian Morello
3 Yellow – Chiara Stable
Rylan Peiris

4 Blue – Sarah Abraham
4 Green – Bridgette Cairns
4 Red – Davina Moeung
5 Blue – Daniel Giuliano
Cayenne Rabot

5 Green – Anthony Rowe
Phoenix Whitty
5 Red – Dalena Vo
5 Yellow – Chloe King
Tahila Sullivan
6 Blue – Whole Class

6 Green – Whole Class
6 Red – Whole Class
6 Yellow – Whole Class

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FOR JAPANESE: This week’s award goes to Ben Mudie, Caitlyn Davis, Angie Torcasio, Annie Shi, Kiara Appleton, Dalena Vo, Alanna Solarzana, Deanna Azucena for couler competition.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FOR LIBRARY: This week’s award goes to Jasleen Dhariwal (3G) and Dean Portelli (4G)

MUSIC NEWS: Congratulations to Jamie Walters (3B) on completing the Year 3 Yellow Recorder Book. Keep up the practise on the holidays everyone!

ST SIMON’S MUSIC TUITION: Now taking enrolments for 2017, Music lessons for Years 1-6, during the School day on a weekly rotating timetable. Instruments include acoustic guitar, electric guitar, singing, drums, keyboard / piano. Applications are available for collection from the office and must be returned by 18th December. Any questions relating to the program please call Paul Howard on 0405 689 757 or email phoward@shawthorn.catholic.edu.au

A reminder to Parents of the current students in the program, the End of Year Concert will be on Wednesday 14th December, refer to email sent out for times.
SWIMMING LOST PROPERTY: There is a collection of lost property from the swimming program in the office foyer. If the items are not collected by the end of term they will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

CDF BANKING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED URGENTLY: Helpers are required for the student banking that occurs every Thursday morning. Only 1 hour a week is all that is required.

CDF STUDENT BANKING: Please note the last day for student banking in 2016 will be Thursday 8th December. The first day for student banking in 2017 will be Thursday 9th February.


UNIFORM SHOP:

| Tuesday | 13/12 Narelle, Natasha, Kathy C | 2.30pm |
| Monday | 30th January 2017 | 10.00am to 1pm |

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

- Girls Skorts are discontinued. Some quantities still available in sizes 4, 6, 14 and 16 only. Please order Sport Shorts as the alternative.

- The supplier of the fawn socks no longer makes them in Fawn size 7-11, and we have no more stock of size 7-11 on hand. Apologies – we are trying to source another supplier, but it is proving difficult.

  Also, they no longer supply single packs. Once the single packs we have on hand have sold, fawn socks will only be available in packs of 3. Price for 3 pack is $15.00.

  As of 22/11/16, we have no fawn 9-12 single packs, therefore these can only be purchased in packs of 3 for $15.00.

- Scrunchies have also been discontinued. Please order the Cool Clips range as an alternative.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE (OSHC): Enrolment form and Parent handbook are available on the school website under PARENTS/ OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE. Visit www.sssrowville.catholic.edu.au


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. Book now for 2017!

KINESIOLOGY THERAPY: Shadiah Tony offers Kinesiology as part of her holistic Natural Therapies. With a background in Psychology, Herbal Medicine and Nutrition, Shadiah uses gentle muscle testing to make careful assessment of the state of your energy system. This communicates with your body to determine what you need to feel balanced, healthy and at ease. Kinesiology restores flow within the energy centers of your body, to effectively help with IMPROVING FOCUS, MEMORY, COORDINATION AND CLEARING BRAIN FOG; ANXIETY; STRESS; LEARNING DIFFICULTY; SELF-SABOTAGING; DEPRESSION; FATIGUE; NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY; ALLERGIES, and much more. Located in Rowville, mother of 2, experienced life coach and now practitioner, bringing guidance and gentle treatment for children and adults. Change begins with you. Phone: 0422414360 email shadiah.tony.kinesiology@gmail.com

ROWVILLE HAWKS - Free Girls & Boys Football Superclinic on Sunday 11th December: The Rowville Football Club is holding its annual Free Football Superclinic for Girls and Boys 7-14 y/old on Sunday 11th December b/w 10:30am – Midday at Seebeck Oval in Rowville. There will be lots of activities for the kids including some fun inflatables and fun skills/drifts overlooked by the Eastern Devils Womens VFL Players and some AFL Womens Players too. There'll also be prizes & giveaways too and all Girls will receive a free $100 registration voucher!

This Football Superclinic is free and open to everyone so to reserve a spot for your child(s) please click on https://membership.sportstsq.com/regform.cgi?formID=64308 and or visit http://rowvillefc.org.au/2016/11/17/fun-free-football-superclinic/ for more info etc.

KINGSWIM FERNTREE GULLY: Dedicated family focused learn to swim facilities, small class sizes, specialist trained teachers, all swimmers individually assessed, life saving and water safety, fast track completion certificate. Our learn to swim program also caters to children of all ages from babies as young as 12 weeks right up to squad level swimmers. Visit www.kingswim.com.au Book now 9758 7719, Tuesday 10th January – Friday 13th January & Monday 10th April – Thursday 13th April 2017. Address: 5 Brennock Park Drive F.T. Gully.

BOYS TO THE BUSH HOLIDAY CAMPS FOR BOYS: Check us out at www.boysatthebush.com.au Based at Howlong NSW, this camp allows boys the opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and have a “Digital Detox”.

CDF BANKING VOLUNTEERS REPLY SLIP

NAME: __________________________ PHONE: __________________________ MOBILE: __________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS: __________________________ GRADE: __________________________
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Jesus said, ‘Truly, I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he’.

(Matthew 11: 11)

Adults
What would Jesus see to praise about you right now?

Young People
How can following Jesus make your life more meaningful and help you change the world? What doubts do you have about committing yourself to him?

Children
What good thing have you done so far during Advent to be like Jesus?
GRADUATION UPDATE

DATE: FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2016
FORMAT OF THE NIGHT

5.45pm - Arrive for a 6pm start for mass in the church. Family and friends invited from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Approx. 7.30pm-10.00pm – Dinner & Disco (Students only)
Students will proceed to the hall where they will be seated for dinner with their fellow students and teachers. A Disco will follow.

Approx. 10.00PM – Families are invited to return to join the Grade 6 students in the church for speeches and presentation of awards.

Things to Remember for the night:

Dress Code: Smart Casual – Neat denim for boys. (No thongs permitted).

Children are permitted to bring cameras, however it is their responsibility to look after them.

Please do not bring Graduation bears/balls on the night for signing. The Grade 6 teachers will allocate a day during school hours for the Graduation Bears, Soccer balls & Footballs to be signed.

It promises to be a great night for all children and families and we are looking forward to seeing you all there!

Graduating Class 2016
Pizza Day: We hope the students enjoyed the final Pizza Day for 2016! Thanks to all the Parent Helpers who assisted on the day. Another well organised and delicious day for everyone, thanks to Kathy West and Sandy Bryant for co-ordinating.

Wishing all St Simon’s families and staff a very Merry Christmas and a joyous and happy New Year!

Thank you again for supporting the Parents’ Association again over a busy 2016 with all of our exciting events from our Easter raffle, Chocolate Drive, Mothers and Fathers Day stalls, a great Olympics Walk-a-thon, Bogan Bingo and the various Food Service days.

Remember: All PA flyers are available at the School office.

**Special Note:** All PA return slips (this includes Pizza day & any food service day orders, chocolate payments and any future events) will no longer be accepted at the Office.

All PA ran events return slips will be required to go through the classroom tub system.

For further information regarding any PA event, please contact the PA representative for that event. Office staff will not hold any specific details.
Thursday 8 and 15 December in Church 3:30pm

Practices:
Angels, Shepherds, Kings
Children to participate in the Nativity Play

Wanted:

Please bring a plate for shared supper after the Carols

Adult Choir
Youth Choir
Choirs - St Simon's School Children's Choir
Live Nativity Play

The Night Includes:

In:
Parish Church
Time: 7 - 8.30pm
Sunday 18th December

ST SIMON'S COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Please join us for our annual

2016
CHRISTMAS
CAROL
Christmas Services

Communal Reconciliation Service -2nd Rite Wednesday 14th December @ 7.30pm.

Christmas Carols including a live Nativity play
Sunday 18th December @ 7.00pm in the Church.
If your child is interested in taking part in the Nativity play, please RSVP on 9764 4058 or send an email to office@stsimonsparish.com.au

Practice will be held on Thursday 8th & 15th (PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE) at 3.30pm in the church.
A light snack will be provided prior to starting.

Christmas Mass Times
Saturday 24th December @ 6.00pm, 9.30pm,
Carols 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass.
Sunday 25th December @ 10.00am.
Monday Boxing Day - No Mass.

Men’s Group Christmas BBQ Breakup
Thursday 15th December at 7.00pm
Fr Jim’s Garage 4 McKay Rd.
All men welcome to come and enjoy
From 7.00pm BBQ 8.00pm $5 BBQ, $2 Drinks

St Vincent de Paul Rowville is conducting a ‘Giving Tree’ Appeal again this Christmas.
You are invited to donate a gift to make Christmas that little bit brighter for a child this year (aged 1-16).
Place your unwrapped gift, (include gift bag or wrapping paper if possible) and leave it under the ‘Giving Tree’ by Monday 19th December. Thank you for your support.
ST SIMONS YOUTH GROUP CAMP 2017

Tuesday 17th – Thursday 19th January.

Where: Montserrat Retreat Centre, Millgrove
Who: Members of St Simon’s Youth Group Years 7-10, 2017
Cost: Only $100 inclusive! Food, accommodation and activities.

Come along and bond with the members of our Youth Group for three days of relaxation, walks, talks, group discussion and campfires in the beautiful Yarra Valley. LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE – email your interest and for more information to jgiuliano@stsimonsparish.com.au

Thank you to all who kindly donated, squares, shawls, knee rugs and 8ply yarn to us during the year, they were very much appreciated. We would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year 2016. We look forward to continuing with the Shaw Ministry next February, and continued donations would be greatly appreciated.

Summer School Melbourne - 8-15 January 2017

Save the date...registrations opening soon!

Join other young people aged 16-35 for a powerful week of teaching, live music, sacraments, prayer, praise and great speakers in the context of a fun and vibrant community away from the noise and distraction of the city. Speak to Fr David to find out more or go to: summerschool.org.au

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP 2016

A Healing Mass with Supper to follow for cancer survivors, suffers and carers will be held in the church on 13th December at 7.30pm. The Mass will be for all to attend and not just cancer survivors but all those who need the blessing of The Lord.

If transport is needed please inform the Parish or phone 0416 069 878.

B.Y.O small plate for supper. For more information phone Parish office on 9764 4058

Copies of Fr. David’s CD “Everlasting” are now available from the Help desk. Cost $15.00 a CD.

Throughout the Christmas & New Year period there be no CLOTW. However CLOTW sheets will be available from the help-desk in the Church foyer.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards now selling at the Piety Stall, $6.50, pack of 8 cards.

The 2017 Columban Art Calendar

Now available from the Piety Stall.
Cost $10.00 each.