A Prayer for Saint Valentine's Day

Most Gracious Heavenly Father,
You gave Saint Valentine the courage to witness to the gospel of Christ,
even to the point of giving his life for it.
Help us to endure all suffering for love of you,
and to seek you with all our hearts;
for you alone are the source of life and love.
Grant that we may have the courage and love to be strong witnesses of your truth
to our friends and family and to the whole world.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Dear Parents

We are now in the season of Lent and unless we commit ourselves to some disciplined change in our lives, the season will all be over and we will have missed the opportunity to become more ‘Christ like.’ Rather than give up chocolates (which can be a selfish act if we need the weight loss) we could look at being more generous with those commodities that are precious to us. (E.g. our time or our listening skills.) May we all grow closer to God through our efforts this Lenten Season.

For many people distress, famine, and violence are daily realities. Through your contribution to Project Compassion, you can commence to bring dignity and hope to those who are suffering in our world. Project Compassion gives us the opportunity to bring new life to those who suffer and struggle. Think about the thousands of people in more than 50 countries throughout the world whose lives will be improved because of your donations. It takes a little to make a big change.

CONGRATULATIONS MR AND MRS ALLEN
Congratulations are extended to Mrs Allen, our Year 1 Teacher and her husband, who are expecting their first child later this year. More news as it comes to hand.
RECONCILIATION PROGRAM - SACRAMENTAL PARENT NIGHTS AND MASSES

1. **Tonight** we have our Parent information evening for Reconciliation which will be held in the St Andrew’s church commencing at 6:30pm sharp.

2. **This weekend, on the 20th and 21st, February are the commitment masses** for the children wanting to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They are held during the normal parish masses and times and all families need to attend.

3. On **Tuesday 23rd, February** a parent/child workshop for those children intending to receive reconciliation for the first time will be held in the St Andrew’s School Hall. The workshop will commence at 6:30pm sharp.

NAPLAN - PARENT INFORMATION

All parents who have children in Years 3 or 5 will receive a NAPLAN Parent Information Brochure. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child’s classroom teacher.

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.**

OPEN AFTERNOON

Thank you to all of the parents who attended this very important event. A lot of very valuable information was handed out and if you were unable to attend, please ensure that you collect the handout from your child’s classroom teacher.

YOUR CHILD’S PROGRESS

If you have any concerns with regards to your child's progress, the school policy is very clear in its pathway. **Your initial meeting must and should be with your child’s classroom teacher.** At this meeting it is imperative that you explain the situation clearly and allow the teacher both the right of reply and time to manage and deal with your concern. Please remember that your child's teacher may be unaware of the concern and may require time to research and gather information. While I support the contact with teachers via email or letter, please be aware that there is no replacement for a face to face meeting. Also, as a staff, we are building resiliency in students where they set fair rules for all to play and solve problems which may arise. Many students, when discussing their day with their parents remember an isolated incident, which had been dealt with, and parents need to just listen, ask them what they did in the situation and support them from home. Once all of the information has been gathered and analysed, our caring and dedicated staff have made excellent decisions as to the wellbeing of the child.

If after several meetings with the teacher, and you feel that no resolution has occurred then parents have the options of booking an appointment with one of the Assistant Principals either Mr Archer or Mr Smith.

Finally after the parent has exhausted these other avenues, Mr Fontaine is the final port of call. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

HEALTH CARE CARDS

Thank you to all of those parents who are on Health Care Cards and have filled in their application for School Fee Relief. If you have not done this as yet, please do so by the end of this week as School Fee reminder forms will be sent shortly. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.
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. Information was sent home to all families on Wednesday 17 February.

A reminder that Monday 7th of March is a Public Holiday and Tuesday 8th March is a Pupil Free Day.

SCHOOL BOARD
Wednesday night was our initial 2016 School Board Meeting. We are so lucky to have this group of parents representing our parent body on the school board. They give of their time willingly and continue to strive to develop policies and ideas for the betterment of the students at St Andrew’s. I shared my vision and aspirations for the school and we all had a very productive meeting. Our new School Board Chair is Mrs Kate Mesiti, our Board Secretary is Mrs Jo Zanoli and our Treasurer is Mr Bede Callaghan.

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR SCHOOL SOCIAL FUNCTION
On Friday night, the P&F organised a movie night on the school grounds. There was a fantastic turn out and many delighted faces. The movie was excellent viewing and the big screen added to the impact of the night. Also a number of families commented on the wonderful service from the yellow submarine that was also on site. I personally want to thank all of the P&F members who organised this innovative event, those dedicated staff who attended to support the school and finally all of the parents and children who also supported the school. Thank you one and all.

SCHOLARSHIPS – IRENE MCCORMACK CATHOLIC COLLEGE
Applications are now open for the Irene McCormack Catholic College Year 7 2017 Academic Scholarship.

The Scholarship is administered by ACER and registration is available on their website at: http://scholarships.acer.edu.au/intro/814. Applications close on Friday 8th April 2016.

The Scholarship examination for registered participants will take place at the College on Saturday 7th May 2016.

YEAR 6 STUDENTS
Year 6 students have received today Bursary applications for Irene McCormack Catholic College. If you are interested in applying, all applications must be returned to Mr Fontaine by Friday 8th April by 9.00am.

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.
Apologies to our special birthday children for our late congratulations (for some) and many happy returns to those that will be turning another year older soon:


DATES TO REMEMBER

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19 February</td>
<td>Uniform Shop Open 8.00am-9.00am Staff Prayer 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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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23 February</td>
<td>Playgroup 9.00am-11.00am Hall Uniform Shop Open 2.15pm-3.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26 February</td>
<td>Staff Prayer Aqua Fun Day Years 1-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7 March</td>
<td>Labor Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8 March</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
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SCHOOL BANKING ACCOUNT OPENING DAY

We are very excited to introduce our new ‘Outback Adventure’ theme for this year’s banking rewards. If your child is already involved in school banking, then we look forward seeing their excited faces as they save their money, collect their tokens and claim their reward.

If you would like your child to get started on their savings journey, we are having an account opening day after the assembly on Friday March 4th.

Jenni from the Commonwealth bank will be coming to our school to talk about the new competition being run this year and opening accounts so you can avoid waiting in the line at the bank. Just bring in your driver’s license or passport and we will get you started.

If you have a Kindy child who is not at school on a Monday (banking day) but would still like to join in, you can send their bank book in with an older sibling or take it to the office.