



### **17 FEBRUARY TERM 1 ST AUGUSTINE'S NEWSLETTER**

Dear St Augustine's Community,

As we complete the second full week of school, I am so impressed with the level of learning and engagement that the students are displaying. I try and get into classrooms daily and I am so proud to say that the students are very committed to their learning. This is no doubt due to the caliber of staff that we have at St Augustine's. Professor John Hattie in his work on Visible Learning notes that the biggest influence on a child's learning is the quality of the teacher in front of the class. All the teachers at St Augustine's are exemplary and they are ably supported by wonderful education assistants to provide a targeted teaching and learning program that caters for the educational needs of our students.

As you know, your child attends school with their peers to participate in the compulsory curriculum delivered by their teachers. Teachers have a finite amount of time each school day, week, term, and year to teach the children in their care. We carefully plan and coordinate our instruction and administrative resources accordingly within these constraints. We know your child learns best in a stable, predictable environment. One of the reasons school attendance is compulsory is it allows teaching professionals to maintain this stability by providing each student with structure and routine, within clear boundaries. Structure, predictability, and processes allow children to be confident about everything that's going on and what's expected of them.

Students who learn alongside their peer's benefit from the questions, answers and discussion generated in their classroom. Your child's teacher develops a professional understanding of the unique way your child learns in community, and designs and modifies your child's instruction, and the class dynamics, accordingly. Students who break routine by leaving and returning to class may also distract their peers and teachers. Non-school providers may have superior single subject knowledge or expertise. Unlike our teachers, they do not always have the big picture perspective to be able to put that expertise into your child's educational context. For this reason, external tutors are not invited to attend St Augustine's. For educational and wellbeing reasons, we expect every student to spend school time doing school planned led and directed activities. In exceptional circumstances and at my sole discretion, a student may be excused to participate in activities that are not part of their school educational programme.

Students will only be excused from starting and finishing school on time, and from being with their peers during school time, if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Has an Individualised Education Plan (IEP) developed by their class teacher.
- Has a serious diagnosed medical health condition that St Augustine's cannot provide for and that requires consistent and/or scheduled intervention.

To access one of the following services:

- Psychology
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Pathology
- Hearing services
- Physiotherapy

Students will not be excused during school hours for any of the following:

- Tutoring
- Music lessons (off-site)
- Sporting activities

The above also applies to parent, relative, or friend 'visits' during school hours. School time is for student learning and socialisation with their peers. Parents also have an expectation that I ensure that no person enters school grounds while your child is in my care unless they are providing support to the school.

### **Ash Wednesday and Lent:**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, Christians attend liturgical celebrations and receive ashes on our foreheads in the form of a cross, signalling a sign of our faith and a reminder of remorse for our sins. We are told "*Repent and believe in the gospel,*" when we receive the ashes. With these ashes, we recall our origins from the earth, as well as how our bodies shall return one day to the same form (as indicated by the dictum "*Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return*").

In true fashion of life coming full circle, the ashes are produced from the burning of palm fronds of the preceding year's Palm Sunday, which comes the week before Easter Sunday and marks the welcome Jesus received from followers upon his return to Jerusalem prior to his crucifixion.

Lent is a period of forty-six days (forty when Sundays are excluded) that commemorates the time Jesus spent in the desert prior to beginning his public ministry as Messiah. Following his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert, where he fasted for forty days and was subject to temptation by Satan. To honor this sacrifice and conquest over the devil, Catholics set aside the season of Lent to refocus on Jesus as we look ahead to his death on the Cross and rejoice over his miraculous return.

Lent is a time when participants can carry out a three-fold mission, with the key pillars being fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. Certainly, these components are not new within Catholic teachings, nor are they reserved only for Lent, as we are encouraged to practice them regularly throughout the year. However, a special and renewed focus on each of them during Lent can foster growth and appreciation within our collective faith and respective spiritual journeys.

The Year Three to Year Six students will be attending the Parish Mass at 9.00am on Ash Wednesday. Fr Robert will come to school to join the Kindy to Year Two students for a special liturgy and distribution of the ashes after Mass.

**Swimming 2023:** The students in Year Four to Year Six have completed their first week of swimming this week with one more week to go – the weather has been ideal for swimming. I visited swimming lessons on Tuesday and the students were all thoroughly engaged in their lesson.

**Welcome Back Picnic:** I am looking forward to seeing you all tonight for the Welcome Back Picnic! Thank in advance to the P&F who have done a wonderful job of planning this event!

**Reaching for Great Heights:** On Wednesday evening, I was included in the following email from John Brennan, who took the Tee Ball session on Wednesday morning, I am sharing with you with John's permission:

*The first thing that struck me is how well behaved and responsive the students were. I asked that the older students guide and teach the younger students how to play the game. They did that extremely well. They all had respect for one another. I was more than impressed.*

*I split the 14 students into two evenly matched teams.*

*I needed to differentiate between the two teams and needed a set of bibs for one team. William S, a year 6 student took on the responsibility I handed to him by returning with sashes for one of the teams. The bibs were in another sports room, that he could not access.*

*The students who play with the Cloverdale Comets were also very helpful in mentoring the younger players.*

*A huge thanks goes out to Mr Brodie Breen for organising the equipment and advising me of how he normally sets the field. I just followed suit.*

*Mrs Leanne Peake (Assistant Principal) did a wonderful job of supervising the group.*

*Thanks also to Steeve Lee Luen Len for helping me set up my Quick Pin.*

*Well done St Augustine's, well done.*

*Looking forward to next week.*

There is no better promotion of our school than glowing feedback and a positive experience! I am so proud of our staff and student team for 'being the best they can be' in the way they supported Mr Brennan and each other. Big claps to everyone!!

God Bless and have a lovely weekend,

Ms Adriana Coniglio

# A Lenten Prayer

Lord, I know how much you love me  
It's hard for me to feel it sometimes  
but I know your love is always with me  
Help me to use your love as a way  
to persevere in my Lenten intentions  
I am weak, but I know with your help  
I can use these small sacrifices in my  
life to draw closer to you. Amen



## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL NEWS

**PARENT SACRAMENTAL MEETING:** This will occur at St Augustine's Church on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 5.30pm. At this meeting we will discuss the Sacramental Program run through the school, information for parents and caregivers about the different sacraments and it will allow you to ask any questions you might have around the celebrations. You will also receive the Parish Enrolment Form that will need to be completed and handed to Father at a Parish Commitment Mass during the month of March.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION CHANGE OF DATE:** Due to unforeseen circumstances Father Robert is unavailable on the original date of 14<sup>th</sup> September and so the Sacrament of Reconciliation will *now be celebrated on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September* at 10am in the Church.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, Project Compassion will launch their annual Lenten Program. Through Lent we are encouraged, as Christians, to help the needy and assist where we can. The Mini Vinnies have many ideas of how to raise funds for Project Compassion this semester, but we will also be collecting coins in each classroom via the Project Compassion collection boxes. Please support this cause if possible.

**NAPLAN:** In weeks 7 and 8 this term, both Year 5 and Year 3 students will be completing their NAPLAN testing. Teachers are currently giving the students opportunities to experience NAPLAN style questions and techniques to help them through this testing. Further information will be sent home regarding this for students in these year groups.

**FACTION SWIMMING CARNIVAL:** The Faction Swimming Carnival for Year 4,5 & 6 will be held at Belmont Oasis on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from 12pm-2.15pm. Parents are welcome to attend and support their children. Permission forms and further details on the event will be sent home early next week.

**MEDICAL FORMS AND PERPETUAL PERMISSIONS:** We still have a few families that need to return their red medical forms for 2023. This is a yearly form that needs updating so we have the most current information. Thank you to the families that have already completed this. I have also gone through and checked perpetual permissions signed from last year for Photo Permission, Permission to travel to Lee Reserve and ICT Permissions. If you receive one of these forms in the next week, please complete it and return as soon as possible. Similarly, if you wish to change your permissions for any of these items, please see Anna in reception or myself via email or in person.

Kind regards to you all,

Leanne Peake

### **2023 SCHOOL TERM DATES**

**Term 1** - Wednesday 1 February to Thursday 6 April

**Term 2** - Wednesday 26 April to Thursday 29 June

**Term 3** - Monday 17 July to Thursday 21 September

**Term 4** - Tuesday 10 October to Friday 8 December

### **2023 SACRAMENT DATES**

Sacrament of Confirmation – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May @ 6pm

**\*Sacrament of Reconciliation – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September @ 10am \* CHANGE OF DATE\***

Sacrament of Eucharist – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October @ 11am

### **ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH**

Fr. Robert Carrillo

38 Gladstone Rd, Rivervale WA 6103

**Weekend Mass Times:** Saturday 6:00pm and Sunday 9:00am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 5:00pm to 5:30pm

**Weekday Mass Times:** Tuesday to Friday 9:00am

### **P&F NEWS**

**P&F Welcome Picnic TONIGHT 2023 5:00pm to 7:00pm**

On TONIGHT! Lots of fun to be had. Parents can relax while the kids are entertained. Please check out the important information for Parents and Guardians on SAPS App.

Please note this an **alcohol-free** event.

There will be FREE entertainment; Face painting; a dunk machine; a basketball clinic (run by the Perth Redbacks) and a disco in the hall!!!

There will also be an ice-cream van visit! Don't miss out!

Please refer to the school app flyer attachments for full details.

### **Easter Raffle**

More information on our annual Easter Raffle will be coming out soon.

### **SAVE THE DATE...Term 2**

St Augustine's Parent Quiz Night Friday 9 June 2023, more information to follow.

### **Class Representatives for 2023**

K	Verity Sandhu
PP	Deb Sessions
Y1	Kristy Dunlop and Samantha Nimmett
Y2	Lorraine Humphrey-Phillips
Y3	Claudine Desmond
Y4	Louise Goldie
Y5	Camille Henderson
Y6	Julie-Anne Simmons

### **Party Kits**

36 re-usable plates, bowls and cups, and cutlery is available for hire at a cost of \$10.

**NEXT P&F Meeting ~ Wednesday 22 March at 8:00am. All welcome!**

### **CHESS CLUB WEDNESDAYS**

Hello STA community!

Chess club is every Wednesday, from 8:00am in the Year 6 classroom. Chess is a great opportunity for children to exercise their mind in strategy and game play.

We look forward to seeing new chess strategies and tactics in 2023.

### **STA's NETBALL CLUB**

STA's netball club is now taking expressions of interest for children in Years 2 -12 to join the club for the 2023 season. The season will run during Terms 2 & 3.

Weekday training & Saturday morning games to be held at Belmont Netball Association courts (off Kooyong Rd). Email us at [stanetballclub@hotmail.com](mailto:stanetballclub@hotmail.com) to register your interest.

Please see the pdf. attachment on your school app.

### **MUSIC 2023**

**Keyed Up Music** teach keyboard and guitar lessons during school hours. Lessons start from \$19.80 for a group lesson. If you are interested in your son / daughter learning either keyboard or guitar in 2023, enrol now for lessons and receive your first lesson FREE! Please call on 0479 171 424 alternatively email [enquiry@keyedupmusic.com.au](mailto:enquiry@keyedupmusic.com.au) or enrol at [www.keyedupmusic.com.au/enrolment-form](http://www.keyedupmusic.com.au/enrolment-form)

### **MERCEDES COLLEGE OPEN DAY**

Mercedes College is hosting its **Open Day on Tuesday 14 March**

This will be an immersive experience which will include a student-led tour of the College visiting specialised learning areas where prospective families will have the opportunity to meeting the various Heads of Learning.

Two sessions are available: 8.30am and 11am, and registrations are required in order for places to be secured:

<https://www.mercedes.wa.edu.au/enrolments/open-morning/>

Further Information about the College is available at <https://www.mercedes.wa.edu.au/>

Promotional images are also attached for your convenience.