Dear Parents, Friends and Students

Last Friday the school recognised the start of the academic year with a Mass. During the Mass, Father Francis showed us the communities that he is working with in Cambodia. The students were delighted to see the children wearing our old Matthew Gibney school uniforms. Father Francis told our students how excited the children from the village in Cambodia were to receive these special gifts. Thank you to all our families who donated their old uniforms to this very good cause. The children had an opportunity to see their love in action.

The Mass was also an opportunity for the Year 6 students to be inducted into the student council. Each of them received a candle to remind them that they are to be the light of Christ in our school community. They have already shown tremendous leadership in the various tasks they carry out and we look forward to them being excellent ambassadors for our school.

We still have some parents who are parking in the drive through area and then getting out of their car to assist their children. This is creating unnecessary and frustrating delays in this area. I remind all our families, again, that if you need to get out of your car to assist your children, then you really need to park in the main car park and collect your children from the pickup area or their classrooms. I would also like to remind parents that children are not to cross at the cross walk unaccompanied. This is a very dangerous practise. Please do not encourage your child to do this.

The newsletter is our most important means of communication with families. I encourage you all to read the newsletter each week so that you stay up to date with happenings in our school. I also encourage you to download the Skoolbag App for smartphones. All events are posted on this app and it is updated regularly. Our official Facebook page is also available for information.

Thank you to all those parents and friends who attended the first P&F meeting of the year. It is important that we get behind all the P&F initiatives and, at the same time, help to build community in our school.

A reminder that our welcoming picnic and disco takes place this Friday, 17th February. We look forward to seeing as many families as possible on Friday evening.

The Year 3 class will be holding their Liturgy of the Word on Wednesday 22nd February. All parents and members of our community are invited to join with them. The Liturgy will take place in the Sacred Space and it will begin at 9:00am.

Friday 24th of February is a pupil free day and, as such, students will not need to attend school on this day. The school will be holding its Parent/Teacher meetings on Tuesday 21st March. As has happened in previous years, school will close this day at 12:00pm. Children will need to be collected at this time. Further details regarding the organisation of this day will be sent home closer to the date.

Mark Powell
PRINCIPAL

PUPIL FREE DAY
FRIDAY
24th FEBRUARY

GOOD NEWS  GOOD NEWS  GOOD NEWS  GOOD NEWS  GOOD NEWS  GOOD NEWS  GOOD NEWS

Dakota  Mark  Hayden  Caitlyn  Lochlan

Cubist Art inspired by Pablo Picasso!
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 17th Feb…. P & F Welcoming Night
Wed 22nd Feb.. Year 3 Liturgy
Fri 24th Feb… PUPIL FREE DAY
Wed 1st Mar… Ash Wednesday Mass @ 9.30am
Wed 1st Mar… Rice Day Fundraiser for Project Compassion
Fri 3rd Mar… Year 6 Assembly
Mon 6th Mar… PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Thurs 9th Mar.. St John Ambulance Incursion K - 6
Fri 10th Mar… St John Ambulance Incursion K - 6
Sat 11th Mar… Sacramental Commitment Mass 6pm
Sun 12th Mar… Sacramental Commitment Mass 8am, 9.30am & 6pm
Wed 15th Mar… Year 5 Mass
Wed 15th Mar… Board Meeting 6pm
Wed 15th Mar… P & F Meeting 7.30pm
Fri 17th Mar… Year 4 Assembly
Fri 17th Mar… T20 Cricket Carnival Yr 6
Tues 21st Mar.. STUDENTS EARLY FINISH @ 12PM
Tues 21st Mar… Parent/Teacher Meeting 12.30 - 6pm
Wed 22nd Mar… Music Incursion PP - 6
Fri 24th Mar… Year 1 Assembly
Fri 24th Mar… Cool Pool Day
Wed 29th Mar… Year 2 Liturgy
Fri 31st Mar… Easter Assembly
Tues 4th Apr - Fri 7th Apr … Year 6 Camp
Fri 7th Apr… LAST DAY OF FOR STUDENTS
Wed 26th Apr… STUDENTS RETURN TERM 2 2017

Assistant Principal’s
Religious Education News

LENT 2017
We begin Lent on Wednesday 1st March with our Ash Wednesday Mass (see below for further details). As part of our commitment to Project Compassion, this year we will have a Rice Day, encouraging students to eat a small cup of rice in solidarity with the poor. We will be holding this event over 2 weeks. The Junior Rice Day (K-2) will be Wednesday March 8 and the Seniors (3-6) on Wednesday 15th March. An order form will be sent home to families soon.

DID YOU KNOW?
- 795 million people are hungry even though there is enough food in the world. Hunger is not only caused by a lack of food, but by a lack of justice.
- In emergency situations, such as Typhoon Santi, which affected Aloma and her family in the Philippines, Caritas Australia provides immediate relief to affected communities including kitchen sets, blankets, jerry cans, food and safe water.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS
Years PP-6 will travel to St Francis of Assisi Church, Maida Vale, on Wednesday 1st March at 9.30am to mark the beginning of Lent. We warmly welcome you to join with us to begin your Lenten preparations.

Karen Keddie
Assistant Principal RE

YEAR 1 NEWS
What a fantastic start to the school year your children have made! They are all adapting to the new routines of Year One and “big school” really well. I'm doing my best to keep up with them!

Thanks to everyone for all your support in reminding your children to bring their diaries back in each day. Reading books (2 for the week) and library books all come back on Tuesdays (and only Tuesdays please). You may help your child with reading their book if they have difficulties the first two or three times they read it. If it continues to be too hard for them, please let me know. Thanks, also, for helping them complete their spelling homework - I can tell they are working hard at home by the great work they are producing in class.

If there are any parents who can sometimes spend 5 - 10 minutes sharpening pencils when the siren goes at 8.50, I would really appreciate your help.

We will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday (28th Feb) with pancakes. Please let one of our class reps (Sasha and Jodie) know if you may be able to lend a hand.

Freda Farmand

UNIFORM CENTRE NEWS
The Uniform Centre has changed it’s opening day from Thursdays to Fridays. The Uniform Centre will now be open every Friday 8.15am to 9.15am

BATTERY RECYCLING
We are very pleased to “do our bit” for the environment by offering recycling collection for household batteries. You can drop your batteries off in the metal collection bin in the hallway opposite the Year 3 class room.

Get your Coffee
Monday & Friday mornings
from 8.00am

Coffee will be available to purchase from Coastal Coffee at Matthew Gibney every Monday and Friday mornings from 8.00am.

P & F Meetings Term 1 2017
Wednesday 15th March @ 7.30pm
**YEAR 3 NEWS**

We will celebrate our first class liturgy of the year next Wednesday, 22nd February 2017, at 9:00am in the Sacred Space. All parents and grandparents are cordially invited to join us, as we prepare for the season of Lent.

Keith MacKay

**SENT HOME THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY**

★ Cool Pool Day permission slip (Years 1 - 6)
★ Parent help for Cool Pool Day (eldest)
★ Cool Pool Day 25mtr relay event (Years 4 - 6)

**SCHOOL FEES**
The annual account for school fees for families not direct debiting were posted last week. Fees are payable in three instalments, one third payable by **Thursday 7th April**, second instalment by 30th June and final payment by 23rd September.

If you have any difficulties in meeting this commitment by the due date, you need to make an appointment to discuss this matter with the Principal, Mark Powell, as soon as possible.

**DIRECT DEBIT**
Fees may be paid by direct debit, enabling payments to be spread over the year, ie weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Forms available from the office.

**HEALTH CARE CARD TUITION FEE DISCOUNT SCHEME**
Parents who have a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card are eligible for a discount on their school fees. Please complete a 2017 Application Form at the school office.

**YEAR 5 NEWS**

We have been working hard in Year 5 and have settled into the new school year well. One thing that we really love to do (believe it or not!) is to do our times table quiz. Each day we are celebrating progress and everyone in Year 5 is making gains. In English we have been reading the novel “Rowan of Rin”, and learning more about how the author develops character, plot and setting. It is great to see so many in Year 5 enjoying their reading and contributing to our class discussions and sharing their ideas. This term, with Mrs Savory, it’s all about Space. This is a topic that always excites and the Year 5s are already super enthused.

Karen Keddie & Jess Savory

**KINDY NEWS**

It has been a busy and, at times, overwhelming for our new Kindy students. There has been so much to do and take in. We are starting to learn the Kindy routines and love playing with blocks, play dough, the sensory tub and creating at the collage table. By far the most favourite part of the day is lunch time when we get to eat with our friends and see what treats are in our lunch boxes!

Thank you so much to all of the parents for your help, support and co operation so far. It is most appreciated. Please don’t forget to check the children’s folders in the coming weeks for some important notes and never hesitate to come and see us with any questions or concerns.

Saroya Powell, Lucy Marchetti & Sylvie Spadaccini
COOL POOL DAY

When: Friday 24th of March 12.00-2.30pm

Where: Swan Park Leisure Centre
Gray Dr, Midvale

The Cool Pool Day is not very far away. Can you please read through the following information to ensure that your child is ready for an exciting, fun afternoon. If you have any queries please see myself or Mr Powell.

WHAT TO BRING
- Bathers (please do not wear bathers to school)
- Towels (2 if possible)
- School jumper in case of cooler weather
- Plastic bag for wet gear
- Recess and Lunch (will be eaten at school)
- Water bottle
- Lots of enthusiasm
- Students going home from the pool will take their school bag with them
- Students coming back to school can take a separate bag to the pool with all the items they require.

⇒ PLEASE MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD’S NAME!
⇒ Please don’t send money to school as the shop at Swan Park will be out of bounds to students.

OTHER DETAILS
- Students in Years 1-6 will come to school dressed in their school Sports Uniform.
- All students will get changed into their bathers under the direction of teachers prior to lunch.
- Please note, the Canteen will NOT be operating on Cool Pool Day.
- The students will be having recess from 9.45-10.00am and lunch from 11.15-11.45am.
- The buses will depart from school at 12.00 noon.
- A bus will depart the pool at approximately 2.30pm to return to school.
- If you intend to take your child home directly from the venue, please fill in the slip below and return it to school by Tuesday, 14th March.
- The children will be sitting with their teachers. We do ask that parents do not sit with their children as we have limited space available.
- We are all looking forward to a fun afternoon with lots of cheering spectators.

ALL FAMILIES NEED TO FILL IN THE PERMISSION/COLLECTION SLIPS AND RETURN THEM TO SCHOOL BY TUESDAY, 14TH OF MARCH.

Shannon Andersen, Physical Education Co-ordinator

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COOL POOL DAY
PERMISSION SLIP

I give permission for my child/ren to travel to and from Swan Park Leisure Centre by bus on Friday 24th of March, 2017,

CHILD’S NAME

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Parent’s name: _____________________________

Parent’s signature: _________________________

Please return this slip to school by Tuesday, 14th of March.

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COOL POOL DAY
“COLLECTION NOTICE”

Yes, I will be taking my child/ren home at the conclusion of Cool Pool Day.

CHILD’S NAME

CLASS

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Parent’s name: _____________________________

Parent’s signature: _________________________

Please return this slip to school by Tuesday, 14th of March.
COOL POOL DAY 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our annual Cool Pool Day is to be held on Friday 24th of March, at Swan Park Leisure Centre.

Again this year, we have decided to go ahead with our 25 metre relay event for students in Years 4 – 6. This is not a compulsory event and is only for those students who can COMPETENTLY and SAFELY swim 25 metres in either freestyle or breaststroke.

Please do not send in the attached form if your child cannot swim the required distance (For safety reasons, this is extremely important).

Please fill in the form below and return it by Tuesday, 14th of March.

Due to organisational requirements, forms received after this date will not be considered.

Yours sincerely,
Shannon Andersen
Physical Education.

COOL POOL DAY

My child __________________________________________ in Year _____________ can competently and safely swim 25 metres in either freestyle or breaststroke.

NAME___________________________________________

SIGNATURE______________________________________

DATE ___________________________________________

COOL POOL DAY

Cool Pool Day is fast approaching us and will be held on Friday 24th of March from 12.00p.m. – 2.30p.m. at Swan Park Leisure Centre, Gray Drive, Midvale.

With so many events being run on this day, parent assistance at the stations would be greatly appreciated. If you are available to assist with this, please would you fill in the form below and hand it to a classroom teacher. I will contact parent helpers with information nearer to the time.

Thank you.

Shannon Andersen

PARENT HELP FOR COOL POOL DAY

Friday 24th March

| Child’s Name: ________________________________ |
| Child’s Class: ______________________________ |
| Child’s Name: ______________________________ |
| Child’s Class: ______________________________ |
| Parent Helper: ______________________________ |
| Phone Number: ______________________________ |
**Community News**

A children’s bereavement program supporting grieving children following the death of a parent, primary caregiver or sibling

**Tuesday April 11**
6.30pm - 8.30pm

**Wednesday April 12**
6.30pm - 8.30pm

**Venue TBC**
Perth Metro Area

**Cost**
Free

- Helping children and parents understand the process of grief
- Providing the opportunity to connect with other children experiencing the death of a parent or sibling
- Strengthening parents’ knowledge and skills in supporting their grieving children

Children’s program and parent’s program to run simultaneously

**To enquire please contact:**
Program Director Shelly Skinner on 0400 344 024

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**Relationships Australia Western Australia**

**Relationship Education Programs**

**Parenting Courses – March 2017**

**West Leederville Branch**

**Parent-Child Connection**
Being a parent can be tough. People with primary school children are invited to this four week course to learn new skills, feel better about their parenting and gain confidence.

**Date:**
9Mar - 30Mar
**Day:**
Thursday
**Time:**
6.30-9pm
**Cost:**
$99 per person
$79 per couple

**Mums Raising Boys**

**DAYTIME**
Mothers who are usually on their own/motherhood role model, play a vital part in developing their son’s identity, including their ability to be nurturing.

**Date:**
16 March
**Day:**
Thursday
**Time:**
9am - 12.30pm
**Cost:**
$99 per participant

**Understanding Stepmother Relationships Weekend**
Stepparenting can be a huge juggling act. This course held over a weekend addresses the complex needs and priorities of a blended family including parenting.

**Date:**
24-25-26 March
**Day/Times:**
Fri 6.30-9pm
Sat 9-12.30pm
Sun 1:30-5pm
**Cost:**
$700 per $150 couple

For further information and to enrol please phone 0164 0201

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**High Wycombe Supa IGA**

How the locals like it - Shop for your School

We at High Wycombe Supa IGA are all about supporting and giving back to the local community. That’s why we’re excited to offer this amazing initiative to support the local schools. With your help we can build on the figure and donate even more to the local schools!

**Three Easy Steps**

1. Shop at High Wycombe Supa IGA
2. Tell the checkout operator which local school you’d like to donate your points to
3. Your school gets a cheque at the end of the year

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**March Musical Menagerie**

Two Choirs, a Huge Folk Band and a Side of Morris Dancers...

**A Kappella Munda**

**The Black Chooks**

in conjunction with

**Saturday 11 March**
7.00pm to 9.30pm
St Barnabas Church Kalamunda

Adults $25
Pensioners/H-C Card $20ea

Tickets: Kalamunda News & Nightingales Pharmacy
Enquiries: Jan 9298 4838 or Cathy 0401 390 126
A fun fundraiser for A Kappella Munda
St Norbert College
Open Day
Friday 10th March 2017
St Norbert College warmly invites prospective students and their parents to tour our excellent College, its contemporary facilities and extensive grounds. Tours will be conducted at 9.00am and 1.30pm.

Enrolments for Year 7 in 2019
We have commenced our enrolments for 2019. Application forms may be obtained by phoning the Enrolment Officer,
Mrs Hughes on 9350 5433

To the Students of Matthew Gibney Catholic School

Thank you for your gifts which were distributed to unfortunate children so they too could join us in celebrating the joy of Christmas.

Thank you for your kindness in thinking of the poorer children in our society and sharing your Christian love.

May God bless you and your families.

From
Robert - President of SVP
Maida Vale
and all Conference Members