Dear Parents,

Our school theme for 2017 comes from a quote by Mother Theresa. Mother Theresa said “We can do great things in this world. We can only do small things with great love”. Our theme is “Together we can do great things” and this theme I believe reflects the parent community, the teacher community and of course the student community we have at St Simon’s. Working together builds our school community and assists in us developing mutual respect and appreciation of our skills and individual talents.

Welcome back to our families and a special welcome to our new families and teachers. We hope that 2017 is a most enjoyable and rewarding year for everyone in our community.

I have listed below a summary of 7 ways in which you can help your child settle into the school year and enjoy walking through the school gates every day.

1. Get Involved - Several studies have shown that getting involved in your child’s school will help your child feel part of the school community.
2. Diet - Experts recommend eating a diet that is high in omega fatty acids for optimum brain function and drinking plenty of water will increase hydration so very important for cognitive ability.
3. Read to your children: Reading to your children will develop a love of literacy for your child. Research indicates that preschool children who are read to daily are up to a year ahead in ability compared with those who are not read to.
4. Chose extracurricular activities carefully: Select one activity that your child enjoys, therefore not over loading your child with activities. Let your child have a couple of nights just staying at home with you.
5. Enforce bedtime hours: Going to bed at a regular and reasonable time gives your child the necessary rest that is required. Sleep is very important as you child grows. Ten hours of sleep is recommended during these years.
6. Let your child make mistakes: Developing resilience and a sense of responsibility develops a child’s independence. One has not learnt unless one has made mistakes.
7. Ensure homework is completed: It is important for children to get into the habit of completing homework.

Opening of the School Year Mass – Will be on Friday 10th February at 11.30am. All families are invited.

Staff Commitment Mass will be on Sunday 5th February at the parish 9.30am Mass. All families are invited to this Mass.

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.

Preps 2017: All prep children will be full-time as from Monday 27th February. Up until this date there will be no school for children on Wednesdays. The prep teachers will inform parents regarding a one-off testing sessions during one of the Wednesdays in February. From today onwards times will be available for you to sign up for testing at each prep classroom.

Literacy – Samson the Story Dog returns: The school has received enquiries as to when Samson the Story Dog will be returning to St Simon’s. I am pleased to inform all families that Samson will return next Tuesday and will be assisting with the Literacy program. If parents want to know more about this program, please go to the Story Dogs website - http://storydogs.org.au/

School Absences - Please note that all school attendance/rolls are taken before 9:00 am for the morning session and before 2:30 pm for the afternoon session. If a child/ren attend school after 9am they will be recorded as being absent for the morning. Please note this is a legal requirement that all teachers must follow. All absences are recorded in your child’s school report.

School Commencement Time - Children are not to be at school before 8:20 am as there are no teachers on duty. Any children that arrive at school before 8:20am must attend the before school care. This is a legal responsibility that the school must enforce.

Late and Early Leave Pass – Children arriving late to school (after 9am) need to be signed in by their parent at the front office using the Ipad. A pass will be printed and this is given to the teacher.

If picking your child/ren up early you must sign them out using the Ipad at the front office before collecting them from their class as the early leave pass needs to be given to the teacher.

Year 6 trip to Canberra will be on Monday 6th March until Friday 10th March. More information will be sent home soon.

Bike Helmets - All children riding bikes or scooters to school must wear bike helmets. This is not only a school requirement but a road regulation as well.
Privacy Act – Parents are asked to be aware of the School’s Privacy Policy which does not allow any pictures of students to be taken without the consent of the parents. Parents are not permitted to take any photographs of children and are prohibited from placing these photographs on social media eg Facebook. Please be aware of these policies as there are strict laws governing these policies.

Working with Children Check The Victorian Government have introduced a checking system that affects many adults who work or volunteer with children (under 18 years of age). The WWC Check helps to protect children from sexual or physical harm by checking a person’s criminal history for serious sexual, serious violence or serious drug offences and findings from certain professional disciplinary bodies such as the Victorian Institute of Teaching. The WWC Check is free for volunteers and is valid for a period of five years. As a result parents who volunteer to help in the classrooms will need to undergo a WWC Check. Online applications can be completed via this link http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/. You need to take your form to Australia Post to be processed and send your application receipt to the school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Congratulations to Diane Lewis (Yr. 2 teacher) on her wedding to Jason. We wish both Diane and Jason all the very best for their future life together.

Engagements – Congratulations to Nathan Carey (Yr. 4 teacher) & Kandis and Rachel Calvitto (Yr 5 teacher) & David on their Engagements over the holidays. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Mel & James Court – Congratulations to Mel and James on the birth of their daughter Eliza Jane on the 25th January. Mel was a Year 6 support teacher at St Simon’s last year.

Working-bee - The first working-bee for the year will be on Saturday 4th March commencing at 9.00am and concluding with a b-b-q at 11.45am.

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.sswrowville.catholic.edu.au/parent-resources-1/newsletters

Recent Deaths - During the school holidays two of our present staff and one former staff member, had parents who died. Pat Healy’s mother, Cheryl Battour’s father and Shane Regan’s mother all died during the holidays. I would ask you to keep the Healy, Battour and Regan families in your thoughts and prayers.

Fundraising - Early in January two of our Year 5 students were involved in raising money to support children suffering from alopecia. Isabelle Smith and Phoenix D’Cruz-Selvon had 30cm of their hair cut off. Their hair will be donated to the children’s charity Variety, which will turn their hair into wigs for children who have lost their hair through the auto-immune disease alopecia. Well done to Isabelle and Phoenix - a great effort.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Hesse
Principal

MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2017 ALL PREPS RETURN
CANTENE RE-OPENS MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 2nd Feb.</th>
<th>Preps return Group A</th>
<th>Monday 20th Feb.</th>
<th>Harmony Day Liturgy 2.30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd Feb.</td>
<td>Preps return Group B</td>
<td>Tuesday 21st Feb.</td>
<td>Prep Prayer Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 4th / Sun. 5th Feb</td>
<td>Reconciliation Commitment Masses</td>
<td>Wed. 22nd Feb.</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session (3) 2.00pm , 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 5th Feb.</td>
<td>Staff Commitment Mass 9.30am</td>
<td>Wed. 22nd Feb.</td>
<td>Parents’ Association AGM 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 8th Feb.</td>
<td>No Preps attend school</td>
<td>Thursday 23rd Feb.</td>
<td>District Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 8th Feb.</td>
<td>Parents’ Association Meeting 7pm</td>
<td>Tuesday 28th Feb.</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 8th Feb.</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session (1) 2.00pm , 7.30pm</td>
<td>Wed. 1st March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass 11.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 10th Feb.</td>
<td>Opening School Mass (6Y) 11.30am</td>
<td>Wed. 1st March</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session (4) 2.00pm , 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th Feb.</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm – 8.00</td>
<td>Friday 3rd March</td>
<td>Schools Clean Up Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 15th Feb.</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
<td>Friday 3rd March</td>
<td>World Day of Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 15th Feb.</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session (2) 2.00pm , 7.30pm</td>
<td>Friday 3rd March</td>
<td>National Ride to school day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 16th Feb.</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm – 8.00</td>
<td>Friday 3rd March</td>
<td>Anointing Mass 9.15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17th Feb.</td>
<td>Parents’ Association Movie Night</td>
<td>Saturday 4th March</td>
<td>Working Bee 9am to 12pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medication - If a child requires medication at school, parents are requested to send the completed St Simon’s medical permission form to the school. Due to legal requirements no child can be administered medication unless written permission is given by the parent/guardian. The child’s name must be on the medication the school is being asked to administer. This is a legal obligation for both school and parents. Attached to this issue of contact is a medical permission form. You can also access this form on our school website under Parents/ Forms & Notices.

Term 1 2017 – The next professional development day for teachers is Tuesday 14th March. There will be no school for students.

Chicken pox – There has been a report of chicken pox in Grade 2 Green this week.

Hot Weather – Some parents have contacted the school and asked if children can be collected from school earlier if the temperature is extreme. All classrooms are air-conditioned and parents do have the option of collecting their children earlier if the weather is extreme. All children must wear school hats during term one and term four. If a child does not have a hat during these terms they cannot play and will have to sit in a shaded area. NO HAT, NO PLAY!

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.

School Photographs – Parents are asked to keep appointments for students free on Wednesday 22nd March as all children will be involved in school photos.

Parent/Teacher Interviews – will be on Monday 13th February and Thursday, 16th February commencing at 3:30 pm until 8:00 pm. Information regarding these meetings is included in next week’s Contact. Please note both these days are full school days and no early dismissal on either of these days. Please note these interviews are for parents to inform their teachers about their child. This allows the teacher to know more background information about the children in their classroom. Specialist Teachers will be available for interviews on Thursday 16th February only. Bookings for these can also be made via the online booking system.

Parents will also receive a “Parent/Teacher Chats” form to complete and give to the class teacher at the Parent/Teacher meeting. To maximise your 15 minutes time slot the discussion points listed will be a useful guide for both you and the teacher.

Classroom Level Letters – will be sent home next week. These letters give a brief outline of the classroom procedures, curriculum information and relevant dates.

Term Dates 2017
TERM 1 – Monday 30th January–Friday 31st March
Students return: Tuesday 31st January
“Easter 14-17th April
TERM 2 – Tuesday 18th April–Friday 30th June
TERM 3 - Monday 17th July–Friday 22nd September
TERM 4 - Monday 9th October–Friday 22nd December

Sacramental Dates 2017 - The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Sunday 18th & Saturday 24th June, 2017 at 2pm & 4pm on both these days. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th August at 2pm & 4pm on both these days.

Parents’ Association AGM – Will be held on Wednesday, 22nd 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.

School Leaders 2017 – We wish the following students all the very best in their leadership roles for 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENVIRONMENT</th>
<th>Sophie Burman</th>
<th>Anthony Rowe</th>
<th>Catherine Williams</th>
<th>Lachlan McDonald</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WELLBEING</td>
<td>Annie Shi</td>
<td>Zac Ha</td>
<td>Eva Leo</td>
<td>Bradley Medlock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS</td>
<td>Alyssia Pisano</td>
<td>Lachie McCarthy</td>
<td>Emma Frewer</td>
<td>Max Sarris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.E./SOCIAL JUSTICE</td>
<td>Ellie-Rose Freeman</td>
<td>Samuel Erginay</td>
<td>Mia Matta</td>
<td>Daniel Punterere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE ARTS</td>
<td>Ada Pretty</td>
<td>Kevin Peng</td>
<td>Neeraja Ahelen</td>
<td>Fletcher Crellin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Sienna Blasi</td>
<td>Anthony Massin</td>
<td>Cayenne Rabot</td>
<td>James Kwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO. RESOURCES</td>
<td>Grace Do</td>
<td>Dylan Casey</td>
<td>Sienna Rowe</td>
<td>Aditya Parmar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduating Students 2018 – Congratulations to David Koroknai, Joshua Roy, Nathan Smith and Michael Staffieri on achieving a VCE ATAR score above 90. These students were placed in the top 10% of the State in their VCE results and were students at Mazenod College.

Catholic Secondary Colleges Parents of children in Grade 6 and Grade 5 must have their Catholic Secondary College application for Year 7, 2018 and Year 7, 2019 submitted directly to the college of their choice. It is ESSENTIAL that you have your application submitted by the due date. See the dates below. A list of Open Days will be attached to Contact next week.

Key Enrolment Dates for 2017 – The following dates will be used by catholic secondary schools for Year 6 students in 2017 who will be enrolling in Year 7 for 2018. These are:

- Friday 17th February 2017 Date by which all applications to colleges close.
- Friday 27th April 2017 Date on which offers of places to prospective Year 7 students are to be posted
- Friday 11th May 2017 Final date for acceptance by parents of offers made.

The following dates will be used by catholic secondary schools for Year 5 students in 2017 who will be enrolling in Year 7 for 2019. These are:

- Friday 25th August 2017 Date by which all applications to colleges close.
- Friday 13th October 2017 Date on which offers of places to prospective Year 7 students are to be posted
- Friday 27th October 2017 Final date for acceptance by parents of offers made.
NUDE FOOD DAY IS EVERY THURSDAY

On this day, please encourage the children to bring in healthy food with as little processing and packaging as you can. Highly processed and packaged foods can have a significant negative impact on our health and the health of the environment. If the children are bringing packaging that cannot be recycled, THE CHILDREN are asked to place back into their lunchboxes and TAKE THE RUBBISH HOME WITH THEM. A child choosing whole fresh food with little processing and packaging is good for the environment and is also the best choice for our health.

SOME IDEAS FOR FOOD CHOICES: Food with no packaging: Banana, kiwi, orange, boiled egg, apple, carrot, beans, snow peas, tomatoes, cucumbers. Placing these foods in small reusable containers: Yoghurt, fruit salad, cheese cubes, vegetable sticks with dip, sandwiches or salads, wholegain crackers with cheese slices, plain/fruit savoury scones or pikelets. Homemade savoury or fruit muffins, pasta or rice dishes, soup in a thermos.

Thank you for participating in our Nude Food Day each THURSDAY. By making a conscious effort to bring in healthy, rubbish free food we saw dramatic changes in our rubbish levels last year on and off the playground and hope to keep up the great work this year. I hope our Nude Food Day encourages a healthy and environmentally friendly change to our children's lunches that continues throughout the school year. See flyer attached. Thanks again! Environmental Leader Mel Wharton.

SCHOOL DIARIES: The Diaries that are included in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Book Lists have been given out this week to those students who have ordered them.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

A man and his young son went to church and when they came out the father was complaining that the service was too long, the preacher was no good and the singing was off key. Finally the little boy said, “Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for only 20c.

*****

When children retell the Bible stories –
"The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve decibels"
"The epistles were the wives of the apostles”
"The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed”

SCHOOL WEBSITE NEWS

www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au

DID YOU KNOW?

- To access permission forms etc go to http://www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au/parent-resources-1/forms under Parents/ Forms and Notices.

CDF STUDENT BANKING: THE FIRST DAY FOR STUDENT BANKING IN 2017 WILL BE THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS – FEBRUARY 2017

Initial Parent Teacher interviews this term are scheduled to happen on Monday 13th February and Thursday 16th February between 3.30pm and 8.00pm each day. Bookings will close at 2.00pm on Monday for interviews taking place that day. Thursday's bookings will also close off at 2.00pm in readiness for Thursday's Parent / Teacher chats.

Following the success of last year’s process, we will continue to utilise the on-line PT booking system (SOBS) this term. A link is on the school website which allows families to access the booking site to make their own interview times. See attached instructions to follow when making your online Parent Teacher Interviews.

Maree Fatouros, Deputy Principal

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Each week we will be including a list of staff and students who will be celebrating their birthdays. This week we list the following staff and students who also had their birthdays over the holidays. Hoping you all had a very happy birthday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nathan Carey</th>
<th>Molly McKinnon</th>
<th>Jo Faelia</th>
<th>Fr. Jim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caterina Iannelli</td>
<td>Daniel Bau</td>
<td>Aneekah Messina (3B)</td>
<td>Jayda Muller (4Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Bombardieri (1Y)</td>
<td>Sebastian Morello (4B)</td>
<td>Richard Lee (2B)</td>
<td>Tahlia Tararico (5B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley Therese (3R)</td>
<td>Athena Baker (1Y)</td>
<td>Oliver Gsaterl (1B)</td>
<td>Alec Karabajakian (5G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Kwan (6G)</td>
<td>Nat D'Souza (6Y)</td>
<td>Max Bucci (3B)</td>
<td>Elisha Murphy (4R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marica Coburn (1Y)</td>
<td>Mitchell Cooke (1Y)</td>
<td>Kristina Vukovic (2R)</td>
<td>Jemma Ciampoli (1R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas Clausen (3Y)</td>
<td>Cameron Kaali (1G)</td>
<td>Calvin Lim (2R)</td>
<td>Lochie Dal Ben (4G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milia Palermo (2B)</td>
<td>Lillian Medlock (3G)</td>
<td>Ashton Nye (4R)</td>
<td>Dylan Wather (1B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharbel Hingston (3Y)</td>
<td>Willow Oldfield (2Y)</td>
<td>Anastasia Aboud (PG)</td>
<td>Cooper Dwyer (2R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Haidamous (4Y)</td>
<td>Meera Mohanathas (Prep B)</td>
<td>Rohit Khanna (Prep G)</td>
<td>Jasleen Dhariwal (4Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Quinn (6Y)</td>
<td>Dikoda Sosa (5G)</td>
<td>Nicole Boktor (3B)</td>
<td>Gemma Marguglio (6R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Charlton (6G)</td>
<td>Grace Do (6Y)</td>
<td>Malaya Schofield (2B)</td>
<td>Madeleine Jayasuriya (PB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alessia Costanzo (1R)</td>
<td>Maddison McPhee (Prep B)</td>
<td>Matthew Hernandez (PY)</td>
<td>Alex Skoblar (Prep R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alessia Petterkin (6B)</td>
<td>Julia Suganlaraj (2B)</td>
<td>Kayla Failace (4G)</td>
<td>Jack Sloan (1G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alesha Maxwell (5B)</td>
<td>Lachlan O'Keeffe (1G)</td>
<td>Ethan Maxwell (5R)</td>
<td>Jade Fernandez (Prep R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron Bower (6G)</td>
<td>Daniel Liang (4G)</td>
<td>Alex Diamantopoulos (2Y)</td>
<td>Levi Ipadjian (Prep Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Bowers (4R)</td>
<td>Matthew Rowe (2R)</td>
<td>Sophie Howard (Prep G)</td>
<td>Mika Ono (5G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Eckfield (1Y)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
HEAD LICE: There has been a report of head lice in Grade 2 Red. Parents please check your child/ren’s hair. They need to be treated if any eggs or lice are found before returning to school.

PARENT’S ASSOCIATION NEWS

Our first Major Event for Parent’s Association this year is our -

Family Movie Night on Friday 17th February. Gates Open from 7pm and BYO your own picnic or enjoy the food supplied by our Food Vans. Tickets will be on sale shortly via TryBookings or the tuck. More information to follow. SAVE THE DATE.

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 for 2 Major Sponsors their names will be on the Real Estate Board in front of the school.

2017 School Calendars - If you haven’t ordered one, you can buy them from the Parents’ Association by filling in the form below.

Parent’s Association Annual General Meeting will be held on the 22nd February – more information to follow.

CANTEEN ROSTER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>13/02</td>
<td>Maria A, Leonie G, Tanya B, Lien H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>17/02</td>
<td>Linda H, Danil H, Marisa B, Deborah L, Maria L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


UNIFORM SHOP – VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Volunteers required to assist in the Uniform Shop on Tuesday afternoons from 2.30pm – 3.00pm. Rotating roster, once or twice per month to suit your availability. Gather a few friends and volunteer together. A great way to catch up!

Full training provided and no experience necessary. Please email annam@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au to express your interest. Thanks in advance.

UNIFORM SHOP ROSTER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>07/02</td>
<td>Angela, Narelle, Kathy C, Lisa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ST SIMON’S MUSIC TUITION: Currently taking enrolments for 2017, 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 869 757 or email phoward@ahthorn.catholic.edu.au

PARISH NEWS

COMMITMENT MASSES FOR RECONCILIATION: Reconciliation Commitment masses — Sat 4th February 6pm & Sun 5th February 9.30 or 11am – sign child up on clipboard in foyer – give Jesus Book to Fr Jim at the Commitment time during Mass.

RECONCILIATION PARENT SESSIONS – begin Wednesday 8th February – 2-3pm or 7.30-8.30pm – continue 15th & 22nd February and 1st & 8th March.

Desperately Seeking

Any parent who would like to take part in a child-centred ministry please come along to an information session for Children’s Liturgy of the Word.

All training and assistance is provided. We run CLOW at 6pm Saturday night, 9.30 and 11am Sunday Masses every week of the school term. Usually you would be rostered only twice a term. Monday 27th February, 7.30pm in the Chapel.

Any questions contact Jacqui at the parish 9764 4058 or email jgiullano@stsimonsparish.com.au

PARLIAMENT AND CIVICS EDUCATION REBATE (PACER)

Year 6 Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding per student under the Parliament and Civics Education rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

NAZARETH COLLEGE IN ACTION: Open School Tours: Thursday 9th Feb, Wednesday 15th Feb, Friday 24th Feb, Monday 6th March and Wednesday 22nd March from 9am – 10.30am. Open Day: Sunday 12 February 11:30am - 1pm. Please register your attendance with the College Receptionist 9795-8100

CAHILL DANCE: Classes offered 3 years to adult. Pre School Dance & Movement, Classical Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Funk & Contemporary. Venue St. Simon’s. For more info phone Julie 9759 7191 or Sue 9752 8010
ROWVILLE FOOTBALL CLUB: Boys and Girls FREE football try AFL sessions. Calling all boys and girls aged 7-16. Footy season is back! The Rowville Hawks Football Club has teams for ALL girls and boys aged 7-16 and invites all kids who would like to try AFL to come down and participate in our FREE 4 week Try AFL sessions. For more details or to book a spot for your child please contact Trevor Flakemore on 0418 335 245 or trevor.flakemore@rowvillefc.org.au Girls only pay $100 for the entire season and get a free sherrin football and showbag. www.rowvillefc.org.au

ST. JOHN’S NETBALL CLUB: Registration Day Saturday 4th February 2017 from 11am to 1pm. New player discount! 25% off club fees for all new players (applies to both Winter & Spring seasons for any new player to the club in 2017) www.stjohnsnetworkclub.wordpress.com

CUZZIE PERFORMANCE NETBALL: With the Super Netball season set to kick off in February, Cuzzie Performance is offering young netballers the chance to hone their footwork and train alongside elite mid-courtier Khao Watts. Watts and the Cuzzie Crew will take participants through a 45 minute netball specific strength and conditioning circuit before finishing the session with a Q & A. When: Saturday 11 February Time: 11am-12pm Where: Cuzzie Performance, 11/5 Kelletts Rd Rowville. Age: 12-17 years. Cost: $25 To book your spot contact admin@cuzzieperformance.com.au or call 9764 2995

WAVERTLEY VICTORY FOOTBALL CLUB: Information Day Sunday 12th February at Brandon Park Reserve from 10am to 2pm, 659 Ferntree Gully Rd, Glen Waverley (Behind the fire station) EFTPOS available. Plus Free Sausage Sizzle. Saturday morning – small sided (5-8yrs) Coerver Sunday (Girls and Boys teams) U7-U11 MiniRoos, U12-U16. For further information check out www.waverleyvictory.com.au or contact Darren Corbett 0403 258 441 or Simon Cuce 0409 667 790.


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.

PARENTLINE 13 22 89: Is a statewide telephone counseling, information and referral service to parents and carers with children aged from birth to eighteen years. It is a confidential and anonymous service. Parentline counselors come from a range of professional backgrounds including Psychology, Social Work and Teaching. Parentline assists with the development of positive parenting strategies and the provision of skills aimed at empowering parents by promoting and contributing to the confidence, resilience and wellbeing of families. Counsellors are able to discuss a diverse range of topics from tantrums, sleep issues, child behavioural issues, school bullying, separation and divorce through to a variety of adolescent issues. Parentline operates from 8.00am – 12.00am midnight Monday to Friday and 10.00am – 10.00pm Saturday and Sunday.

GOOD SHEPHERD BUYING SERVICE: The Good Shepherd Buying Service is a free state-wide telephone service assisting Pension/Health Care Card holders and various non-profit community groups to obtain lower prices on household goods. In utilising an established and trusted network of traders, the Buying Service is able to negotiate discounted prices on a range of items which include fridges, washing machines, air conditioning/heating units, TVs, furniture, beds and other select appliances. The Buying Service is available to assist with your pricing requests, with no obligation to buy, for both metropolitan and regional areas. The Buying Service is NOT a retail outlet. To get a quote, look for the item that suits your needs then call the Buying Service with the BRAND and MODEL NUMBER of the item. Visit our website for further information. Tel. 9495 9655 or fax 9270 9350 buying.service@goodshepvic.org.au

X

PARENT’S ASSOCIATION 2017 CALENDAR SCHOOL ORDER

I would like to order the 2017 school calendar. Price $10 each. Quantity required _______.

My payment of $______ is enclosed. Payment by cash or cheque made out to St Simon’s Parent’s Association.

Name: ..................................................  Contact number: ................................

Eldest child’s name & grade: ...........................................
Dear Parents,

Our beginning of the year Parent Teacher Chats are scheduled for Monday 13th and Thursday 16th February. These chats are held in order for you to meet your child’s 2017 teacher, find out about the expectations for the year ahead and share any relevant information about your child. Obviously with only being at school for two weeks the teachers will not be able to offer specific information regarding your child’s academic performance.

Below is a list of step by step instructions for parents to follow when booking their children’s Parent Teacher interviews. The process itself is quite intuitive and many people will find that the instructions are unnecessary. Bookings open at 6.00 am on Wednesday 8th February for parents to begin booking interviews. Please remember that early bookings have the best chance of getting times that suit you and your family circumstances. Later bookings will have less options. Bookings will close at 2.00pm on Monday for interviews taking place that day. Thursday’s bookings will also close off at 2.00pm in readiness for Thursday’s Parent / Teacher chats.

**Step 1:** Access St. Simon the Apostle website [www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au)

**Step 2:** Go to Parents then Parent Teacher Interviews

- Select School – enter 3178 and select ‘St Simon the Apostle Primary School’
- Click “Parent Access” box

**Step 3:** You will be asked to enter your email address. This email will be your login identifier each time you revisit this site. Click ‘next’ once complete.

**Step 4:** Enter your first name and your surname in the first entry box. Then enter a contact phone number in the second box. This phone number will only be used if there is a problem with the booking process. Click ‘next’ once complete.

**Step 5:** If you are new to the school begin by entering your child’s full name in the first box, then select their year level from the drop down options available. If you have more than one child at the school you will need to process their interviews one at a time. If you have already used the system previously you will need to increment your child’s year level for this year.

**Step 6:** You are now at the interview bookings screen. You should see your child’s name, their year level and the time/date details of the interviews. You need to click on the button to the right ‘Book Interviews’.

**Step 7:** You will be presented with the choice of teachers that teach at this level. Check the box next to your child’s class teacher. Click ‘next’ once complete.

**Step 8:** At this point you will be presented with the range of interview ‘slots’ available (in green) for the selected teacher. Scroll down to the time that best suits you and click anywhere in the slot. Once a slot is selected it will change colour to pink and your child’s name will appear in the slot. It can be ‘deselected’ by clicking on it again, when it should change back to the green colour. Once you have the desired slot, click the grey ‘save’ button near the top right corner.

**Step 9:** At this point your interview time will be confirmed. You can choose to print a copy of the information on the screen or you can get it emailed to you (or both). If you need to add another interview for a subsequent child you need to click ‘add child’ and follow the process again.

You can come back at a later time, log in again and adjust your time if circumstances have changed.

If you have any difficulties with the process please feel free to contact the school to assist you.

*Maree Fatouros - Deputy Principal*

mfatouros@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Pack waste free food!

Did you know that up to 50% of items in school/preschool bins come from food and drink packaging is brought from home?

Avoid:
- Lunches packed in plastic bags, cling film or foil
- Disposable drink boxes, cans, cartons and bottles
- Disposable forks and spoons
- Pre-packaged lunches or single serve items

Pack:
- Snacks in reusable containers
- Drinks in a reusable bottle
- Reusable utensils when needed
- A reusable lunchbox or backpack
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.
ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

NAME OF CHILD: ........................................... YEAR LEVEL: ...........................................

For any type of medication that your child needs to take during school hours, please provide the following information:

PARENTAL PERMISSION TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION

I (parent/guardian) .......................................................... give permission for medication to be administered

to my son/daughter (child’s name) ..........................................................

DETAILS OF MEDICATION

NAME OF MEDICATION

..............................................................................................................

REASON FOR MEDICATION

..............................................................................................................

DOSAGE

Date/s: ....................................................................................... Time/s: ......................................................................................

..............................................................................................................

..............................................................................................................

..............................................................................................................

..............................................................................................................

..............................................................................................................

Parent/Guardian Signature:..........................................................

PLEASE NOTE

1) Medication should be in its original packaging.
2) Medication should be clearly labelled.
3) Children should never be responsible for their own medication.
4) All medications will be kept in a secure cupboard.
5) All medication should be forwarded to your child’s classroom teacher accompanied by a notice.
6) Children, especially in the older classes, need to take some responsibility for remembering to take medication.
ST SIMON’S SCHOOL APP

The app is intended to complement existing communication tools and enhance notification of upcoming events, changes in dates and reminders of key items from the school calendar. The app has been endorsed by the School Advisory Board and helps to meet some of the goals of our post-review School Improvement Plan, under the banner of the Community Sphere.

The app has been developed by the team at Skoolbag. Their instructions for installation are below. Please note that as you search for our school, it is best to use the full name: St Simon the Apostle, Rowville.

**How To Install Skoolbag On your Smartphone**

**iPhone & iPad Users**

1) Click the “App Store” icon on your Apple device.
2) Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3) If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click “free” then “install”.
4) If iPad, change the drop list to “iPhone apps” your school will then be visible, click “free” then “install”.
5) When installed click “open”.
6) Select “ok” to receive push notifications, when asked.
7) Click the “more” button on the bottom right of the App, then “setup”.
8) Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**Android Users**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the App.

1) Click the “play store” button on your Android Device.
2) Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3) Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4) Click the “install” button.
5) Click “accept” for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device.
6) Click “open” when installed.
7) Click the “more” button on the bottom right of the App, then “setup”.
8) Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>SIZES</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>QTY.</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Dress</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Dress Material (150cm wide)</td>
<td>per metre</td>
<td>$13.50</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/Sleeve Polo Shirt (PSW)</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>S/Sleeve Polo</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Shorts</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Shorts</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Top (Grades 4 to 6 only)</td>
<td>8,10,12,14,16,XS,S</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Legionnaire Cap (one size)</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Tunic</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$48.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Tunic Material (150cm wide)</td>
<td>per metre</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>L/Sleeve Polo Shirt</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18,20</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trousers (½ Elastic Back)</td>
<td>3,4,5,6,7,8,10,12,14,16,18</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trousers (pull-on, draw cord)</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windcheater</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track Pants – Straight Leg</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bomber Jacket (optional)</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,14,S,M</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Simon’s School Bag (Spartan)</td>
<td>PhysioPak III</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spray Jacket – Black</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$32.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library/Swimming Bag</td>
<td>one size</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smocks</td>
<td>5,6,8,10</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch Order Bag</td>
<td>Trim Colour: pink/red/yellow/purple</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Jumper</td>
<td>10,12,14,16,18</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Tights (cotton/lycra)</td>
<td>4-6,7-10,11-14</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Socks fawn – 3 pack only</td>
<td>9-12, 13-3, 2-8</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>circle size</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socks – Knee Hi – Fawn – single</td>
<td>9-12, 13-3, 2-8</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>circle size</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socks white – single pack</td>
<td>13-3, 2-8</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>circle size</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socks – Knee Hi – white – single</td>
<td>13-3, 2-8</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>circle size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All Prices include G.S.T.*

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**BACK ORDERS**

**FAMILY NAME:** ........................................

**CLASS:** .......... **PHONE:** ..........................

**UNIFORM SHOP USE ONLY**

**FAMILY NAME:** ........................................

**CLASS:** .......... **PHONE:** ..........................

*Please Note: The Uniform Shop will not be open on School Closure Days.*

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Uniform Shop accepts cash, cheques and has Eftpos facilities – VISA or MASTERCARD only.

*Please make cheques payable to: St. Simon’s Uniform Shop*

**Credit Card Payments** (minimum $15.00)

**CARD HOLDERS NAME:** ..................................

**CREDIT CARD No.:** ....................................

**CARD HOLDERS SIGNATURE:** ..................................

**EXPIRY DATE** ........../........

**AMOUNT $** ........................................ (minimum $15.00)
CONGRATULATIONS!
St Simon the Apostle Primary School

You were one of over 2,500 schools involved in Australia’s biggest music initiative in 2016.

Thank you for celebrating music with us and for adding your voices to advocating for music education.

See you in 2017!
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.

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 Anny 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.