

# ST. PETER'S NEWSLETTER

2A Killeen Street, Sunshine South West:



November 20, 2020

Dear Families,

With only three and a half weeks of the 2020 school year remaining, staff and students of St. Peter's are not slowing down. In the coming weeks our children will all be attending an excursion or their outdoor education program and our 5/6 Catholic children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our Year 6s will graduate and as always there will be some endings and some new beginnings. More about those in the coming weeks.

## Confirmation

I ask that you pray for our 10 Confirmation Candidates, Isabella, Freya, Danica, Isaac, Clayden, Jaycee, Nate, Blen, Joshua and Anthony as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next Thursday, November 26. Last Tuesday Archbishop Comensoli sent a letter to all Parish Priests informing them that they are able to celebrate this Sacrament prior to December 31, 2020. This meant that our 2020 Confirmation children who had prepared to receive this sacrament in Term One are now able to participate in this mass prior to the end of the year. I would like to thank Fr. Renae, Mrs. Garvey, Ms. Pellissier and Ms. Sant for their extreme dedication in bringing this Sacrament to life in just over a week. This is just another example of the incredibly talented and dedicated St. Peter's staff. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions we are only able to have the children, their parents and their Sponsor present at this mass.

## Chrome Books Year 1 - 6

We learnt this year that our children's learning did not stop due to not being onsite. In fact, many of our assessments are showing that our children have made great progress during the 2020 school year. One of the reasons St. Peter's children did so well was due to our Chromebook program. Our Year 3-6 children were so familiar with this technology that the transition to remote learning was very smooth. Therefore, we have made the decision to introduce Chromebooks from Year 1-6 in 2021. The Year 1/2 children will not use their Chromebooks as much as the Year 3-6 children and will still write in books. However, it means that each child will be able to have access to this device to support their learning as required. This is a very big decision for our school and was based on the way the Prep to Year 2 children looked after the 40 iPads they borrowed during remote learning. Evidence shows that our children know the St. Peter's way and what is expected of them when it comes to looking after valuable items.

As part of the program going ahead, all parents and guardians must attend a cyber safety night once a year. Our guest speakers for 2021 will be Martin McGauran (a teacher and cybersafety expert) and Carly McGauran (a psychologist) from Inform and Empower and these presenters come highly recommended. No parent or guardian will want to miss this opportunity so I ask that you keep **Tuesday February 9, 2021 from 7.00pm - 8.30pm** free for this event.

Coming up to the holidays remember the ThinkUKnow (<https://www.thinkuknow.org.au>) and eSafetyCommissioner ([esafety.gov.au/parents](https://esafety.gov.au/parents)) websites are great resources. Also, one of our past speakers Martine Oglethorpe provides a cyber safety solution for parents called Family Zone (<https://www.familyzone.com/au/families>). I know many families are always looking for ways to keep their children safe online.

## **2021 Prep Transition**

I am happy to say that we held our first 2021 Prep transition day last week. It looked a little different this year as we were only allowed to have 10 people on site at any one time. So, with our 36 Prep enrolments for 2021 this meant we held eight sessions throughout the day. It was a lovely way to meet the children and their families.

Yesterday Mrs. Tamara, Ms. Grace and Mrs. Miller ran a 2021 Prep Class Google Meet that was very well attended. Next Thursday, November 26 we will hold our next onsite transition for these children.

## **2021 Class Structure**

With an extra Prep class our 2021 structure will have 2x Year Prep, 2x Year 1/2, 3 x Year 3/4 and 2x Year 5/6 classes. Teachers have finalised class lists and as always thank you to the families who have informed us they will be leaving St. Peter's at the end of the 2020 school year. We remind all of our families who are leaving to please inform us in writing ASAP.

## **2021 Specialist Classes**

In 2021 we will be introducing four specialist programs on the one day so that our classroom teachers are able to have an entire day planning together. With the increased demands on teachers of assessments, data analysis, PLPs, weekly programs, meetings and general organisation our staff certainly need an entire day to ensure your children receive the best possible education they can. So in 2021 they will receive Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Spanish, Physical Education and for our year 3-6 children a specialist weekly Wellbeing lesson.

## **Room Movement**

Your children may have mentioned that we have had professional removalists this week as we are moving nearly all of our rooms in preparation for our 2021 class structure. These moves will mean that in 2021 all classrooms will come off the main corridor. We aim to make this as little inconvenience to our children as possible.

## **Outdoor Education**

We are so excited to inform you that our Year 5/6 outdoor education program will go ahead on Monday December 7th - Wednesday December 9th. As Ms. Grace, Mrs. Tamara and I will all be attending camp, Mrs. Miller will be in charge of the school while we are away.

Also, the Year 1/2 outdoor education program to the Melbourne Zoo will be held Thursday December 3rd. We are so grateful for the opportunity to take our children to the zoo.

As both of these programs will be going ahead I ask that all families ensure their fees are up to date.

## **Excursions**

Our Year 3/4 children are not going to miss out and they are going to complete some of their outdoor education activities on an excursion to the MCG and the Shrine of Remembrance next Friday November 27th. Also, our Prep children will be going on an excursion to the Werribee Zoo on Thursday December 10th. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions we are unable to invite parents to any of these excursions.

## **School Closure**

A reminder that we will have end of year Learning Conversations on **Friday December 4th from 9.00am to 5.00pm**. These will be online this year due to COVID restrictions.

## Last Day of the Year

Please remember that school will finish on **Tuesday December 15th at 3.15pm** so that teachers have time to prepare for the 2021 school year. We have moved our planning day to the end of the year to be less disruptive for working families. Please see me if you have any questions around this.

## Celebration of Learning and Carols

Sadly, due to COVID we have had to cancel our celebration of learning and Carols for 2020. We hope this event will return to our school calendar in 2021.

## 2021 Dates

I know some families like to be organised, so here are the 2021 dates that we have been able to lock in so far.

2021 Dates	
Learning Conversation	<b>Friday January 29, 9.00am - 5.00pm</b> (Term 1) <b>Thursday June 24, 9.00am - 7.00pm</b> (Term 2) <b>Monday December 6, 9.00am - 7.00pm</b> (Term 4)
First Day of school	<b>Monday February 1, 8.30am</b>
Cyber Safety	<b>Tuesday February 9, 7.00pm - 8.30pm</b>
School Photos	<b>Thursday May 6</b>
School Closures (Pupil Free Days)	
• Staff Planning	<b>Wednesday January 27</b>
• Staff First Aid	<b>Thursday January 28</b>
• Staff Conference	<b>Thursday &amp; Friday March 4 and 5</b>
• Restorative Practices PL	<b>Monday, May 3</b>
• Report Writing Day	<b>Monday November 1</b>
• 2022 Planning Day	<b>Wednesday December 15</b>
Sacraments	
• Reconciliation	<b>Thursday March 11, 7.00pm (Year 3 Catholic Children)</b>
• Eucharist	<b>Sunday June 6th (Year 3 and 4 Catholic Children)</b>
Outdoor Education	
• Prep	<b>TBC</b>
• 1/2	<b>Friday October 8</b>
• 3/4	<b>Monday August 2 - Tuesday August 3</b>
• 5/6	<b>Monday April 19 - Wednesday April 21</b>
Art Show	<b>Thursday September 9</b>
Swimming	<b>Wednesday November 3 - Friday November 12 (8 days)</b>
Last Day of Year for children	<b>Tuesday December 14 (3.15pm)</b>

Thank you as always for your ongoing support of our school community.

Enjoy your week,

God Bless,



Karen Bergin  
PRINCIPAL

**MAY OUR CHILDREN FLOURISH** We have zero tolerance of child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and reported in line with our legal obligations, our moral obligations and our school policies. Creating child-safe environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by parishes, schools, families and communities. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across policies, procedures and practices.



As a Catholic Community we respect the Wurrundjeri people, traditional custodians of the land upon which our school resides, and commit ourselves to reconciliation and justice for all in our community and nation.