Dear Parents

At yesterday’s Monday morning briefing we announced our Year 6 leaders in the areas of School, Sport, Library/ICT, Performing Arts, Environment and Mini-Vinnies for the 2015 school year. I had the privilege of listening to them give their speeches to the Year 5 & their peers last week and was truly inspired. Each and every one of them spoke with passion, confidence and poise. I heard (and have borrowed for future newsletters) some wonderful quotes, observed some dance moves, saw photo shopped pictures of one student involved in some pretty remarkable sporting achievements, witnessed one student compare herself to a polly pocket and another student roll on the floor in an attempt to show his athletic prowess. The speeches we entertaining and heart felt. It was really an honour to hear them. I would like to congratulate all our Year 6’s and wish them all the best while undertaking their roles in 2015.

Student Leaders:
- Rudolf Greville, Joseph Newman, Charlotte Preston, Lucinda Flavel.

Library/ICT:
- Fraser O’Sullivan, Manesh Nguyen, Robert Weston, Jaron Vander Vinne.

Environment:
- Audrey Sun, William Temby, Andrew Zhao.

Mini Vinnies:
- Brianna Roberts, Elise Moore.

Performing Arts:
- Abbey Merdith, Jessica O’Callaghan.

Sport:
- Lachlan Baron-Hay, Kiran Tandon, James Williams, Oliver Fisher, Joel Khoo, Benjamin Ward, Christoper Verity, Gemma Sullivan.

It was fantastic to meet so many parents at the schools P&F organised Sundowner last Friday evening. We celebrated a terrific night with good company, delicious nibbles and ample refreshments. Many thanks to Fr Wayne for blessing our group, the organising committee for getting us all together, the barmen for serving us so readily and to all who contributed food and good company. To our new families, again we welcome you and trust you and your children are settling well.

Thanks also to all those families that were able to attend the Parent Information night last Thursday. It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance. If you were not able to attend and wish to speak to your child’s teacher, please make an appointment through the office or contact the teacher by email.

Reminders:
- Ash Wednesday Mass: Their will be a whole school Mass tomorrow at 9.00am to mark the start of the Lenten season, with Father distributing ashes to everyone in attendance. The ashes are made by burning the palm and olive branches from last year’s Palm Sunday Mass. Lent is a time of preparation and penance in the build up to Easter. The children in their religion lessons over the next few weeks will not only discuss what Lent is about but will also look at ways they can be involved in the Lenten season. Things could include giving up something i.e. lollies, chocolate, etc or giving something of themselves i.e. helping around the house or donating to Project Compassion. All parents are invited to attend this important Mass.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday
18 February

Ash Wednesday Mass
9am

Thursday
19 February

P&F Meeting 7:30pm
All Welcome

Based on Saint Theresa's Prayer by John Michael Talbot

Christ has no body now but yours
No hands, no feet on earth but yours
Yours are the eyes through which He looks
Compassion on this world
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world
Yours are the hands
Yours are the feet
Yours are the eyes
You are His body
Christ has no body now on earth but yours

Amen

With regards and best wishes.

Justin Tuohy
Principal
Our deepest condolences to Christian, Hannah, Hamish, Oscar, Simone & Peter Lorbeer on the sad passing of their beloved father & grandfather.

Please keep the Lorbeer family in your prayers.

SCHOOL GATES

Please note the school gates will be padlocked at 8:45am until 2:45pm

This will increase our security and allow us to monitor both student movement and visitors to the school.

Should you need to drop off or collect your child/ren within these hours please report to the school office.

All children need to have a Late Arrival Notice or Early Pick-up form completed by their parent/guardian prior to pick up.

All visitors to the school MUST report to the office to sign in & out.

Thank you for your support.

UNIFORM SHOP

Second-hand items: The Uniform Shop loves to receive your good quality hand-me-ons, for on sale to our community. All proceeds go to the St Thomas P and F.

If you have items that your children have grown out of, and that are in a washed and good condition, please leave them at the front office with Julie. These can include the Early Childhood T-shirts as we have new families looking for these items.

Ordering system: Pick up an order form from the front office, fill out your order and place in an envelope with the correct money or a cheque. Please give to Julie in the front office. These orders are filled on a fortnightly basis, where the items requested are taken to the classroom and your child will bring it home in their bag.

We are still waiting on our order of socks, hats, and some shirts from the manufacturer. If you have placed a back-order this will be filled and delivered to your child’s classroom once the stock arrives.

Our next shop opening will be Friday 27th February 8.15 - 9.00am in the school hall.

Judy, Kim, Netina and Nicola P and F Uniform Shop Team
SCHOOL FEES

Accounts will be sent by mail shortly

Have you moved? Please ensure the office has your current address and contact details

Have we received your current Health Care Card? If not, please drop into the office asap.

Thank you

P&F Meeting

Just a reminder that tomorrow evening we will be having our first P&F meeting of the school year. All executive positions have been filled so you will not be put on the spot and be asked to take on one of the major roles. What we do ask for are your ideas and opinions to ensure 2015 is a successful year for our P&F. Bring along a friend, ask a new parent, dads I am talking to you too. Meeting starts at 7.30pm sharp in the staffroom and I have assurances from the President that the meeting will go no longer than an hour.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Book Club returns for 2015! Catalogues will be distributed to students this week (K—Yr 6). Our school Library receives books valued at 20% commission of all Book Club sales. In 2014 the school Library received $892.50 in commission books.

This year we are trialling the new Linked Online Ordering & Payment system (LOOP) for credit card orders. Please see the back page of the catalogue for how to order with LOOP. Orders not submitted directly to Scholastic via LOOP may be placed in the Scholastic Book Club locked box in the school office. Cheques to be made payable to Scholastic Australia. Orders close February 21.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Mrs Fiona O’Shea
Parents...

Do you want to know:

- How spelling will be taught in our classrooms this year?
- How and why spelling is taught differently in schools today?
- The 2015 St Thomas Spelling Plan?

Then come along to our...

**SPELLING PARENT WORKSHOP**

When: Wednesday 18th March

Time: 7pm

Where: Library
Swimming Training 2015

When: Tuesday and Thursday mornings - 7.30 - 8.10am (sharp)

Commences: Tuesday 24th February

Sessions: February 24, 26, March 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 26,

Where: Claremont Aquatic Centre

Cost: admission fee
$2 training fee to pay to Mrs Valentine or Mrs Ramsay (payment can be made in advance for several sessions)

- All students from years 3 - 6 are invited to attend who can competently swim 25m.
- These training sessions are for students who would like to practice for the inter-faction and inter-school carnivals.
- Students are invited to attend as many sessions as possible, but it is not compulsory to attend all.

Medical Conditions: Please bring epipens, inhalers etc, if necessary.

**Please note that all students will have to make their own way to and from the centre.
***Please return this note at the first training session.

Kind regards

Mrs Baron-Hay and Mrs Ramsay

I give permission for.............................................to attend Swimming Training at Claremont Aquatic Centre from Tuesday 24 February to Thursday March 26.

Medical Conditions:...............................................................

Signed........................................... Mobile #.................................
IF YOU HAVE ANY SMALL SUITABLE GOOD QUALITY SPORTS EQUIPMENT FOR THE SPORTS EXCHANGE PLEASE PLACE IN THE BAGS AVAILABLE IN THE FRONT OFFICE THIS FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY.
IF ITEMS ARE VERY HEAVY OR LARGE PLEASE DELIVER TO HOLLYWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL THIS SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Water Fun Day
Years PP - 2
Tuesday March 3
1:00pm – 2:30pm

Our Water Fun Day will take place at Claremont Aquatic Centre.
Children will be bussed to the centre and are to be picked up by a parent or guardian at the conclusion of the afternoon. If students are unable to be collected from the centre, the school bus will be available to take them back to school.
A permission slip and more details of the event will be passed out to the students closer to the event. Swimming Training will commence in week 4 for years 3—6.

Thanks
Mrs Ramsay

Water Fun Day

The JB 6-A-Side Summer Soccer League has come to an end for the 2014-15 Season. We would like to thank all the St Thomas’ families who participated for your support. Looking forward to seeing you back again next year.

Jacob & Cecilia Burns
THE CLAREMONT JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB WELCOMES YOU TO THE 2015 AUSKICK SEASON

are online and now open all registrations now.

To register, use the following link:


If you have a friend or other child that wishes to register, please forward this email to them. We love to have new members to our club and the great game of Aussie Rules! For queries, please email the Registrar, Alistair Brogan, at ajb@coralbaywa.com
Dear Parents / Caregivers

Welcome to the start of 2015 academic year.

I would like to offer a very warm welcome to the many families who are joining our system for the very first time.

In 2015 we are witnessing exciting signs of continued growth and renewal within the Catholic Education system. Two new schools have opened in term 1, taking the total number of Catholic Schools in WA to 163. I wish the students, parents, principals and staff of St John Bosco College in Piara Waters, St Francis’ School in Maddington and the new Bunbury Catholic College Mercy Campus at Australind all the very best as they open their doors for the very first time. These new facilities are a tangible reminder of the value that the community continues to place on a Catholic Education right across the state.

To all who are returning to Catholic schools, welcome back. In 2015 all Year 7 students will be located within secondary settings right across the state. This important shift has already been in place in metropolitan settings for a number of years and regional schools have been planning for this transition for an extended period. I am certain that the students will find this new chapter in their schooling lives an exciting time with many opportunities for personal growth.

To our Year 11 and 12 students who are embarking on this important phase of your secondary schooling, I wish you all the best and encourage you to work hard and make the most of every opportunity presented to you.

Last year our system achieved our best WACE results of the last five years. Whilst we are very pleased with that performance, there is no room for complacency as continuous improvement requires an ongoing effort at all levels of the system and remains my clear priority for 2015 and beyond.

We are all part of a dynamic Catholic education community that promotes the mission of the Church with Jesus Christ at its heart. All 163 of our schools rely on the contribution of the parish, staff, students and parents working in partnership to build a successful Catholic community. Within the limits of your busy family and working lives, I encourage you to share your time and talents with your school community. You can contribute by nominating to become a member of the Board, joining the P&F, volunteering to be a class representative, helping out at the annual sports carnival, doing a shift at the canteen or helping with school reading rosters. Every contribution makes a difference to your child’s education.

I once again wish to acknowledge the critical role that you as parents and caregivers play in the education of your children. Your involvement combined with the efforts of more than 10,000 dedicated school staff and principals, means that children educated in Catholic schools have the very best chance of reaching their potential.

I wish you all the best for 2015.

Regards

Tim McDonald
Executive Director