Dear Parents,

This Friday St Andrew’s School is hosting a Professional Development Day with participants from three other schools within the Southern Region of Catholic Education. The staff from St Mark’s Dingley, St Mary’s East Malvern and St Paul Apostle Endeavour Hills South will be in attendance.

Commencing in 2013, the four schools formed a cluster of schools on the Schools Improving Schools Research Project. It is a belief that schools working together can achieve greater results than schools working in isolation. The Catholic Education Office are supporting a cluster in each of the four regions of the Archdiocese, the north, west, east and ourselves in the south. Our particular project is about implementing exemplary practices in reading. You may have already gathered from observing your children that we have changed a number of strategies around reading recently. Some of these changes have come about through working with our colleagues in the three other schools. The other schools are implementing some of St Andrew’s successful practices.

On Friday we will have a day with Philip Holmes-Smith one of the leading educators on assessment, analysis of data (in this case reading data), target setting and focussed teaching.

In the coming weeks we will provide sessions for parents where we will explain the approach we are taking to reading.

iPad News

It was planned that the iPads would be distributed this week, however due to personal circumstances the IT Consultant looking after the management of the apps was unable to prepare the devices. We are hopeful that this will all happen next week and the Year 3—6 students will be able to start work with the iPads.

In preparation the staff have developed an iPad User Agreement aimed at ensuring that the students look after their iPad and use it both at school and at home as an aide to their school work. Please read the iPad Use Agreement with your child when it comes home.
School Board & Parents & Friends

It is the intention of the school to work more closely with parents throughout 2014. The staff are developing a number of strategies and opportunities to engage parents in the work of your child.

Schools that undertake effective parent engagement are up to four times more likely to improve literacy and up to ten times more likely to improve numeracy (Emerson, Fear, Fox & Sanders 2012, 'Parental engagement in learning and schooling: Lessons from research').

The starting point for this engagement is to ensure that the school has an effective School Board and an active Parents & Friends Committee.

Let's start with the Parents and Friends. Throughout the life of St Andrew's School the Parents and Friends Committee has played a critical and essential role. The support that has been provided via fundraising and social events has been outstanding. Funds raised by the P&F have enabled the purchase of equipment for both the playground including shade sails, fencing and play equipment and for the classrooms, including materials and equipment.

It is our hope that the Parents & Friends will continue and will proceed in a format that works for parents. We will schedule meetings to suit the volunteers.

Initially we are looking for a representative from the seven year levels—Prep, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. It would be even better if each Year Level representative found a friend or buddy and we had two representatives from each level. Please do not think that you cannot help your child and the school in this way, you will be assisted and supported throughout.

The School Board is an advisory body to the Parish Priest and the Principal. The Board is concerned with school policy, finances, planning and school governance and will meet on six occasions during the year with meetings commencing at 7:00 pm and concluding by 8:30 pm.

We encourage parents to come forward and get involved and assist with making the school the best place possible for your child.

If you are interested and would like to volunteer or would like more advice please complete the tear off slip and return the school office by Friday 28 February. If you are reading the newsletter online please respond via email at principal@saclaytonstnths.catholic.edu.au

Working Bee

Thankyou to the small group of Prep families who attended the first Working Bee for the year last Saturday. While we did not complete everything on the list, those in attendance achieved a great deal and gave the school a much needed clean and tidy. Please look for upcoming Working Bees because if you missed this one you might like to attend one later in the year.

Year 3 School Mass

The Year 3 students, assisted by their teachers, did an outstanding job of leading the 9:30 am Parish Mass on Sunday. The Year 3 student's who will be making their First Reconciliation later in the Term made a commitment to the program during the Mass. Thankyou to the Year 3 teachers Daniela Dal Santo, Kathy Cunningham and Angela Carbone and our Religious Education Coordinator Rachele Oliver for preparing the Mass and the student's involvement.

SCHOOL BOARD / PARENTS & FRIENDS NOMINATION

I am interested in (nominating for / finding out more about) the (School Board / Parents & Friends)

Name:
**Grade One is a lot of fun**

We have all settled in nicely to a new school year. We have been busy making new friends, learning new information and getting used to our new classroom.

In Mathematics, we began the year by learning all about numbers, matching the digit, a collection and the numeral word. We are now beginning to explore volume and capacity by filling containers of different sizes and shapes.

In Literacy, we are busy learning about our new program The Daily Five. We have been practising ‘Read to Self’ and are about to begin filling our own book boxes with ‘just right books’.

Our Inquiry and Religious Education studies have been focusing on the choices we make, the feelings we have and loving one another just as Jesus loves us.

Laura Dunn  
Year 1L Teacher

**A Terrific Start to the Year in 2P!**

In Year 2P, we have had a very happy start to the 2014 school year. The students arrived at school on the first day well-rested after the break, and eager to see their friends. They have speedily settled into new routines and many new things.

The ‘big idea’ of our unit of inquiry this term is that the choices we make every day are important and affect everyone in our school community. The students will come to understand that there are different ways of learning and that they are responsible for always trying their best in their learning.

We have spent time in class learning about getting along well with others and how to make new friends. It has been entertaining watching the various scenarios that students have acted out showing the social skills needed in the playground. They have demonstrated already that they understand the importance of being a good listener, being helpful, respectful and kind to others in order for St Andrew’s to be a happy place to work and play! As the Lenten season approaches, we will prepare to turn towards Jesus and his teachings in a new and more committed way.

Danielle Priest  
Year 2P Teacher

**Student Wellbeing News**

The holidays are over and it’s back to business as usual! Our business is to provide a holistic education for all our students by nurturing their social, emotional, physical and academic wellbeing by providing them with a safe and secure environment where they can flourish. We are committed to working in partnership with the families in our community to ensure the wellbeing of all our students.

The year commenced with SWEL Week where the focus was on Student Wellbeing, Engagement and Learning. During this week students were engaged in activities designed to develop positive relationships and secure classroom environments, based on the Gospel Values that underpin our school values and guide our behaviour towards one another. As a school, we participated in Safe Internet Day, a world-wide initiative to promote a safe internet for all users.
Another highlight this term *(which created much excitement and anticipation)* was the Melbourne Storm visit and in particular, the attendance of Billy Slater, who spoke about Tackling Bullying. All students in Years 3 to 6 had the opportunity to hear the team speak about Bullying and its impacts on the wellbeing of victims. Students also viewed a video and were left with the very important message of how to handle and report bullying.

The children at St. Andrew’s learnt about one of the NRL’s key resource of the anti-bullying program, "Tackle Bullying Green Hand". This is a five-fingered action plan aimed at helping victims to cope and stand up to bullying.

The certified action plan involves the following proactive strategies:
1. Stand Strong
2. Stay Calm
3. Respond Confidently
4. Walk Away
5. Report

To show its commitment to a zero tolerance bullying policy, the school will continue to educate students about this important issue and as part of this, has registered to take an active role in supporting the National Action Day against Bullying and Violence which will take place on **Friday March 21st**.


You can also download the Take a Stand app on your smart phone or follow Take a Stand Together on Facebook. Our student leaders will be actively engaged in planning events leading up to and on the day.

The 2014 student leaders are very enthusiastic, full of great ideas and confidence and they are already organising and leading assemblies, organising Liturgies and fundraisers, meeting with their peers to gather their opinions and feedback to promote student voice in our school.

The leaders will attend the third Leadership Training Day out of five at St Louis De Montfort’s next Wednesday February 26th.

We look forward to a happy, rewarding year for everyone in our school community.

Teresa Maio, Wellbeing Leader
Education Maintenance Allowance in 2014

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) helps to cover the costs related to your child’s schooling. The EMA provides families on a low income with financial assistance to support their child’s education up to the age of 16.

Eligibility criteria
To be eligible for the EMA:

1. Your child must be under the age of sixteen; and
2. Your child must be enrolled at a primary or secondary Government or registered school in Victoria on, 28 February 2014 for the first instalment and 1 August 2014 for the second instalment; and
3. You must on 28 January 2014 for the first instalment and 14 July 2014, for the second instalment:
   ○ be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and
   ○ be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or be a temporary foster parent.
4. Submit your application to the school by the due date: 26 February 2014 for the first instalment*

NO LATE APPLICATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED

School Subject Levies & Arrears

A reminder that the Subject Levies and any arrears owing from last year are due for final payment by 28th February.

Catholic Secondary Colleges

Parents of students in Year 6 must have their Catholic Secondary College application for Year 7, 2015 submitted directly to the college of their choice by Friday, 28th February, 2014. It is essential that you have your application submitted by the due date.

KEY ENROLMENT DATES:
Friday, 28th February, 2014  Applications close for Catholic Secondary Colleges

ST JAMES COLLEGE
COLLEGE TOURS

FRIDAY 21ST & 28TH FEBRUARY 2014
9.00AM - 10.30AM

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Witness the College at Work
For further information contact the St James College office on 9575 8100 or email stjames@sjcbe.catholic.edu.au

SALESIAN COLLEGE

The College conducts tours every Monday morning at 9:30am.

Parents from your school are most welcome to join us to:
- View the College in action
- Experience the interaction between staff and students
- Visit the College facilities including the newly upgraded Science laboratories
- Meet the College Principal
ST ANDREW’S CHURCH BINGO

will commence at
ST ANDREWS SCHOOL HALL on the
Second and Forth Friday of each month

Venue: 96 BUNNEY ROAD, CLAYTON
First session starts: 28 FEBRUARY, 2014

TICKETS SALES FROM 6.30 PM
BINGO COMMENCES AT 7.30 PM
TEA, COFFEE AND LIGHT SNACKS WILL BE SOLD

CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS NOT PERMITTED

Clarinda Craft Market
Opening February 22, 2014
This exciting new market will showcase the many creative talents of the Kingston community.
Stallholders – register your interest with Veeda 9544 1161 or
oakheat@bigpond.com
The market will be held from 9am – 1pm in the Clarinda Community Hall, cnr. Viney Street and Bourke Road, Clarinda.
A project of the Clarinda Lions Club Inc.

Reminder
No school
Friday 21st
February

Please notify the school office if you have changed your address, telephone number or email address.