Dear Parents,

Last week each family received a copy of our updated School Vision. We made two changes to it last year to reflect our commitment to meeting the requirements of the Child Safe Standards. The first change reflected the need to ensure that all learning environments were welcoming, safe and secure – this includes campsites, excursions, anywhere our children are when in our care. The other change was to recognise the need to foster the wellbeing of all students as well as their dignity, self-esteem and integrity. Although these changes were small, they were necessary to show all in our community that our students were safe and secure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and teachers for making the Learning Conversations last Wednesday such a success. It was an ideal chance for teachers to meet parents and for an exchange of information to take place. Please remember to make an appointment to see your child’s teacher at any time if you have a concern. Thank you for the way you used the online booking system to make your appointments. The system worked very well.

I hope to see all families at the Years 1-6 Information Evening tomorrow night. It will commence at 7pm. Families of children in Year 1 and 2 are asked to gather in the library at 7.00pm and families of children in Years 3-6 are asked to gather in the library at 7.45pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms to speak to families outside these times.

School photos will be taken on Wednesday 19th April this year. Children will need to be in their full summer school uniform. More information will follow later in the term.

You are invited to join us for Ash Wednesday Mass on March 1st at 9.15am at St. Paul’s Church.

Please note that there will be no school for students on Thursday 2nd March and Friday 3rd March as all staff will be working on preparing for our School Review in April as well as updating our First Aid skills.

I hope you have a great week.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Casamento
PRINCIPAL
ST PAUL’S SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) 2017
Congratulations to the newly appointed SRC of St Paul's (please see the attached list). The school captains, house captains and SRC will be working with Mrs Timea and Ms Cathy on leadership and student voice throughout 2017.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUND
Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund is the new Government Funding to assist families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities. Centrelink health care card holders and Pensioner Concession card holders may be eligible for a payment of $125. If you feel you may qualify for this payment please complete the CSEF Application Form sent home recently and return it to the Office together with a copy of your Centrelink Card.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE
The yard is supervised from 8.25am every morning. Parents are asked not to send their children to school before this time. Class teachers are at school but they are unable to supervise children because they will be preparing for the day’s activities. Before School Care Program operates every morning from 7am – 8:45am. After School Care Program operates from 3pm – 6pm. Please contact Kylie Hayes, the co-ordinator of the program, on 0401 362 738 if you need to use this service. Please note that the Before and After School Care Program will be closed on the two school closure days, the 2nd and 3rd of March.

FEES/LEVIES
Your child’s levies are now due. Please pay all levies promptly. The first instalment of school fees are now due. Please remember that you can pay your school fees and levies by direct debit from a nominated bank account or from your Centrelink payments. If you would like this to happen, please come to the office to collect a form. You can also pay using your credit card.

REMINDER OF SACRAMENTS
A reminder to parents in middles that we will be making the sacraments of reconciliation and communion. In seniors the sacrament of confirmation. Please speak to your child’s teacher about this if you have not already. Thank you.

ST PAUL’S APP IS READY FOR DOWNLOAD. THE APP IS FREE.
Android users:
Search SPSW in the Google play store and install on your phone, PC or tablet.
iPhone users:
Search SPSW in the App store and install on your phone, Mac and iPad.
We encourage you to download this app.
To setup alerts: click on more…setup…..choose your categories.

FIRST AID:
We would appreciate any donations of boxes of tissues for our first aid supplies.
Thank you for your continued support.

CANTEEN HELPERS NEEDED
Volunteers are needed to assist in the canteen, especially on Wednesdays and Fridays. We would be very grateful to have your assistance even if it can be for only a couple of hours per week. Please see Rita in the canteen or let the Office know if you can help.

SACRAMENT DATES FOR 2017
Sacrament of Reconciliation Family Night – Thursday March 9th, 7.00pm St. Paul’s School
Sacrament of Reconciliation – Tuesday March 14th, 7.00pm St. Paul’s School
Sacrament of Confirmation Family Night – Thursday March 23rd, 7.00pm St. Paul’s School
Sacrament of Confirmation – Thursday April 27th, 7.00pm St. Paul’s Church
Sacrament of Eucharist Family Night – Thursday May 25th, 7.00pm St. Paul’s School
School Sacrament of Eucharist – Sunday June 4th, 10.00am St. Paul’s Church

AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR – FEBRUARY OPEN CLASSES
Look no further than the Australian Girls Choir (AGC) because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to sing, dance and perform. School aged girls are invited to try our fun and inclusive classes and learn more about being part of the AGC! Contact us if you would like to attend a free trial class in February.
Ph 03 9859 6499 or email melbourne@aspagroup.com.au
**OPERATION SCHOOLS BACK**

Local Police together with members of the Highway Patrol are running an operation to mark the start of the school year. Operation Schools Back will target the safety of students arriving and departing school with the major focus being the enforcement of the 40kmph school zones. Motorists are asked to be vigilant before and after school as there will be increased pedestrian, road and pushbike traffic. Please allow an extra 5 minutes to find a safe and legal park to ensure your children’s safety. For those motorists driving through school zones please adhere to the speed limit and be aware of staffed school crossings. Failing to stop /remain stationary at school crossing is a $379 fine and 3 demerit points. Stopped-Double parked is a $91 fine and Exceed speed limit by 10kmph but less than 15kmph is a $303 fine and 3 demerit points. This is just an example of some of the fines.

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**TUNING IN TO KIDS PARENTING PROGRAM**

This six session parenting program helps parents to better understand their child’s emotional needs and to assist their child to manage their emotions. This group is for parents of children aged 3 – 12 years and is open to Brimbank residents only. Free childminding is provided during this group.

**When:** Wed 15 February to Wed 29 March 2017 (Note. No group on Wed 22 March)

**Time:** 9:45 – 11:30am

**Where:** West Sunshine Community Centre, 25 Kermeen street, West Sunshine

**Cost:** Free

To RSVP or for further enquires contact Linda Baker 9680 8444

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**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PARENT HELPER?**

Have you thought about being a Parent Helper in the Prep or Junior Classrooms? If the answer is YES we would really like you to join us for a conversation and a cuppa about what this looks like. This will be held on TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY at 9AM and repeated at 2:15 PM

Anytime that you are able to contribute is very much appreciated and valued by both the children and their teachers! We look forward to seeing you.

Miss Anne and Miss Mareta

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**WHAT’S YOUR BIG IDEA FOR BRIMBANK?**

Council is asking the local community to have their say about what they would like to see Council focus on to keep improving Brimbank. We will use this feedback to inform our Long Term Community Plan, the next four year Council Plan as well as our Council Budget for next year. Consultation starts 7 February and continues to 7 March.

For further information go to [https://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/have-your-say/what%E2%80%99s-your-big-idea-brimbank](https://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/have-your-say/what%E2%80%99s-your-big-idea-brimbank) for venues, dates and times.

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**Little Angels Couture**

Christening ~ First Communion & Special Occasion Wear

Phone: 0417 799 413
E-mail: info@littleangelscouture.com.au
www.facebook.com/littleangelscoutureaustralia