ST. PETER APOSTLE
Primary School
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Phone: 9749 1055 Fax: 9748 8434
Email: office@stpeterahc.catholic.edu.au

St. Peter’s ... Educating the whole person to be a competent and faith-filled citizen who actively engages in their community.

Thursday, 21st November 2013

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Peter’s school community. The second 2014 Prep Orientation last week went very smoothly and I am happy to report that the children were fantastic. Many thanks to our Grade Prep teachers, the Wellbeing team, Mrs. Dubowik and Mrs. Blackley for their wonderful organisation. We now look forward to our third and final orientation on Wednesday, 11th December.

Our “Crazy Hair” day last week proved to be a wonderful success where $950 was raised. This money will be well received in East Timor where this amount will almost cover the costs for a year’s teacher training. Whilst mentioning acts of kindness to our neighbour, very soon we will be asked to support the annual St. Vincent De Paul’s Christmas hampers……more details soon.

Accompanying this newsletter will be two copies of the “Code of Conduct for Parents” which forms part of our new “School Community Relations Policy”. This initiative has been a focus for the School Board this year and we ask that you read, sign and return one copy to the school as soon as possible. We launched the “Parents Code” at our October, Prep 2014 night and I am happy to report all families have returned their form. We also have a code of conduct for the children and teachers which will be presented before the end of term.

Also attached is the final report and recommendations from the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry.

Quote:
“Last week the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations released its final report and recommendations.

It is a source of much sorrow and regret for everyone in Catholic education that children were abused in Victorian schools.

For this reason I elected to appear before the inquiry – to make sure that our child protection practices stand up to the most rigorous scrutiny and to help the parliament identify ways to strengthen child protection legislation to protect our most vulnerable.

I am pleased to advise that in its report, the inquiry noted Catholic education’s effort and commitment to mandatory reporting and child protection legislation, and our comprehensive professional development and staff training initiatives.

The report also noted the need for Catholic education to undertake further work to ensure greater consistency with Victorian education department procedures.”
While child protection laws apply to all schools equally, we will also proactively engage with the Australian Government’s Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to ensure our experience can help inform and strengthen legislation into the future.

It is not surprising that our efforts in relation to child protection were recognised. We take the unprecedented growth in Catholic school enrolments in the last five years as a measure of your continuing trust in our schools. Catholic schools have no greater responsibility than to honour the tremendous trust you place in them to provide a safe environment for your children.

Stephen Elder
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Unquote

Warm Regards

Michael McGrath
Principal

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
What is the Lord saying? There’s only one message: “Trust Me. Even when you don’t understand and can’t comprehend: Trust Me!”
- James Dobson

REMINdERS
Friday 22nd November
Christmas Stall

Tuesday 3 December
Christmas Carol Family Night at 7.00pm

Wednesday 11 December
Final Prep Orientation (2.00pm – 3.00pm)
2nd Hand Uniform ‘Shoppe’ opened from 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Thursday 12 December
Whole School Orientation
Grade 6 Mass of Thanksgiving at 7.00pm

Friday 13 December
Grade 6 “Fun Day”

Monday 16 December
Whole School End of Year Mass at 10.00am, Final Dismissal at 3.30pm

Tuesday 17 December
Maths Testing by appointment
Grade 5 Leadership workshop

FEES 2014

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If you wish to change your preferred method of payment please contact the office.

TERM DATES FOR 2014
Term 1 – Thursday 30 January – Thursday 4 April
Term 2 – Tuesday 22 April – Friday 27 June
Term 3 - Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September
Term 4 – Monday 6 October – Friday 19 December

LAST WEEK’S WINNERS - ‘SHOWING INITIATIVE’

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<td>Sarah N</td>
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EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE – 2014
Application forms are now available from the office. To be eligible for EMA in 2014 your Health Care Card / Pension Card must be valid as at 28th January 2014. Application forms must be lodged at the school by 28th February 2014.

STUDENT SAFETY
Parents, please do not ask your children to cross roads to meet you or wait around corners out of the line of vision of the teacher on duty at the back or front gates. We have had children put in a very dangerous situation a number of times this year when students wait out of sight of the teacher on duty. Traffic or break downs can happen leading to parents running late and this leaves the children in a potentially dangerous and very frightening situation. If we do not know they are there, we cannot protect them. If your child waits near the teacher, they will be safe and taken care of should something happen and you are not there on time to pick them up.
Pattie McCusker
Wellbeing Team

LIBRARY
Grade six children will finish borrowing library books this Friday 22nd November.
Grades Prep to Five will finish borrowing library books on Thursday 27th November.
Readers will not be sent home from the 8th December, to enable me to process and return to the boxes. Thanks again to parents in purchasing Book Fair and Book Club during the year.
Enjoy the break and have a safe and happy Christmas.
Thanks Barb Brown

PARENTS & FRIENDS
CHRISTMAS STALL
The Parents & Friends will be having a Christmas Stall on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd November.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
The St. Peter Apostle Primary School Parents & Friends Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 5th December at 7pm in the Staff Room. All Parents, Carers and interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please refer to the detailed information enclosed with this week’s newsletter. Nominations are to be returned to school in a sealed envelope labelled “St. Peter Apostle Parents & Friends AGM” by Wednesday 4th December 2013.
Alternatively, if you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like us to consider for 2014, such as fundraisers or social events, please put them in writing and leave them at the office before the AGM.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE (OSHC)
The OSHC program will be operating on Tuesday 17th December for the full day. Cost $27.50 per child.
If you require care, please register with the program ASAP.

CHILDREN NOT RETURNING TO ST. PETER’S NEXT YEAR
(OTHER THAN GRADE 6 CHILDREN)
To assist us with our planning for 2014, it is most important that you advise us if your child/children will not be returning to St. Peter’s next year by Friday, 22nd November.

SURNAME: ____________________________

NAME OF CHILDREN: ____________________________ Grade ________
_________________________ Grade ________
_________________________ Grade ________

NAME OF THE NEW SCHOOL ____________________________
The 2nd Hand Uniform Shoppe will be open on Wednesday 11 December (1.30pm – 3.30pm). If you have any uniforms to sell, please send them along to the office. Uniforms must be clean and in good condition. Please attach an envelope to each item clearly marked thus:

JASON JOTTS 3A
JUMPER SIZE 8
$10.00
HOME PHONE NUMBER:

When sold, you will be notified via a note to your child as to when the Monies can be collected. 20% commission is charged for this service.

The Ladies wish to say many, many Thanks for all the families who have used our “Shoppe” this year, and for the donated clothing.

We are in need to size 4’s and 6’s summer dresses, winter tunics, and Long and short sleeve polo shirts with official school emblem also windcheaters and Long grey Trousers, all in good condition. Leave them at the office and we will collect them.