Dear St Paul’s Community,

BE SAFE, BE RESPONSIBLE BE RESPECTFUL

Thank you to the Parents and Friends for organizing the School Disco last Friday. It was a great event with a fantastic atmosphere. Well done to Barney Brennan who finishes his time as P & F President and congratulations to our new President, Belinda Mawby. A secretary for the group is still required.

NAPLAN Results: This week the 2014 NAPLAN Results were published on the MySchools Website. The good news story is that St Paul’s Catholic Primary school made the list of 200 schools across Australia that made significant improvement in their results. This is a great achievement and is a credit to the dedication of the community to improve student learning.

Annual General Meeting School Board. This Wednesday is the Annual General Meeting of the School Board at 7pm in the staffroom.

Our big Harmony Day Celebration is only 10 days away. This will be a great event on the school community. Please let the school know if you are attending so we can organize the correct number of tables and chairs.

Last week I was away from school attending the Australian Catholic Primary Principal’s Association meeting in Canberra. A number of key topics were discussed at a National level including the increase of students with disabilities in Catholic schools, changes to the Australian Curriculum and Principal Well Being. The trip included a meeting at Parliament House with Senator Bridgett McKenzie and Minister Christopher Pyne’s chief advisor.

In this Newsletter you will find a very interesting article on lateness and absenteeism. There is also a reminder of the school starting time.

Some things to draw to your attention:

Swimming Carnival: Friday March 20. For new families this takes place at Casuarina Pool. It does finish early and students are allowed to leave at the end of the carnival. For those students still requiring care, they are returned to school and supervised by teachers. Lots of parent volunteers are needed on the day to help. More details to follow.

Harmony Day Dinner March 21 and Mass 6pm. We are hoping to make this one of the major events for the school this year. It is about Harmony, so it is about sharing and we are asking families to bring something to share to eat. There is such a large range of cultural groups in the school so the meal could be an amazing feast. There will be a minimal cost to cover ice, cutlery etc. If any families are interested in performing a traditional dance or act, please let the school know.

God bless
Anthony

Facebook Page
St Paul's Catholic Primary School Nightcliff NT
YouTube Channel
StPaulsCatholicPrimarySchoolNightcliff
See the link on the Facebook page
The Reconciliation Retreat is next week on Thursday 19th March at St Paul’s Church. It begins at 4:30pm.

**Harmony Day Saturday 21st March.**
You are all invited to attend Mass at 6.00 pm to be celebrated by Bishop Eugene Hurley. Traditional costume encouraged. The Harmony Day dinner will take place after the Mass.

**Choosing food for life**

The Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes ‘Manage Your Income, Manage Your Life’ program (supported by Caritas Australia) is helping First Australians, like Karen, to take control of their money, and choose and prepare nutritious food to ensure a healthier future for their families.

Your donation to Project Compassion 2015 helps First Australians in remote communities gain the skills to make healthier food choices, building a better future for their families.

**BOOK CLUB closes 19th March**

**Term 1 Calendar, 2015**

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<th>Week</th>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>3rd Sunday Lent</td>
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<td>7pm School Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>4th Sunday Lent</td>
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<td>20 Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>7pm Reconciliation Mass</td>
<td>Basket Ball Cluster</td>
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<td>March/April</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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<td>End of Term 1</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
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*Week 7: Swimming Program, 3rd Sunday Lent*  
*Week 8: Swimming Program, 4th Sunday Lent*  
*Week 9: 23, St Patrick’s Day*  
*Week 10: 30, 31, 10am Palm Sunday Liturgy ILC*  
*Week 1, Term 2: 13, Term 2 commences*
Parents and the Home Environment they create are the single most important factor in shaping their children’s achievements and prospects. Research has shown that in order to raise achievement, parents need to be both involved in schools and engaged in learning (Harris and Goodall; 2007).

What difference can I make to my child’s learning? Parents, families and carers are some of the most important influences on a child’s education. When parents and carers are engaged in their child’s education, the child is more likely to attend school and do better.

Research conducted in 2012 by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth on behalf of the Family-School and Community Partnerships Bureau confirms that high levels of parent and community engagement have a major impact on a child’s success at school.

Parent engagement is important. It is a powerful way to improve the educational achievement of a child and it works no matter what background a parent has.

Many studies have found that students with engaged parents, no matter what their income or background is, were more likely to:

- Get higher grades and test scores, and enrol in higher-level programs
- Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills, show improved behaviour, and adapt well to school
- Graduate and go on to postsecondary education.

Did you know?
One of the most important factors for improving the educational outcomes of a child, regardless of their family’s socio-economic background, is parent engagement.


**SWIMMING LESSONS 9th—19th March**

**PLEASE NOTE:**
The bus will pick students up on Francis Street between the car park exit and the gate nearest the school crossing. This area will be marked with cones throughout the program to allow for the safe collection of our students. We greatly appreciate your co-operation by not parking in this area during this time.

Please use the car park.

**Swimming Gear**
We ask that parents and children double check that you have all your clothing required for the day. Please make sure that you have your school uniform and under- wear also!!

**TENNIS**
Taj Cannard was invited to Parliament House today to have a hit of tennis with Todd Woodbridge and The Chief Minister!!! Taj was very excited to hear the news that Darwin will host the Davis Cup. Watch the news tonight for our young star!

**OSHC & ELC**
We will be changing our software for accounting purposes for both Centres. The OSHC will commence next week followed by ELC. There may be some delays and we ask for your patience in this area. Only current balances will be transferred across and trust that this will not be too inconvenient for our families.
NETBALL CLUSTER WRAP UP
Last Friday saw 23 eager Netball players head down to Marrara for some great competitive matches against other local schools. The weather was extremely hot, and players did well to complete their matches before heading to the School Disco. Division 1 finished 3rd, Div 2 teams came 3rd and 4th overall. Well done to all students and parent helpers on their efforts.

BASKETBALL CLUSTER DAY FRIDAY 27th
The Basketball Cluster Day is being played on Friday 27th March, from 8.30am-2pm, at Marrara Basketball Stadium. Notes will go home later this week.

SWIMMING CARNIVALS
The Swimming Carnivals are being held at Casuarina Pool on Friday 20th March, Wk.8. The Swimming Carnival Day is a fantastic opportunity for all students to complete water activities and show their skills after the St Paul's Swimming Program, which runs during weeks 7 & 8. Many parent helpers are needed at the Lower Carnival (T-2) and Upper Carnival (3-6). If you are able to help out please email Miss Mohr ab.mohr@nt.catholic.edu.au or contact your class teacher.

CROSS COUNTRY EVENT 2015
This year there will be a change in the format of the Primary Cross Country Event. More information will follow.

CRICKET CLUSTER DAY- Friday 13th March.
The Cricket Cluster Day is on this Friday 13/3/15. All students are to be dropped at the Top End Indoor Sports Centre, Bishop St, Winelie by 8.30am. Students need water bottles and food for the day. They also need to bring an extra shirt as Cluster Shirts will be collected at the end of the event. Students must be collected at 2pm.

TERM 1 CLUSTER DATES
Week 7 – CRICKET – Friday 13th March
Week 9 – BASKETBALL – Friday 27th March

TERM 1 SPORTS CALENDAR
Wk.7 – Swimming Program (Mon-Thu)  
CRICKET CLUSTER DAY  
Friday 13th March
Rugby trials: Tue 24, Wed25, Thu26 March  
Wk.8 – Swimming Program (Mon-Thu)  
SWIMMING CARNIVAL  
Friday 20th March  
Wk.9 – BASKETBALL CLUSTER DAY  
Friday 27/3/15  
Basketball trials: Fri 27, Mon30, Tue31 Mar

TERM 2 SPORTS CALENDAR
Wk.1 - Soccer Cluster Day Friday 17th Apr
Wk.2 - Tennis Cluster Day Friday 24th Apr
Wk.3 - Golf Cluster Day (invite only)
Wk.4 – Cross Country, Thursday 7th May
Wk.5 – Cross Country, Wednesday 13 May

SWIMMING PROGRAM
The Swimming Program begins on Monday 9th March at Nightcliff Pool and runs during week 7 & 8 of Term 1. Students swim from Monday to Thursday of both weeks, ending with the Swimming Carnival on Friday 20th March.

Students will need their bathers, rashie/sunsmart shirt, towel, thongs/sandals to wear to and from the pool, and goggles (optional). Class teachers will inform students of any changes to their recess and lunch routines for the duration of the Swimming Program.

CLASSES Depart LESSON
Tran S & Tran J 8.30 8.45-9.30
1/2M & 1/2B 9.15 9.30-10.15
1/2NJ & 1/2MrC 10.00 10.15-11.00
3/4L & 3/4T 11.15 11.30-12.15
3/4M & 5/6P 12.00 12.15 -1.00
5/6V & 5/6W 12.45 1.00-1.45

Parent Helpers on Swimming Bus
To satisfy ratio requirements extra supervision is required on the bus travelling to the swimming pool. If you can spare some time during swimming lessons to travel on the bus with your child’s class, watch their lesson, and then return to school on the bus, please let your child’s Class Teacher know as soon as possible.
Thank you for your assistance.
Reminder St Paul’s School Times
1st Bell 8.00am (Put bags outside classroom and sort recess and lunch boxes)
2nd Bell 8.15am (Lined up and ready to start)
3rd Bell 8.18am (Formal schooling commences)

Absenteeism and Latecomers

How many days will your child miss this Semester. (Half a Year.)

0 – 6 days
This is within normal range. A child with this attendance rate is able to take full advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities available to them.

7 – 10 days
This attendance rate is below average. A child with this attendance rate could miss over one year of schooling between reception and year 10.

11 – 20 days
This is a poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss out on up to two years of schooling between reception and year 10.

20+ days
This is a very poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss over two and a half years of schooling between reception and year 10.

Remember
Students need to attend school regularly to make the most of educational opportunities. There is a direct link between school attendance and achievement in later life. Poor patterns of attendance in the early years lead to poor attendance throughout the school years.

When young people are in school every day, they are safer and less likely to be victims of crime or become involved in crime.

Latecomers
A student who comes fifteen minutes late for school everyday is missing more than you think.

15 minutes per day adds to 1 hour 15 per week. If we take this out of the Numeracy block where classes generally teach five hours per week, by the end of the year the student has nearly missed one term worth of Maths. Can your student afford to lose this?
The same things add up if we consider this as a literacy block where classes generally have ten hours per week. The percentage is halved, but it still adds up to a student missing nearly half a term of literacy. Lateness adds up quickly!!
A Message from St Paul’s Parents and Friends Committee

A huge thank you to everybody who helped out to make the school disco and family night a wonderful success. It was great to see so many families enjoying the night and I am sure there were plenty of tired children the next day.

A special mention to Knight Frank for donating the steaks for the BBQ and Natasha Fyles for her continued support of St. Paul’s P & F Committee.

The night raised approx. $2,000 for the school and is a great start to the years fundraising activities. Our next event will be the Stall at the annual Swimming Carnival on Friday 20th March. The Year 1/2 classes will be providing the yummy treats for purchase at the Stall as well as helping to serve the hungry swimmers.

The AGM was also held on the disco night and a new committee was formed.

Chairperson Belinda Mawby
Assistant Chairperson Volunteer please
Treasurer Kristine Evans
Assistant Treasurer Kerrin Knight
Secretary Volunteer please

If anyone is interested in the vacant positions please contact the office and Julia will put you in contact with Belinda. See you all pool side.
You are invited to the
St Paul’s Catholic Primary School and Parish
First Annual Harmony Day Dinner
March 21
After 6 P.M. Mass (Around 6:45) in the school.
Where: St Paul’s Catholic Primary School
Cnr Trower Rd and Francis St Nightcliff
RSVP: 13th March 2015
Return form or email
admin.stpauls@nt.catholic.edu.au
What to Bring:
Donation: $2 per person to cover costs
Something to share for the meal
(all food will be put on a central table for everyone to share.)
Drinks — alcohol permitted

Return Slip

I/W e will be attending the Harmony Day Dinner Name _______________

How many people? _______________

I/W e are bringing a main/dessert — please circle one

I can help with set up of tables at 3pm Yes/No

I am interested in providing some sort of cultural entertainment — Yes/no (dance/song/act)