



ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
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KEEPING OUR CONNECTIONS



Friday February 4 2022

Dear Families & Friends of St. Paul's,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to St. Paul's for the start of the 2022 school year.

I trust you all managed to find some time for yourselves & your families over the summer break, to rest, relax & rejuvenate, in preparation for another year.

We have a busy year ahead of us, with a lot happening throughout the four school terms (further details in this newsletter and newsletters to come); this is life at school! Organisation & planning for 2022 began last year and a Term 1 calendar is provided for you in this newsletter.

We have all started 2022 challenged by a new COVID-19 variant – Omicron - which is highly infectious, and has continued to add to our stress & worry, in trying to stay safe & healthy. However, it appears that people (adults & children) are, in the main, not becoming seriously ill with the variant and hospitalisation rates have reduced.

We now have a 'Back to School Plan' in place to assist us to remain vigilant, safe & healthy. However, this virus seems to be everywhere and I suspect we have all been either directly or indirectly impacted by it, with ourselves, family & friends having been infected.

My appeal to all of you is to keep to our 'plan', do what is possible & expected to deal with the virus, and let us know at school if you or family are infected, so that we can support you as best we can. We need to work at this together to ensure our community continues to live & learn as safely as possible.

My hope for all at St. Paul's in 2022 is that we are all back (at school and at work) to be our best; as our Essence Statement proclaims, **'Like Christ, we believe in valuing each individual (at St. Paul's) for who they are and who they can be.'** Your children have enormous potential; it is our working together (parents & teachers) as partners that will ensure that potential is realised.



We all need to look to 2022 with hope for a bright & success-filled future, in spite of our current community challenges. Myself & the St. Paul's staff team are excited to have your children back with us learning face-to-face and even more excited about the possibilities that the 2022 school year holds for all members of our learning & teaching community – students, families & staff.

Let's all live & learn with hope in 2022!

Denis

Denis J. Daly

Principal

PARENT-TEACHER ONLINE LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

Parent-Teacher Learning Conversations will take place online, next Thursday February 10, between 2.00 pm and 8.00 pm. Parents (guardians or carers) are asked to book a conversation (meeting) time with their child's teacher online in Operoo. Conversation / Meeting login details will be provided early next week. School will finish at 1.40, pm on this day.



SCHOOL CLOSURE: STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Friday February 25 will be a school closure / student free day at St. Paul's. Staff will be engaged in professional learning focussing on 'Positive Behaviours for Learning' (formerly known as School Wide Positive Behaviour Support). More details about PBL will be provided to families in the coming weeks, so that we can work together to support the children in their learning and in their relationships with their peers and adults.



OUR PREPS

Well, what a wonderful start to their primary school our new Preps have had. Day 1 started with much excitement & enthusiasm, with the only tears being from the grown-ups in the classrooms! Our little friends are conducting themselves as if they done it all before! I'm sure tiredness will creep in, in the coming days & weeks, as the realise they are at school for the whole day; but, so far so good! We are proud of them and look forward to watching them grow & learn at big school!

**READY.
FOR BIG
SCHOOL.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR: CHUC MUNG NAM OI / GONG HEI FAT CHOY

A very Happy Lunar New Year to all of our Vietnamese / Chinese families! This year is 'the Year of The Tiger'. The Tiger is associated with valour. Those belonging to the sign of the Tiger (born in 2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962, 1950 and 1938) are said to value independence and have a strong sense of justice.



BACK TO BE OUR BEST: INTERVENTION AT ST. PAUL'S IN 2022

Intervention is differentiated and targeted teaching, using high impact teaching strategies that help teachers ensure that learning is a challenging but successful experience for students of all abilities.

Student achievement at St. Paul's is closely monitored to help both teachers and students understand how their development is progressing, and to celebrate success in their learning.

St. Paul's implements a multi-tiered system of support to ensure the needs of all students are identified and met across the domains of health, wellbeing, behaviour and learning.

With appropriate research-based and data-driven decision-making processes, the teachers, supported by school and curriculum leaders, design learning interventions and adjustments that are matched to the identified needs of students.

At St. Paul's, the interventions currently planned and in place include:

- Classroom teacher support and instruction: individual and small focus groups in the classroom

- Learning Support Officer support and instruction: individual and small focus groups in the classroom
- Wellbeing Leader plans with and supports teachers and students
- Learning Diversity Leader plans with and supports teachers, students and parents/carers
- Literacy Leader plans with and supports teachers and students
- Maths Leader plans with and supports teachers and students
- Speech Therapist consults with and supports speech and social/emotional needs of students
- Psychologist consults with and supports teachers, students and parents/guardians
- MACS Learning Consultants supports students with diagnosed learning challenges
- MACS Learning Consultants supports students identified as gifted or talented
- New Arrivals Teachers plan with and support teachers and students
- Tutor Learning Program & Tutor Teachers support students in English and Maths

Students are supported both individually and in small groups in and out of the classroom.



1ST COMMUNION: YEAR 4

The 1st Communion mass for our Year 4 Catholic students (Year 3 2021) will take place on Saturday March 5, at 2.00 pm, in St. Mary MacKillop Church, Keilor Downs.



DROP OFF & PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

Morning Drop Off:

The main car park is to be used for dropping students off and will be monitored by staff between 8:30 am & 8:50 am. Please remain in your vehicle and direct your children to the crossing, where a staff member will be on duty.

Afternoon Pick Up:

At the 3.15 pm bell, children will be dismissed to walk home or be picked up by parents, guardians or carers. Prep children must be picked up from the external door to their classrooms by their parents, guardians, carers or older siblings; no parent, guardian or carer may enter the building.

All other children must exit the school to meet their parents, guardians or carers at one of three pre-arranged pick up points – (1) from the grassed area in front of the basketball courts (back car park); (2) from the main entrance (between the library & hall – main car park) or (3) from the front of the church (church car park). Please be sure to discuss afternoon pick up arrangements with your children.



TERM 1: SUMMER UNIFORM + HATS

All students should now be wearing their summer uniform. A school hat must be worn at all times when outside during play breaks or in sport sessions – ‘NO HAT: NO PLAY’; children without a hat will remain in the shade.



TERM 1 DATES & EVENTS

TERM 1 2022: Thursday 27.01 – Friday 08.04

Thursday January 27 – Friday January 28: Staff return

Monday January 31: Students return

Wednesday February 2: No Preps

Wednesday February 9: No Preps

Tuesday February 15: Parents Group Meeting

Wednesday February 16: No Preps

Wednesday February 23: No Preps

Friday February 25: School Closure – Staff Professional Learning

Wednesday March 2: No Preps

Thursday March 3: School Photos

Saturday March 5: 1st Communion – Year 4

Monday March 7: Preps in fulltime

Monday March 14: Labour Day Public Holiday

Friday March 18: Colour Fun Run Fundraiser - TBC

Friday March 25: Whole School 'Welcome Picnic' - TBC

Friday April 1: Confirmation

Friday April 8: Term 1 ends



Instrumental Music Lessons - on school campus
Places available for Term 1, 2022



Small Group & Private Lessons

- Primary Music Institute offer instrumental music lessons right here on school campus!
- To find out all about the music lessons please visit PMI's website. You can check which instruments are available, get up to date program details and apply for lessons online
- Please **ENROL TODAY** via PMI's website
- Lessons are held once per week on school campus – with lessons typically during school hours
- Only \$19.50 per child per small group lesson (2-5 students for 30 minutes)
- Private lessons (1-on-1) and pair lessons (max 2 students) are also available
- Online lessons (after hours) are also available direct to your home – contact us to find out more
- Instrumental music can improve your child's school results – including for reading, maths, coordination, IQ, abstract reasoning, performance confidence... and is great fun!

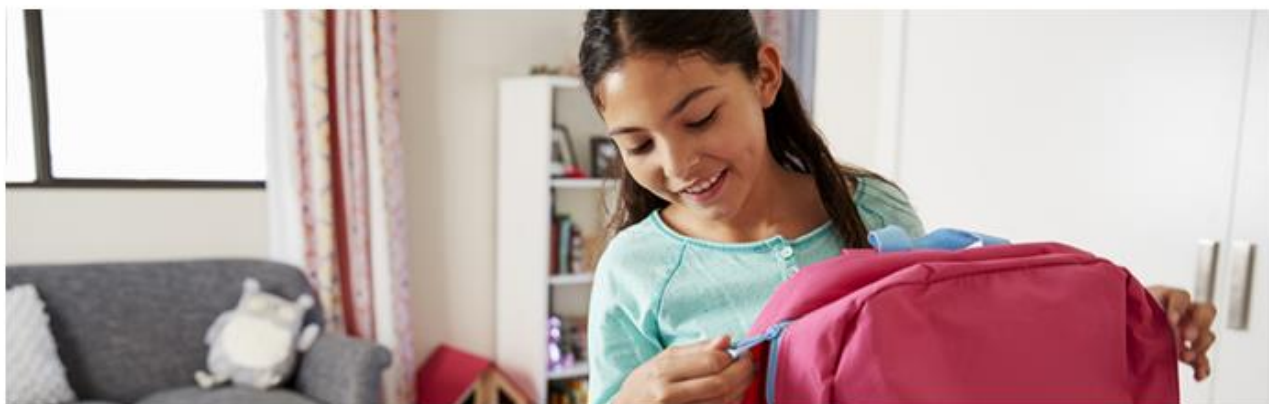
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INSIGHTS

Helping kids settle back into school



The start of the new school year brings a variety of challenges – from teacher and class changes, through to the transition from holiday mode back into the routine of school. This can make settling back into school difficult for some children and young people, especially after the extended summer break.

Naturally, as a parent you want to help your child settle back into school as seamlessly as possible, but it can often be hard to know where to start. So, we've asked the experts- primary and secondary school teachers – for their top tips.

Get kids involved in the organisation process

Being organised for school isn't a parent-only activity. Involve your kids as fully as practical in the process. By doing this, you will be encouraging them to take responsibility for and ownership of their schooling, not to mention reducing your workload.

Specific tasks include:

- preparing their uniform for each day
- packing their school bag
- helping organise their lunch
- ensuring they have the correct school resources for each day

Use positive language

It's critical to use positive language when discussing school because children who hear their parents discuss education in a negative way typically model that behaviour. This is especially important in the first few weeks back. Sharing your own positive school memories is an authentic and relatable way to do this.

Add a personal touch

If your child is struggling being away from you, consider giving them a bit of you to take with them can help the transition. Whether it's a personal item of yours that they carry with them, or even a positive note that you leave in their lunchbox, a personal touch is a helpful way for your child to stay connected with you throughout the school day. It's a great reminder that it will be okay.

Trust and communicate with your child's teacher

Trust your child's teachers as they have their best interest at heart and know children well! Couple this trust with regular communication, which is particularly helpful at the start of the year when back to school worries are identified and addressed. Continue this communication throughout the years, especially if any issues or concerns arise.

It may be beneficial to arrange a meeting between you, the previous teacher and the current teacher to enable a smooth transition, particularly if problems emerge. It's a team effort, so working together is key.

Talk about how they are feeling

It is important to discuss with your child how they are feeling about being back at school. So be prepared to listen and be guided by your child's responses.

Avoid shutting them down if they are feeling unsettled, nervous or scared and validate their emotions and work through them. This is especially important with the added complexity of the pandemic. Ensure you offer problem solving advice about what they can control, such as washing their hands regularly, or wearing a mask if this is a school requirement. Provide some time after school for your kids to talk with you about their day. This also provides an opportunity for them to decompress.

Maintain a consistent routine at home

Moving from holiday mode into a more structured school mode is one of the biggest struggles for many kids. One way to reduce the impact of this transition is the maintenance of consistent routines at home over the weekends, especially in the first term.

Some specific ways include:

- Regular reading
- Limiting screen time
- Keeping mealtimes and bedtimes consistent

Using a visual 'back to school' schedule board or weekly planner can also assist in reminding kids what is coming up each week.

Limit after school activities in Term 1

As kids readjust to being back at school, they will probably be tired. So, limiting after school activities such as sport and music, at least in the first term, helps them maintain a sense of balance.

Avoid overloading the weekends with activities so they can really use that time to relax and prepare for the week ahead.

In closing

It is normal for every child to settle back into school differently. Some kids will be excited, and some may feel unmotivated or even anxious.

As parents, there is a variety of ways you can support your child as they transition back into the school routine. A critical first step is to work with your child and their teachers as a team and to keep those lines of communication open. This will also be beneficial throughout the school year as well, especially if any issues arise.



Shona Hendley

Shona Hendley is a freelance writer and a former secondary school teacher. Her work appears in Kidspot, ABC Everyday, The Guardian, Body + Soul, and News.com.au amongst others. Shona currently lives in regional Victoria with her family, including husband, two daughters, two cats, and three super cheeky goats. You can follow her on [Instagram](#).



Airport West Swimming Academy
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Learn to Swim - it's safer than a ten-foot fence.

Children are products of their environment. Love, consistency, persistence, patience, encouragement and assurance are tools for a successful life style.

Don't allow media fears and propaganda to stop your child from learning life saving skills; we can still feel Joy in our hearts while our world is falling apart. Our children need to be lifted regardless of the reason or the season. We live in a world that's full of challenges Good, Bad and Evil.

Hope is what we strive for. Move away from negative energy.

Learn to embrace positive tools for your growth from successful people, those with good values and genuine love for mankind. Learn as much as you can and remember to be kind to others and yourself. If you fall, get up and start again, instead of being wretched.

A positive mind-set will always bring you and your child/children through all trials, difficulties, pain and trauma.

In the past we have preached, "Learning to swim is safer than a ten-foot fence", today we reinforce the campaign with 'don't give up hope, keep pressing on'. Learning to swim is safer then staying at home.

Parenting has never been more difficult than what it is today; the role you play as a responsible parent in your child's life is crucial for their safety, well-being and success. You can choose to shield and lock them up allowing fear to cripple their inner being or bring them through the wilderness positively.

All indoor and outdoor sporting activities are absolutely crucial for our children to grow strong, active and healthy with a positive attitude. ***Learning to swim is a life saving insurance.*** Physical fitness, nourishing foods, good sleep and positive parenting are tips to a healthy life style.

Do not procrastinate; Learn to swim at the Airport West Swimming Academy.

Super Special! All new bookings will receive **50% off the first 2 lessons**

Do not procrastinate; Call or Text NOW!!! **Ph 0413 180 046.**

Thank you for your undivided attention.
Mel and Mary Anne de Cotta

KEILOR PARK SOCCER CLUB

LITTLE EAGLES SEMESTER 1



GIRLS & BOYS | FEB 12TH - JUN 11TH



Keilor Park Soccer Club welcomes expressions of interest from boys and girls for Semester 1 of the 2022 Little Eagles program. We have excellent updated facilities, and exciting things planned – including a revised soccer program and experienced coaching team to develop our Little Eagles into Senior Keilor Park players.

Soccer is a great social and physical activity to get back into sport to start off the new year.

If your little ones are excited to expand their skills or keen to start their soccer journey, this is the time, all are welcome! First session is FREE!

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
REGISTER**



or send us an email with your details at info@KeilorParkSoccerClub.com.au

