



St Alipius Parish School Newsletter

9th February, 2017

ENROLMENTS FOR FOUNDATION CLASS 2018

We have 40 places to offer for the Foundation class of 2018. If you have a sibling needing a place for 2018 please see the office staff as soon as possible. This will enable us to determine how many places we have available to new families.

DATES TO REMEMBER	
Friday 10 th Feb	Welcome Year Mass 12noon
Tues 14 th Feb	Welcome Picnic 6pm
Wed 15 th Feb	Foundation Rest Day
Friday 17 th Feb	Whole School Prayer 9am Applications close for 2018 Catholic Secondary Colleges Eileen at Principal's Mtg
Mon 20 th Feb	Assembly 2.50pm
Wed 22 nd Feb	Foundation Rest Day SCHOOL PHOTOS – Year 1 -6
Tues 28 th Feb	Preparation of Ashes
Wed 1 st March	Ash Wednesday Mass 12noon
Thurs 2 nd March	2018 Enrolment Info Session
Mon 20 th March	SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

MASS TO START THE SCHOOL YEAR:

Friday February 10th at 12 midday.

ALL WELCOME

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Photos this year will be done over two days.

Wednesday FEBRUARY 22nd: Years 1 – Year 6 students' Class Photos – and family photos that **don't have** a Foundation student

Monday FEBRUARY 27th: Foundation students' Class Photos – and Family Photos that **have** Foundation students.

We apologise for this change from the previously advertised March date. There was a mismatch between our calendar and the photographer's.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY – MARCH 20th

At last night's meeting the School Advisory Council approved my request to have a closure day on Monday March 20th to enable the staff to work together on a Whole School Literacy Approach.

We don't make these requests lightly and acknowledge the inconvenience they cause to some families. We commit to ensuring that this day will build our capacity to provide a richer whole-school approach to writing. Please put this day in your diary.

DIRECT DEBIT SCHEDULE

Direct Debit Request forms are available from the office. Please ensure you have made a request prior to February, 17th. Payments begin February 23rd. If no fee schedule is in place, please note that fees are due in full prior to April, 30th.

HOT LUNCHES

Hot Lunches will start again on Tuesday 14th February. To continue this treat for the students we need parent helpers. We have parents for this Tuesday but if you can help the following or another throughout the term please call or come into the office to see the roster.

Prices: Large Pie or Sausage roll \$3.50, Party Pie, Sausage, Pastie \$1.00each, Sauce .50c
Please use a brown paper bag only, with child's name, class and order. No staples or sticky tape please.

WORKING BEE

Thanks to the families who come along and helped at the working bee prior to school starting. Your efforts helped us present a clean and welcoming environment for all our students. It's amazing what a team of 9 families can do in such a short time.

Thanks to: Shane & Carli, Mia & Ruby Bix, Bryan & Flynn Moroney, Angela & Emma Beggs, Mark O'Brien, Jason, Amelia & Lyla Phillips, Kurt, Renae & Mabel Croucher, Gavin Jones, Brett, Ryan and Anthony Holloway and Dan Pollard.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION

The final hearing involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse commenced this week in Sydney. This is a significant but difficult time for victims and survivors of abuse and for many members of school and broader communities. Our school name is associated with atrocities of the past and we can expect that this dark chapter in the story of St Alipius will again be a focus of news, media and social media responses. St Alipius Parish School of 2017 is a very different place to the St Alipius Boys' School of the 1970s. We are driven by a deep desire to learn from the absences, the power, the silences and the violence of the past to ensure that deep compassion, active listening, support, equity, authentic welcome and student voice are the hallmarks of our community.

Over the next three weeks, evidence presented will be scrutinised and future directions explored as the Church is called to task on what cultural shifts are in place to stop future abuse occurring. This will include what new policies and codes of conduct have been adopted to safeguard children.

At St Alipius we are deeply committed to building a culture where children are safe; to developing policies that support child safety and to implementing them faithfully. We are also committed to building a community where students have a voice and are empowered to speak, where children feel safe and protected and where they are educated in the knowledge and behaviours that allow them to keep themselves and others safe.

It is our hope that these hearings help us to understand more fully how best to care for those who have suffered and how best to ensure the safety of children now and for the future.

If you have any questions about the Royal Commission or about our Child Safe policies and support structures please contact me for a chat.

A link to a pastoral letter issued by Bishop Paul Bird last weekend can be found at <http://web.ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au/letter%20about%20the%20royal%20commission.pdf>

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Last night our School Advisory Council met for the first time in 2017.

Our initial meeting enabled us to meet Father Peter Sherman, who is the Administrator of our school, and get to know some new members of the team. I received some advice in regard to parent school communication and ways that we can build a community of welcome and we took a look at the Strategic Plan that will direct our work for the next 12 months. SAC also approved my request to have a closure day on Monday March 20th to enable the staff to work together on a Whole School Literacy Approach.

Members of the SAC for 2014 are:

Ex-Officio: Father Peter Sherman (Parish Priest) Eileen Rice (Principal)

Staff Rep: Roxanne Leed

Chairperson: Mark O'Brien

Secretary: Theresa Watson

School Community Members: Michelle Probert, Chenay Wilkinson, Tammy Sharman, Mark Hall, Brett Holloway, Claire Stewart, Cameron Stevens, Phillip Horne and Sangeeta Guru.

I thank Phillip Horne for his tireless efforts in his role as chair of this committee for the past two years and acknowledge the hard work he has done to build clarity to our purpose and processes.

I congratulate Mark O'Brien and Theresa Watson who have taken on executive roles for this year and look forward to working closely with them throughout the year.

Our School Advisory Council has four core functions:

1. Support the Ministry Functions of schools

Assisting with:

- Promotion of the school's Catholic ethos and culture
- Articulating and enacting the school's vision and mission
- Promotion of faith development
- Strengthening links between parish and school

2. Provide a Stewardship Role of the school

Assisting with:

- Present and future capital resource planning and maintenance
- Disseminating information about the school- events/directions
- Long-term viability of the school: enrolments/ resources/master planning
- Appointment of principal and staff where necessary

3. Provide advice & support to the Canonical Administrator & Principal

Assisting with:

- Development, implementation and ratification of policy, as required
- Support of and communication on school and Parish matters
- Advice, as required, on issues arising such as from the School Development Plan, innovations and enrolment trends

4. Provide Financial Oversight of the school

Assisting with:

- Implementation of Diocesan policies such as School Fee Collection
- Sighting the annual school budget and its progressive implementation
- Monitoring significant changes to school budgets and cash flow requirements
- Monitoring capital borrowings and development

MEAL CARE PROGRAM

In 2016 the **Meal Care** program was a great success thanks to the generous contributions of meals from our volunteers. We will be continuing the program in 2017 and are again calling for families to join this program. If you volunteered last year and would like to again, please complete a new form below.

Meal Care is a group of volunteer providers of family meals. These meals come from within the school community and are available to any family in the school community in a time of need, such as illness or hospitalisation of a family member, bereavement, relocating, or any other time when assistance would be appreciated. It is important to note that this program is aimed to be run with absolute discretion for all families involved.

Volunteers for **Meal Care** are asked to cook a meal according to a roster, cook a meal at short notice, or provide a purchased meal if you would prefer. From past experience, there has been a great response from St Alipius families to informal calls for volunteers, resulting in cooks only being called upon once or twice a year.

If teachers or other families become aware of a family in the community needing some support or a morale boost, they should contact the **Meal Care** coordinator, Emily Clarke, or a teacher or staff member who will arrange for an appropriate meal/s to be delivered to the family.

Please note all meals must be dated, labelled with all ingredients and the family name/food outlet that produced them. Once prepared, the meal can be dropped at the office to be placed in the freezer until needed. All meals MUST adhere to the dietary requirements of the family! (e.g. nut allergies etc.)

If you have any questions, and/or you would like to be involved in this very worthwhile school community project, please complete the form below and leave at the office. Alternatively you can email Emily Clarke at eclarke@saballarat.catholic.edu.au and notify her of how you are able to help or who in our community may need this help.

Emily will contact all volunteers with further information when forms have been returned.

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Return the form below to the **Office**

St Alipius **Meal Care** Program - 2017

Yes I can make a meal at short notice (24 hours notice)

Yes I can be placed on a roster and provide 1 or 2 meals as required

Name:.....

Phone(s):.....

Email:.....

Eldest child and class:.....



St Patrick's College Year 7 2018 Enrolments closing soon

If you are considering a Catholic education for your son, St Patrick's College offers an education delivering academic excellence, a strong focus on social justice, sports, and the arts. Enrolments for 2018 Year 7 are now open and you are invited to submit your sons application.

A College prospectus can be downloaded from

<http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/en/prospective-families/prospectus/>

Applications for 2018 close on Friday February 17 with interviews to take place in early March. Please contact the Registrar, Mc Caitlin Bennett for further information on 5331 1688.

College Tours

College tours are available each Friday morning for prospective families and take in all learning areas of the College. To book a tour, please contact Caitlin Bennett at cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au or phone 5331 1688.

Scholarships at St Patrick's College

St Patrick's College offers the opportunity for all students excelling in their chosen field to consider applying for a scholarship. Categories include Academic Excellence, General Excellence, Art, Performing Arts, Music, Sport and Leadership. All categories have an academic component and all boys must sit a scholarship test conducted by the Australian Council for Educational Research.

Scholarship registration for 2018 close on **Sunday February 19 at midnight**. Registrations after this date will not be considered. To register your son for a Scholarship for Years 7, 10 and 11 for 2018 please click on the link below:

Payment is \$93 and is payable at the time of registering.

<http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/en/prospective-families/scholarships/>

Testing will take place for all boys at the College on Saturday February 25 at 9 am – 12 noon.

All enquires to Caitlin Bennett at cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au or phone 5322 4449.



Damascus College Open Mornings

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Open Mornings. The Open Morning will include a tour of the College, guided by current Damascus students during school hours.

OPEN MORNINGS: Thursday 9th February at 9am – 10.30am
 Thursday 16th February at 9am – 10.30am

[Enrolments for Year 7 2018 close on Friday 17th February 2017](#)