Dear Parents,

As we finish the first week of the school year there is a great feeling of excitement. The preps are enthusiastic, our Year 6 students have become leaders of the school and the other students are experiencing the excitement of a new classroom and teacher. This week’s reflection has a focus on what we hope all children in our school can achieve - Acceptance, Self-confidence, Full Potential, Confidence and Appreciation of Life.

What Children Can Achieve

Dear Lord, give acceptance.
Show children they are loved for what they are, not for what they do or how much they please you. Give this gift with a kiss.

Dear Lord, give self-confidence.
Help them understand and accept that nobody can be approved of all the time, and when they encounter disapproval they needn’t feel immobilised or upset, that they must trust themselves, not the opinions of others. Give this gift with a hug.

Dear Lord, give possibilities.
Don’t give labels such as intellectuals, athletes, little ladies, macho men, or whatever. Give an example of a person who is not slotted into any one compartment and tell them a boy or girl can sew, or play football, cry or be brave, mow lawns or do dishes. Give children the freedom to be anything, rather than limit them by labels and roles. Give this gift with a smile.

Dear Lord, give life without needless fears.
Encourage children to become doers by showing them that you will tackle problems and not be a worrier yourself. Give this gift with a laugh.

Dear Lord, give the gift of being people who have a spark and appreciation for all of life.
Encourage them to be fully alive in every way. Allow them to have adventures, a chance for laughter, fun, creativity. Give them the supreme gift of being able to find happiness in virtually all circumstances. Give this gift every day throughout the year. AMEN.

Opening of the School Year Mass – Will be on Friday 5th February at 11.30am. All families are invited.

Staff Commitment Mass will be on Sunday 7th 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.

Year 6 trip to Canberra will be on Monday, 22nd February until Friday 26th February.

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 /Teacher Interviews - will be on Monday, 8th February and Thursday, 11th February commencing at 3:30 pm until 8:00 pm. Information regarding these meetings is included in this 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.

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. Parents will also be asked to bring the Cybersafety Use Agreement to the Parent/ Teacher meeting. Please read the Agreement and sign. If you have any queries regarding either of the two forms please contact your child’s class teacher. The Parent Teacher Chats form will be sent home with your child’s level term letter and can also be accessed via the Skoolbag App.

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

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 on 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. 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

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 Donald (Yr. 4 Teacher) on her engagement to Jason. We wish both Diane and Jason all the very best for the future life together.

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.

The Good Manners Award goes to Dante Muller (1B) and Uniform Award goes to Sienna Appleton (1R). Well done to these children.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Hesse
Principal

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**CANTEEN RE-OPENS MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY**

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5th February</td>
<td>Anointing Mass 9.15am</td>
<td>Wed. 17th February</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5th February</td>
<td>Opening School Mass 11.30am (6B)</td>
<td>Wed. 17th February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session(3) 2.00pm, 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 7th February</td>
<td>Staff Commitment Mass 9.30am</td>
<td>Wed. 20th February</td>
<td>Parents’ Association AGM 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8th February</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm – 8.00</td>
<td>Sunday 21st February</td>
<td>2nd Sunday Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th February</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday</td>
<td>Monday 22nd February</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 9th February</td>
<td>Uniform shop open 2.30pm to 3pm</td>
<td>Monday 22nd February</td>
<td>Harmony Day Liturgy 2.30pm (3R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 10th February</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass 11.30am (6G)</td>
<td>Tuesday 23rd February</td>
<td>Prep Prayer Night 6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 10th February</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
<td>Wed. 24th February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session(4) 2.00pm, 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 10th February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session(2) 2.00pm, 7.30pm</td>
<td>Wed. 24th February</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 10th February</td>
<td>Parish Pastoral Team Meeting 7.30pm</td>
<td>Wed. 24th February</td>
<td>Advisory Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 11th February</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm – 8.00</td>
<td>Thursday 25th February</td>
<td>District Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 14th February</td>
<td>1st Sunday Lent</td>
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**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS – FEBRUARY 2016**

Initial Parent Teacher interviews this term are scheduled to happen on Monday 8th February and Thursday 11th 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.
SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ISSUE #1 2016 – Orders and payment are due no later than Tuesday 9th February. NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED. Please remember to include your child’s name and grade on the order. Thank you.

HEAD LICE: There have been reports of head lice in Grades 3 Green and 5 Blue. Parents please check your child’s hair. Thank you.

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.srowville.catholic.edu.au/static/uploads/files/csef-application-form-wftglqggotn.pdf or under Forms and Notices in the Parents Section of the school website www.srowville.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

Attending a wedding Mass for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, “Why is the bride dressed in white?”

“Because white is the colour of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life.”

The child thought about this for a moment, then said,

“So why is the groom wearing black?”

SCHOOL WEBSITE NEWS

www.srowville.catholic.edu.au

DID YOU KNOW?


CDF STUDENT BANKING: Resumes today and is on every Thursday.

ST SIMON’S MUSIC TUITION: Currently taking enrolments for 2016, 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@sjhoward.catholic.edu.au

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wishing the following staff and students a very happy birthday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jo Faella</th>
<th>Cameron Boey (5Y)</th>
<th>Daniel Liang (3Y)</th>
<th>Alex Diamontopoulos (1G)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine White (6G)</td>
<td>Adam Bowers (3Y)</td>
<td>Matthew Rowe (1B)</td>
<td>Mika Ono (4R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Eckfeld (Prep Y)</td>
<td>Emily Cheema (5Y)</td>
<td>Julian Hau (2B)</td>
<td>Marcus D’Angelo (1Y)</td>
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</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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep B – Bianca Barbotin</th>
<th>Prep G – Olivia Giuliano</th>
<th>Prep R – Cooper Aow</th>
<th>Prep Y – Alessia Costanzo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue – Ryan Hall</td>
<td>1 Green – Noah Reeves</td>
<td>1 Red – Vinley Hodgson</td>
<td>1 Yellow – Patti Limskul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Blue – Landon Vo</td>
<td>2 Green – Charissa Velante</td>
<td>2 Red – Mya Lane</td>
<td>2 Yellow – Kayla Ricaud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Blue – Peter Diamantopoulos</td>
<td>3 Green – Jayda Muller</td>
<td>3 Red – Manny Franes</td>
<td>3 Yellow – Lily Bowers-Smyth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Blue – Mai-Ly Pham</td>
<td>4 Green – Thomas Juhasz</td>
<td>4 Red – Hannah Pedlar</td>
<td>5 Blue – James Kwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Green – Ellie-Rose Freeman Max Sarris</td>
<td>5 Red – Delena Vo</td>
<td>5 Yellow – Tahlia Sullivan</td>
<td>6 Blue – Tanya Stiblij Lachlan Occhipinti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Green – Jakson Smart</td>
<td>6 Red – Catarina Dell’Aquila</td>
<td>6 Yellow – Brendon Roy</td>
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</table>

CANTEEN ROSTER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>08/02</th>
<th>Lucy I, Lien H, Sharon M, Louis P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12/02</td>
<td>Linda H, Sarah S, Anne-Marie M, Antoinette G, Marisa B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNIFORM SHOP ORDER FORM: Order form available on school website at http://www.srowville.catholic.edu.au/uniform

UNIFORM SHOP:

| Tuesday | 09/02 | Narelle, Natasha, Kathy C, Angela | 2.30pm – 3pm |
**PANCAKE MORNING MS FUNDRAISER:** Lucas Dalle-Nogare (5R) is very proud to be part of this year’s MS Melbourne Cycle and along with his dad Matthew and the rest of their cycling team they will be riding a distance of 50km and is training hard to prepare himself. If anyone would like to join with him on this day and participate in this worthwhile cause he would love to have more people join his team. Go to [www.msmelbournecycle.org.au](http://www.msmelbournecycle.org.au/participant/LucasDN) if you wish to donate and help Lucas reach his goal of $1200.

The Pancake Morning is on Tuesday 9th February from 9am to 11am at the Butlers Pantry, 1090 Wellington Rd Rowville. Bookings Essential. Contact Teresa Dalle-Nogare on 0419 359 697 or email teresa_dn@bigpond.com Cost is $35 per person and includes pancakes with mixed toppings, mini muffins, fruit salad, juice and coffee. Funds raised will be donated to the 2016 MS Melbourne Cycle.

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**PARISH NEWS**

RECONCILIATION PARENT SESSIONS – begin Wednesday 3rd February – 2-3pm or 7.30-8.30pm – continue 10th, 17th & 24th February and 2nd March.

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**PARENT’S ASSOCIATION NEWS**

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 Open from 7pm and BYO your own picnic or enjoy the food supplied by our 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 TryBookings 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 for 2 Major Sponsors their names will be on the Real Estate Board in front of the school.

If you would like to know more on being a Sponsor please give Kathy West a call 0407 836 819 I would love to hear from you.

**2016 School Calendar** has now been distributed to all Prep families and families that ordered via the Booklist. If you still require a Calendar please return slip attached to Contact and return to the P.A. If you ordered a Calendar and have not yet received it please contact Leanne on 0412 095 941.

**Parent’s Association Annual General Meeting** will be held on the 17th February – see flyer attached.

The Parent’s Association is looking forward to another great year supporting school social and fundraising activities.

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**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’s free. 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](http://www.rowvillefc.org.au/)

**WAVERLEY VICTORY FOOTBALL CLUB:** Information Day Sunday 7th 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](http://www.waverleyvictory.com.au) or contact Lino Del Papa 0418 561 363, Darren Corbett 0403 258 441.

**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](http://www.superspeak.com.au) or call 9572 5249.

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**PARENT’S ASSOCIATION 2016 CALENDAR ORDER**

I would like to order the 2016 school calendar. Price $8.25 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: .....................

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**CONTACT by email**

Family name: ________________________________

Grade of eldest child at school: ____________________________

Preferred email contact address: _______________________________
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 your 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.

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**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.

Initially the app will be used to push out the Contact newsletter, to serve as a calendar for some key dates and to push out alerts.
Dear Parents,

Our beginning of the year Parent Teacher Chats are scheduled for Monday 8th and Thursday 11th February. These chats are held in order for you to meet your child’s 2016 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 3rd 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

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

**Step 3:** You will be asked to enter your email address. This email will be your login identifier each time you revisit his 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
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.
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
### TERM 1 CALENDAR 2016

**FEBRUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3rd</td>
<td>No school for Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3rd</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session (1) 2.00pm or 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th</td>
<td>Anointing Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th</td>
<td>Mazenod College Awards to former St. Simon’s students 12 midday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th</td>
<td>Level Term letters sent home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 7th</td>
<td>Staff Commissioning Mass 9.30am</td>
</tr>
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<td>Monday 8th</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm to 8.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th</td>
<td>Caritas Project Compassion begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass 11.30am (6G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session (2) 2.00pm or 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th</td>
<td>No school for Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th</td>
<td>Parish Pastoral Team Meeting 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm to 8.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 14th</td>
<td>First Sunday Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th</td>
<td>Parents’ Association AGM 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th</td>
<td>No school for Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session (3) 2.00pm or 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 21st</td>
<td>Second Sunday of Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 22nd – Fri 26th</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp to Canberra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22nd</td>
<td>Harmony Day Liturgy 2.30pm (3R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23rd</td>
<td>Prep Prayer Night 6.30pm to 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th</td>
<td>No school for Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session (4) 2.00pm or 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th</td>
<td>Advisory Board Meeting 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th</td>
<td>District Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26th</td>
<td>Parent’s Association Movie Night 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26th</td>
<td>Closing date for applications to Yr 7, 2017 for Catholic Sec. Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26th</td>
<td>Ron Barassi’s Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 28th</td>
<td>Third Sunday Lent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1st</td>
<td>Division Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd</td>
<td>Reconciliation Session (5) 2.00pm or 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd</td>
<td>Halogen Young Leaders Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd</td>
<td>Parents’ Association Meeting 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th</td>
<td>Anointing Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4th</td>
<td>National Ride to School Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th</td>
<td>School’s Clean Up Australia Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 5th</td>
<td>Working Bee 9-12. All families invited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 6th</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7th</td>
<td>Regional Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7th</td>
<td>Assembly/ Liturgy 2.30pm (3G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th</td>
<td>School Photos – All day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th</td>
<td>Parish Pastoral Team Meeting 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th</td>
<td>First Rite Celebrations 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th</td>
<td>Year 1 Camp Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th</td>
<td>First Rite Celebrations 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11th</td>
<td>Professional Development Day for Teachers – No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 13th</td>
<td>Fifth Sunday Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14th</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday – No school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 15th – Fri. 20th</td>
<td>Catholic Education Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th</td>
<td>Parish Rite of Reconciliation 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Feast Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18th</td>
<td>Passion Sunday Liturgy 11.30am (2Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 20th</td>
<td>Passion/Palm Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Holy Thursday Liturgy 2.30pm (3Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>District Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Prep Sports Night 5.30pm – 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Advisory Board Meeting 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Good Friday Liturgy 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>End Term 1 Dismissal 1.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Holy Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>AFL Season commences with Rich vs Carl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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</tbody>
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**APRIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Daylight Savings ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;/ Sun 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Eucharist Commitment Masses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – Fri. 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Parish Pastoral Team Meeting 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Alleluia Day Liturgy 11.30am (1G)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note any changes to the calendar dates will be printed in Contact.
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 one of our Open School Tours at 9am.
Friday 5th February,
Thursday 11th February,
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.
Program 2016

MAZENOD UNITED FC - GRASSROOTS

Join the "Nooders Army!"

Program commences 9.30 am
February 6 2016

FFA-accredited coaching and skills
FFA-Standard all-weather grounds
and indoor facilities
Program for boys and girls aged 3-8 years

Contact Phil Sakkellidis at
0417 006 678

www.mazenodunitedfc.com.au
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 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
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.

![Bar chart showing average net recurrent income per student, 2010](http://www.cem.edu.au/our-schools/funding-of-catholic-schools/)

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 found 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.