Father, through your observance of Lent,
Help us understand the meaning of your Son’s death and resurrection,
And teach us to reflect in our lives.
Send your Spirit of Love to help and inspire us to know your ways,
For they are always love and truth to those who keep your covenant.
Through, Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Parents,

LENT AND ASH WEDNESDAY: The church has several seasons and we as Christians can use the seasons to focus ourselves on our relationship with God and each other. The season of Lent is traditionally one of Prayer, fasting, sacrifice and self-denial. It is a time when we accept our imperfect nature and allow the Spirit to work more openly in our lives. Some people give up things while others try to do things that they believe should be a more regular part of our lives.

What is important is that we do something! The Church is teaching us that we must be regular participants in the Sacraments. Perhaps one way of Celebrating Lent is for the family to participate more in liturgies and attend Sunday Mass together. Another way may be to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter. Some families are praying more together, while others are going without lollies, soft drink, and giving the money saved to Project Compassion. May the forty days at the commencement of Lent, being Ash Wednesday be ones of growth for all of us.

During Lent there are several themes that often come to mind. The themes are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. In this way the whole church prepares for Easter.

**PRAYER:** By our sin we turn away from God: But our prayers will lead us back to Him.

**FASTING:** Through fasting, our bodies are more aware of the season of Lent. We can now ask God to give us strength.

**ALMSGIVING:** By giving gifts to others we are sharing what we have and showing love. God asks us to love our neighbour.

May these themes provide you and your families with some thoughts and reflections during this Lenten season? On Wednesday, the children, staff and school community gathered to hear God’s word, to pray together, to receive ashes made from last year’s palms from Palm Sunday which remind them to Turn Away from Sin and be Faithful to the Gospel or for younger children, Follow Jesus and Be Good. All of us undertook a commitment to examine our lives and, with God’s help, to make an effort to improve them.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Each class has been given a Project Compassion contribution box. You can encourage your child to use this as a part of their Lenten Journey. Extra boxes are available for families through the Parish.
OPEN AFTERNOON – ALL PARENTS SHOULD ATTEND: It is essential that all parents attend the open afternoon that will be held on Tuesday 16th February after school, commencing at 2:45pm. (Years PP – 6). At this time general information will be presented and it gives the parents an opportunity to meet and greet their child’s teacher. If you are unable to attend, please contact your child’s classroom teacher to obtain a copy of the information that will be handed out.

P & F MOVIE NIGHT – WELCOME BACK FUNCTION: A separate note has been sent home with all of the details. Please check your child’s bag, look on the P & F Facebook page or contact your child’s teacher for all of the details. It looks to be a great night!

SICK OR EVEN FEELING UNWELL: Please remember that if your child is sick or even feeling unwell, school is not the place to drop them off. A number of children have been brought to school unwell in the morning or night before. They should be kept at home under parental care. While I fully understand that this may not be possible in all circumstances, it is essential that sick children are not brought to school as they could make others in their class unwell and will not be well enough to undertake the rigors of school work.

REGIONAL MASS FOR CATHOLIC STAFF: Tonight, all of the staff and I will attend the Regional Mass for Catholic Staff at St Simon Peter Catholic Church.

DOGS ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS: Please ensure that no one brings any dogs on the school grounds, even if they are on leashes. A number of children are frightened of dogs and while I understand that the dogs are trained and very obedient, we do not want to traumatize any of the students.

EXTREME WEATHER: It is on days of extreme weather, like the ones that we are currently experiencing, that we must give thanks to our SCHOOL BOARD and PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION, who both have provided facilities (including air conditioning) to ensure the comfort of our children. We also should thank our school staff, who continue to support and guide the children in activities that are sensible in this sort of weather by allowing the children to stay in various areas (such as the classroom during recess/lunchtime) to maintain cool and hydrated. Thank you one and all.

AQUA FUN DAY: The children in Years 1-6 will be invited to participate in the AQUA FUN DAY which will be held on FRIDAY 26th February at the Arena Joondalup. Mrs Peacham will send home more details shortly.

KINDY 2017 ENROLMENTS: We are processing applications for children who intend to participate in the St Andrew’s 2017 Kindergarten Program. If any parent has not enrolled their child and they are born between July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013, they need to do so immediately. (We can only enrol children who have the correct enrolment application forms and that we know want to participate in our program.) Please do not assume that we ‘know’ that your child is seeking enrolment into the St Andrew’s Kindergarten program.

STUDENT ABSENCE DURING SCHOOL TERM: Parents who remove their children, during the normal school term for a vacation, need to inform the classroom teacher and the Principal in writing. St Andrew’s Catholic Primary School, does not support the withdrawal of children during important term teaching time for the purpose of vacations.

Should there be no alternative, please be aware that it is not the responsibility of your child’s classroom teacher to prepare and correct work during this time. Nor to catch up on work that is missed.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter and I am personally happy to discuss this further with any parent, if required.

CHILDREN IN OTHER GRADES WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: Parents of children who attend our school in Years 3 - 6 and have missed receiving one or several sacraments during their Primary School education have the opportunity to join in the Sacramental program. If this applies to your child or you would like to find out further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Archer immediately.
STUDENT ACTION PLANS FOR ANAPHYLAXIS / ALLERGIC REACTIONS: Any student who requires an action plan for either Anaphylaxis, Allergic Reactions or Asthma will need to complete a new Action Plan form, complete with current coloured photo, consultation with your family doctor and hand it to the office urgently. Please do not assume that if you have completed one of these forms before that it will suffice. Each year a new and updated form must be submitted to the school according to legislation. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

PARENTS OF CHILDREN CURRENTLY IN YEARS 5 AND 6: All parents of children who are currently in years 5 and 6 have been invited to a parent information’s session on ICT which will be held on Wednesday 2nd March commencing at 6:00pm in the School Hall. A separate note was sent home earlier this week with all of the details.

ATTENTION ALL CURRENT YEAR 5 AND 6 STUDENTS: Students who intend to enrol at Irene McCormack Catholic Secondary School, should ensure that their paperwork has been handed in and the necessary deposits paid. Interviews for prospective students will commence shortly. (Current Year 5 = Year 7 = 2018 and current Year 6 = Year 7 in 2017)

BURSARY - YEAR 6 STUDENTS ATTENDING IRENE McCORMACK CATHOLIC COLLEGE IN 2017: Any currently enrolled Year 6 student who has enrolled into Irene McCormack Catholic Secondary College and would like the opportunity to submit an application for a Bursary, will need to complete the application form and hand it back to Mr Fontaine by 1st April, 2016. All applications are considered on their individual merit and you must ensure that you meet all of the eligibility criteria. Applications will be sent home shortly.

CATHOLIC SECONDARY COLLEGES: It is the parent’s responsibility to enrol their child in the Catholic Secondary College of their choice. While we are a local school to Irene McCormack Catholic College, parents still need to send in the application forms by the due dates. (Current Year 5's should have returned their enrolment forms to the secondary school of choice by NOW!!!) We are very fortunate to have a number of excellent Catholic secondary colleges that our children can attend. *** A suggestion to all parents is that when your child is in Year 3, by the middle of that year, you should have submitted your enrolment forms to the secondary school of choice. Please do not leave it too late! Mr Fontaine is happy to discuss this further with any parent if required.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY AT ST ANDREW’S SCHOOL: At St Andrew’s Catholic Primary School have dedicated Literacy and Numeracy Blocks in each class to further develop the child’s skills in these areas.

STRAIGHT TALK LANGUAGE SCREENING ASSESSMENT FOR KINDY: All kindergarten students participate in the Straight Talk Language Screening Assessment in Term 1. This allows for the early identification of individual student needs.

OEA: A computer based program known as OEA is used within the Pre-Primary. OEA is designed to determine the student readiness for learning and to pin point areas of student’s strengths and weaknesses.

OBSERVATIONAL SURVEYS: This is a package of assessments given to each student in Years 1–3. All Year 1 students will sit a full observational survey. The children in years 2 and 3 will sit modified assessments, according to their individual needs.

The assessments are designed to again determine the student’s areas of strength and weakness. The results enable the teachers and support staff to begin teaching your child at an appropriate level. The results of these assessments are analysed and interpreted and the findings and recommendations are given to St Andrew’s School for further consideration and implementation.

RUNNING READING RECORDS / MATHS ASSESSMENTS: All students in Years 1-6, may be assessed using this process. The results again enable the teacher to gain an understanding for a starting point to teach your child. Assessments also occur in Mathematics.
STANDARDISED TESTS: Each class will be completing a number of Standardised tests in a variety of Learning Areas so that data can be gathered. Once the gathered data is analysed, then sound teaching and learning practices can be employed.

READING RECOVERY / EMU (EXTENDING MATHEMATIC UNDERSTANDING): Both of these very beneficial and valuable programs are being taught at St Andrew’s. Our goal is to assist students to at least meet, or better, minimum literacy and numeracy standards.

TEACHER PROGRAMMING: The staff at St Andrew’s School meet regularly after school hours in ‘Professional Learning Communities’ (PLC) as Junior / Senior clusters or as a whole group to plan, monitor and assess learning journey’s using the results from the data and other testing (e.g. NAPLAN). All grade teachers program collaboratively so that both classes cover the same content and concepts at approximately the same time. In this way, both of the grade teachers can share ideas, thoughts and skills to enhance the learning environment for the children.

JETS: JETS is a program that is offered at the school catering for children to be enriched above their current learning age.

RESOURCES: We have already purchased a considerable amount of resources, in every class, to support our programs. I hope that this information has assisted you. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

May God Bless You All,

Sam Fontaine
PRINCIPAL

VISION STATEMENT
St Andrew’s CPS offers an education that acknowledges, respects and nurtures the uniqueness of each person.
Within a framework of Catholic values and teamwork, the students will be challenged and supported to recognise their gifts and develop their potential as they learn and contribute to their community.

Many happy returns to those children who will be celebrating their birthdays soon. Congratulations!

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12 February</td>
<td>Staff Prayer&lt;br&gt;MJR Assembly (Postponed)&lt;br&gt;P&amp;F Movie Night – Welcome back to St Andrew’s (gates open at 6.00pm – movie starts at 7.00pm).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15 February</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Club Orders Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16 February</td>
<td>Playgroup 9.00am-11.00am Hall&lt;br&gt;Open Afternoon 2.45pm-5.00pm (PP-Year 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 February</td>
<td>Year 5 Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 18 February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Parent Information Evening&lt;br&gt;6.30pm Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19 February</td>
<td>Staff Prayer&lt;br&gt;4B Merit Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 20/Sunday 21 February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Commitment Masses at Church - all weekend masses. 6.00pm Saturday, 7.30am, 9.00am, 5.30pm Sunday</td>
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**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**

Just a reminder that all Scholastic Book Club orders are due next Monday 15th February. The easiest way to order is via the online LOOP option.

Thank you!

**PLAYGROUP**

A friendly reminder to all families with children starting Kindy at St Andrew’s in 2017. Our Pre-Kindy Playgroup for 1-3 year olds has begun. Our playgroup is every Tuesday morning between 9am-11am in the St Andrew’s Hall. Other siblings enrolled for future years at St Andrew’s are also welcome to join the playgroup. Hope to see you then!

**P&F NEWS**

The P&F have already been busy this year. Our calendar of events is filling up and we are looking forward to working with the Year 6 students who are part of the Cultural Ministry to bring these events to you.

Our first event for the year is the Welcome to St Andrew's movie night, being held on the school oval this Friday 12 February from 6.00pm. So pack a picnic and some chairs and get together with some friends you may not have had the opportunity to catch up with yet. Refreshments will also be available for purchase on the night. Details have been sent home on a flyer and information placed on the P&F Facebook page. It should be a fun night.

We are still looking for someone to take on the position of P&F Secretary. If you have any Admin and organisational skills you feel are not being fully used this is the job for you! Please contact Mr Fontaine or anyone on the P&F if you are interested.

As always, the P&F Facebook page is a good way to keep in touch with what's happening at the school. If you haven't already requested to join please do so: St Andrew's Clarkson CPS P&F Group.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Welcome Night and are hoping for yet another great year of collaboration and community building at our school.

**LOST:** Should you find a Seiko Mens Alarm Chrono 100WR watch, would you please hand it into the school office. This will then be forwarded on to a very distressed owner.
In Year Five Blue we have been examining the Mathematical concept of ‘Subitizing’.

This is, “the ability to quickly identify the number of items in a small set without counting.”

An example is that 7 is made of 5 and 2 or 4 and 3. We have started to use this skill of ‘Subitizing’ to start to add and regroup faster in Mathematics.

Some of our students comments were:

Sienna – Subitizing has improved my speed in addition tests a lot.
Luke – It has helped me get better at adding without using my fingers.
Stella – Subitizing has helped with my accuracy in Mathematics.
Shaye – I can now do 100 addition questions in 6 minutes and 4 seconds
Storm – When you are doing maths it helps you to go faster.
Abbey – I’m really good at subitizing because I get 100% in my addition tests.
Heath – It has really improved my addition speed.
Drew – It makes me feel better about my maths, I’m more confident.
Zac – It made me faster at doing addition.
Jesse – It’s been making me faster at doing maths in my head.
Peyton – Subitizing has helped me with my maths.
Jesna – I like doing 100 addition questions in 3 minutes eleven seconds.

In Five Blue we have also been discussing Respect, Reward and Risks. Some other students wanted to say:

Nicholas – “I like that we can earn reward passes or reward time in our class.”
Aiden – “I’m still getting used to Year Five, it’s very different to Year Four.”
Tochi – “I hope we as people can make a change to sin and violence in our world.”
Sean-Michael – “There are more subjects than Year Four.”
Indigo – “There’s a lot of new things that I have to learn about.”
Orlando – “I really enjoy reward time in Year Five.”
Carlos – “I think it’s fair for the class to have reward passes and ticks.”
Hannah – “Ruling up takes forever.”
Ajak – “We have been doing different activities in our class.”
Ella – “I like using the Creativity Book in class.”
Devlin – “I like the reward ticks because it makes me try harder in class.”
Noah – “I like the reward chart, it makes everything fun.”
Nyankam – “I like the class because Mr Redding likes to make funny jokes.”
Tayjarna – “I like making posters for our class about how to be a good person in class.”
Mumbi – “In Year Five there are lots of things to do and learn about.”
Lucy – “I like the class ticks and my Teacher.”
Joyce – “I like the spelling because it is challenging.”