

St Ita's Newsletter

FAITH - WISDOM - KNOWLEDGE

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Lent

The Fast

The beginning of the season of Lent is the beginning of that time when we are called to a holy fast and to contemplate the words:

“Remember that you are dust and unto dust you will return.”

Let us remember that besides being called to a holy fast; we are also being called to a holy feast, in which we rejoice in God's redemptive love for us.

So, today let us make the resolve to:

Fast from worry, and feast on trusting God.
Fast from complaining, and feast on appreciation.
Fast from negativity, and feast on affirmation.
Fast from concern over unrelenting pressures, and feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from humility, and feast on kindness.
Fast from grudges and bitterness, and feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern, and feast on concern and compassion for others.
Fast from the shadows of sorrow, and feast on the sunlight of eternity.
Fast from idle gossip, and feast on purposeful silence
Fast from judging others, and feast on Christ within them.
Fast from differences, and feast on unity.
Fast from worry about illness, and feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute, and feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent, and feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger, and feast on optimism.
Fast from lies, and feast on truth.
Fast from discouragement, and feast on hope.
Fast from things that depress, and feast on those that uplift.
Fast from thoughts that weaken, and feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from problems that overwhelm, and feast on prayer that underpins.

Principal's message:

Working Closely With Your Child's Teacher This Year

Strong parent–teacher relationships are one of the hallmarks of all great schools. They're a major contributor to student success. The research into schooling across the Western world reveals that positive parent– teacher partnerships are a more significant factor in student success than parent income levels or social status. However, parent–teacher relationships require effort and energy from both parties if they are going to really benefit children and young people. Here are five elements to guide you as a parent in forming strong bonds with your child's teachers this year:

1. Knowing (building affinity)

Know – the first element – requires you to be both proactive and patient. Proactive because you need to be willing to meet and work at maintaining relationships. Patient because it may take some time to build a working relationship. For your partnership to be meaningful and successful you need to meet with your children's teacher(s) with the goal of forming a respectful professional relationship. Share your aspirations for your child and be willing to build the teacher's knowledge about your family. Get to know your child's teachers' aspirations and gain an understanding of their approach and the focus they have for this particular year group. Also commit to continuing to know what's going on in the life of your child's classrooms as well as the life of the school on an ongoing basis.

2. Supporting (building trust)

Children need to know that you are fully behind what their teachers are trying to achieve if they are going to commit fully to learning. The best way to support your child's teacher is to trust their knowledge, professionalism and experience. Avoid the temptation to question the expertise of teachers in front of students, particularly when the teachers use methods that you are unfamiliar with. Initiate conversations with teachers around methodology to give them the chance to explain the approach they are taking.

3. Participating (building links to student learning)

Participation – the third element – takes into account the level of parent engagement in student learning. There's a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent engagement in student learning and their educational success. If you want your child to improve his learning, take an interest in what he is doing. Follow school and teacher guidelines about helping at home and attend as many conferences, meetings and events involving your child as possible. This simple strategy has a significant, long term impact.

4. Communicating (building relationships)

Life's not always smooth sailing for kids of any age. Family circumstances change. Friends move away. Illness happens. Mental health challenges can hit anyone at any time. These changes affect learning. Keep teachers up to date with significant changes or difficulties that your child or young person experiences so they can accommodate your child's emotional and learning needs at school.

5. Advocating (building loyalty)

Advocacy – the last element – means that you talk teachers and your school up rather than tear them down among children and the wider community. Teachers hold very public positions and generally work hard to build good reputations both within their school and their wider education community. Consider a teacher's reputation among the community and also with children when you discuss educational matters with others.

Building parent–teacher relationships doesn't just happen. They take good will from both sides, a commitment to setting aside the time necessary to support the home-based learning tasks that are expected, and a willingness to communicate both concerns and commendations through the correct channels.



Principal's message:

IMPORTANT DATES this week:

TONIGHT Wednesday 21st— Sacrament of Reconciliation—Parent only meeting—7pm St Ita's Church

Monday 26th—Grade 3 & 4 swimming lessons daily

Monday 26th & Wednesday 28th—Parent /Teacher interviews—school hall

CORRECT SCHOOL UNIFORM

Could I please ask all parents to ensure their children are in correct school uniform each day ? Over the last few weeks I've noticed a high number of male students attending school in runners and sports socks. Our uniform policy states that boys are to wear black leather school shoes and grey socks with no logos however we are flexible on the style of the shoe, in that it can be a runner type so long as it is completely black with no logos. All students have been reminded that runners and sports socks are for sports days only. We thank you in supporting us with keeping our children in correct school uniform.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent-Teacher interviews are to be held next week on Monday 26th February and Wednesday 28th February in the school hall from 3.40pm. We still have a number of parents that have not yet made an appointment for their child's parent teacher interview. Forms were sent home last week to all parents with instructions on how to book in your interview time on-line. Please log onto:

www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the event code: **2jqr7.**

Please contact your child's teacher if you are unable to make an interview time during these times. I have also asked all teachers to contact parents via Class DOJO to make a time for your child's interview. Parent teacher interviews are an essential element in creating positive learning partnerships through the sharing of knowledge which helps all of our students to grow academically, spiritually socially, emotionally and physically.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL NEWS



Yesterday I was fortunate enough to attend our District swimming sports with PE teacher Mr Carroll and a team of 27 swimmers from grades 3 to 6. It was a fantastic day that saw many personal and group successes and as a result we have many students selected to represent our school at the next level at the Warragul Leisure centre on Monday 7th March. The most impressive thing I took from the day was the support and comradery between the students and the way they cheered and looked out for each other. Have to say, I was a very proud Principal.

IMPORTANT NOTICES



SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION REMINDERS

TONIGHT - RECONCILIATION PARENT ONLY MEETING -

The next **Reconciliation Parent Only** meeting will be held TONIGHT, Wednesday, 21st February, in St Ita's Church at 7pm. **Please note all parents of children preparing for their Reconciliation need to attend this meeting.** Please bring along your photo, worksheet and levy if not already done so. I look forward to seeing you all tonight.

PARENT—CHILD WORKSHOP

The Parent/Child workshop will be held next week on:

**Wednesday 28th February in St Ita's School hall at 7pm Or
Thursday 1st March in St Joseph's Church Marian room, Warragul at either 4pm or 7pm**
A parent and child must attend one of these workshop meetings.

All Enquiries: Thérèse p:5623 1642 or email sacraments@warragulparish.org.au

Available at the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

SCHOOL VEGETABLE GARDEN—PAINT & PLASTIC LIDS REQUIRED

As part of Grade 2's Integrated Studies this year we will be working in our school veggie garden.



- We would greatly appreciate if any parents have some **outdoor paint** they no longer need so we can brighten up the veggie patch area. It needs to be paint for wood or tin.
- We will also be collecting any coloured **plastic** lids and bottle tops of all sizes & colours (from milk & juice containers or laundry detergents & Nappysan etc). As long as they are plastic please keep for us.

We are hoping to collect all **different colours** to create some fence art around the school veggie patch. Please wash them and send them along to the Grade Two rooms near the oval gate, or hand them into your class teacher who can pass them onto us.

Thank you for your help, Leonie Treller, Mandy Buttner & Liz Schellekens.



PARENT SURVEY

Last week a survey was sent home for parents to complete and advise feedback to the school on how we can assist parents to be more connected with school. For example, what areas of school would parents like support in, what events would parents like to see happen & can participate in, do daytime or evening events work better? We would appreciate all families to complete the survey and return to school by this Friday 23rd February.

FOUNDATION DAYS OFF - 2 more weeks

A reminder to all Foundation parents that their child will have each Wednesday off during the first 6 weeks of term 1. The Foundation student's will commence Wednesday classes on **Wednesday 14th March** after the Labour Day Public Holiday.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

THRASS CHARTS



At St. Ita's we use a teaching tool called THRASS. THRASS assists in the area of handwriting, reading and spelling. We are placing an order to purchase THRASS charts. If you would like to purchase a THRASS chart (or more than one) to use at home to support your child's learning, please fill in the form sent home and return, with the total of your purchase, by Friday, 23rd of February. The cost of a THRASS chart is \$8.00.

SKOOL BAG APP & NEWSLETTER

We still have many parents not receiving or reading the school alerts or important information that is sent home daily and weekly via the Skoolbag App or the school newsletter. We urge you all to read the newsletter weekly (on email and on our website) and to download the skoolbag app to your phone or device for important alerts. If you hear of anyone not receiving these vital alerts, please request them to send their contact email address to the school office so their details can be added to the newsletter email group, refer them to our website or show them how to download the skool bag app.

Please contact Claire in the office to update your email address if it has changed or you are not receiving the newsletter email: Cgarner@stidrouin.catholic.edu.au.

Teachers will also send out specific class information via the Class Dojo app. If you are not registered for Class Dojo, please speak with your child's teacher to receive your unique parent code.

MEDICATION & MEDICAL ACTION PLANS

If your child has any known medical condition, asthma, allergies or requires any medication whilst at school, please make sure the school office & class teacher has received a copy of your child's action plan completed by their Doctor or written advise from you along with their medication required, dose and when to be administered. Our Junior students are advised to have all medication at the office or with their classroom teacher and not left in their bags. If your child has anaphylaxis we advise for 2 EpiPens to be kept at school—one in their classroom and one in the office sick bay.

www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis-resources/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis.

www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/vic/about-asthma/resources/victorian-action-plans

WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL AT ST ITA'S

A reminder to all parents that St Ita's is a nut free environment. We would ask all parents to refrain from sending nuts or nut products in their children's lunch and snack. This includes Nutella and nuts contained in cakes or snack bars. We thank you for supporting us as we look to keep all children in our school safe, healthy and well.



How does it work?



COLES—SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS Vouchers

Please collect and bring any Coles Sports for Schools vouchers to school and drop in the box at the school office or in the **St Ita's box** at Coles Drouin Supermarket. The more we collect the more sports equipment we can claim. Thank you for your support.

IMPORTANT OFFICE NOTICES:

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE—due 2nd March

You may apply to claim this Government Allowance if :

- You live more than 4.8 kilometres from our school and we are the closest Catholic school to your place of residence
- You live more than 4.8 kilometres from our school and you cannot access a bus.
- You access a bus and live more than 4.8 kilometres from the bus stop.

You must lodge a new application each year.

Application forms are now available from the school office and **must be completed and returned to the school office by Friday 2nd March, 2018.** Late claims cannot be accepted.

VICTORIA GOVERNMENT - Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The Victorian Government's \$148 million initiative to ensure all Victorian students can take part in school trips and sporting activities. **The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015** for four years and provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. **CSEF applications are now open for 2018.** **Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year will be paid for eligible primary school students,** with \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. **Payments will go directly to the school and will be applied to the student's fees for any applicable CSEF** when any camp, sports, excursions are taken.

Application forms are now available from the school office and must be returned by Monday, March 26th, 2018.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must: on 29th January, 2017 (Term 1) or on 16th April 2018 (Term 2):

- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
- c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

LIBRARY NEWS *by Mrs McKenna*



- ◆ Every student requires a library bag to take books between school and home. Most students have a St Ita's library bag. These are fantastic because they are tough and water resistant (available from Beleza Uniform shop for \$13) but any named library bag is suitable. <http://www.beleza.com.au/>
- ◆ If you would like to assist covering books for our library, please come in and see me or email me. This is a job that is usually done by 3 parents but we would love to have a few more hands to make lighter work.

Catherine McKenna cmckenna@stidrouin.catholic.edu.au, Library Teacher

SPORTS NEWS *by Mr Carroll*

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Wednesday 14th February the House Swimming Carnival was held at the Drouin Outdoor Pool in blustery conditions. Due to some morning rain, thunder and heavy winds, the carnival was unfortunately delayed and had to be shortened. Despite the challenging conditions, the house spirit and enthusiasm at this event was fantastic. The various house carnivals during the year are all about fun and participation, whilst also allowing the stronger competitors to qualify through to the District Carnival and the various School Sport Victoria (SSV) events.

It was wonderful to see all the children in Grades 3 to 6 get in the water and either swim 50 metres or compete in the novelty events. A very big thank you to all the Grade 5 and 6 teachers who worked hard to make this event possible. We look forward to a bigger and better carnival next year, and hopefully some better summer weather!

Individual Age Champions

12/13 Years: Declan Burton and Georgia Cumming

11 Years: Cooper Wright and Poppy Barry

9/10 Years: Nate Joiner and Chloe Joiner



SWIMMING LESSONS COMMENCE NEXT WEEK

Next week from Monday 26th February to Friday 2nd March all our Grade 3 & 4 students will have a 30 minute swimming lesson daily at the Drouin Outdoor pool. Students are still required to wear their school uniform to school each day. Please bring bathers, a towel, hat, water bottle and sunscreen to school in a clearly named plastic bag each day (regardless of the weather). We also advise students to bring goggles & a rashie if they have them—these are optional and not compulsory. Students will change back into their school uniform after their lesson.

These lessons form an important part of the new Victorian PE curriculum and will be run by fully qualified swimming instructors from the Warragul Leisure Centre. These instructors will work with children in small groups based on their swimming ability and technique. Non swimmers are also catered for. The weather will be assessed daily per session, so please bring your bathers regardless. The cost of these lessons have been included in the annual school fees.

Please return your permission notes to your classroom teacher this week.

Grade 5 & 6 will have lessons daily from Monday 5th March to Friday 9th March.

Our Junior grades, Foundation—2 students will have lessons scheduled in Term 4 when the weather is warmer again.

10-12 YEARS & TALENTED IN THE FOLLOWING SPORTS ?

School Sport Victoria Under 12s State Team Trial Registrations are open for the following sports: **Australian Football, Netball, Basketball, Football (Soccer), Softball, Tennis, and Volleyball.** These trial registrations close **Thursday, 1 March 2018.**

You can find all the details via [School Sport Victoria's website](http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic). <http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic>. If you are looking for a document that details the process please download the "[Team Vic Online Registrations Process](#)". This will give you all the information you need to know before registering."

SPORTS NEWS *by Mr Carroll*

ACTIVE APRIL

**JOIN IN & GET ACTIVE
WITH PREMIER'S
ACTIVE APRIL!**

REGISTER NOW!



Premier's Active April encourages all Victorians to do 30 minutes of physical activity a day during April. It's free, it's fun and it's part of the Victorian Government's commitment to get more people active and healthy.

Now featuring a mobile app for iOS and Android, you can log daily activity and track your progress on the go throughout the month. Plus, you can create and join teams, compare the progress of team members and win awesome prizes!

You can also explore the all-new My Local to discover local offers, events and facilities available throughout Victoria.

Just by registering every participant gets*

- 10 free passes to a participating YMCA or local government recreation facility
- 15% off at Sportsmart in store and online
- one hour free tennis court hire at Melbourne Park or Albert Reserve
- a 2 for 1 ticket offer to SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium
- a 2 for 1 ticket offer to Otway Fly Treetop Adventures
- a 2 for 1 ticket offer to Legoland Discovery Centre Melbourne
- 15% discount for Rock up Netball programs
- 20% discount for Netball Victoria school holiday clinics
- 5 free group dance lessons at a Dancesport Victoria centre
- 10% off Term 2 MyGolf Junior program
- a 2 for 1 green fee offer at Golf Victoria courses
- entry into the draw to win tickets to the 2018 Australian Open Tennis Finals*

Register today at activeapril.vic.gov.au

*Terms and conditions for all prizes and offers apply. Visit activeapril.vic.gov.au for details.



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND GET COLLECTING



We would love your help collecting Coles Sports for Schools for our school. Tell your friends and family to get involved as well, because the more vouchers we collect, the more sports gear our school will receive.

coles



ST MARY'S NEWBOROUGH 60TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEN

Supper Dance- Friday 16th March
Mass and open school- Sunday 18th March 2018

WHERE

Dance- Yallourn Golf Club
Mass- St Mary's 9.00am

Newborough

**Tickets: \$25.00 for Supper dance please contact
principal @stmnewbor.catholic.edu.au**



MARIST-SION COLLEGE

YEAR 7 2019 INFORMATION EVENT

*Come along and discover
more about Marist-Sion
College Warragul*

Wednesday 7th March

**Tours & information sessions
from 4.15pm**

Enrolment applications open Thursday 8th March

P: 5623 5944



Junior Competition 2018

The Drouin Junior Badminton Club is seeking new players to join
(Ages 6 to 17).

Fees: \$100 for the season
(incl. training, tournaments, membership & insurance)

Bring: A racquet if you have one, drink bottle;
Clean rubber soled shoes to play in
(please don't play in the shoes you wear in, it helps to protect our courts)

Training: Monday's 5:00 to 6:30pm from 12th March 2018
Drouin Badminton Club Hall; Sinclair Street Drouin
(opposite the Drouin Outdoor Swimming Pool).

Games: Friday's 7pm (Season starts after Easter)
Games played at Drouin, Ellinbank, Labertouche and Warragul
Registration open now, free come and try out

ALL LEVELS & ABILITIES WELCOME



For more info contact: Sandra Morgan 0421584201 (coach)
Or Darlene Fankhauser 0409 678 129

ST ITA'S SCHOOL CALENDAR

TERM 1—2018

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 21st	Reconciliation Parent Meeting—7pm St Ita's Church
Monday 26th	Grade 3-4 swimming lessons
Monday 26th	Parent-Teacher interviews—school hall from 3.40pm
Tuesday 27th	Grade 3-4 swimming lessons
Wednesday 28th	Foundation students day off. Grade 3-4 swimming lessons
Wednesday 28th	Parent-Teacher interviews—school hall from 3.40pm
Wednesday 28th	Reconciliation Parent/Child Workshop—7pm Hall

MARCH

Thursday 1st	Grade 3-4 swimming lessons
Friday 2nd	Grade 3-4 swimming lessons. School hall assembly 2.45pm
Monday 5th	Grade 5-6 swimming lessons
Tuesday 6th	Grade 5-6 swimming lessons
Wednesday 7th	Foundation students day off. Grade 5-6 swimming lessons
Wednesday 7th	School Board AGM—7pm
Thursday 8th	Grade 5-6 swimming lessons
Friday 9th	Grade 5-6 swimming lessons
Monday 12th	Labour Day Public Holiday, no school.
Tuesday 13th	P&F meeting—staff room 7pm
Wednesday 14th	Foundation students commence Wednesday classes
Wednesday 14th	2nd Rite of Reconciliation—7pm St Ita's Church

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Warragul : Saturday night 7:00 p.m. & Sunday morning 9:00 a.m.

Drouin : Sunday Morning 10:30 a.m. Neerim South : Saturday evening 5:30 p.m.

Parish Contact Details: St Joseph's—Warragul Phone 5623 1642 Fax 5622 3659

Email: secretary@warragulparish.org.au