Dear St Paul’s Community,

**BE SAFE, BE RESPONSIBLE BE RESPECTFUL**

Well done to Henshke (Red team) for their success at the Swimming Carnival. It was great to see the students really enjoying the day and participating in good spirit. Congratulations also to Chevalier (Blue team) on winning the Spirit trophy. A big thank you to Miss Mohr for her organisation and the many, many parents and volunteers who helped out carrying equipment, cooking sausages, selling cakes, organizing ribbons and children. It is a real community event and one that really shines a light on St Paul’s.

On the weekend we had another community event with our Harmony Day Dinner. What a night and what a feast. Approximately 300-350 people attended. Thank you to all who came, brought some food, sang and danced. Thank you to Miss Michelle who did a lot of the organisation for this event.

**Staffing News:** We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new teacher for Transition ~ Orla Kitt ~ who will be joining us at the beginning of Term 2. Orla is from Ireland and has taught in Galway, Dublin and Melbourne. She has worked as a classroom teacher and as a resource teacher for students with special needs. She is passionate about music, enjoys playing the guitar and is also involved in sport. We welcome Orla to our school community.

Some things to draw to your attention:

**Easter Hat Parade:** Next Wednesday the school is having it’s annual Easter Hat Parade. Students make an Easter hat decorated with an Easter theme. The best hat in each class wins a prize.

**SCHOOL FEES**

A reminder if you wish to receive the 5% discount on your school fees they must be paid in full by Thursday 3rd April.

Back to School Vouchers must also be redeemed by that date. Please check with the office if you have not yet used your voucher or need to use the balance of the voucher.
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)

An article from The Age newspaper.

**Balance of cognitive, social and emotional skills needed to succeed**

My father raised me to be contemptuous of fashion in all its forms, and I try not to be overawed by the rich and powerful. But, like my mum, there's one thing I am impressed by: brains.

My job brings me into regular contact with the econocrats at the top of the Reserve Bank, Treasury and other departments. Let me tell you, they're the brightest of the bright. I have to keep telling myself this as I struggle to keep up with them. All of them could hold down jobs as professors, or earn a lot more money in business.

These days, most have PhDs - though it's disturbing that, so far in his time as Prime Minister, Tony Abbott has relinquished the services of five economist department secretaries: Dr Martin Parkinson, Dr Don Russell, Blair Comley, Dr Ian Watt and now Dr Paul Grimes. Not sure we have *that* many brains to spare.

In recent years, however, I've realised that being super-bright ain't enough. To be really successful you also need "people skills". I've decided an extra unit of EQ - emotional intelligence - is worth a lot more than an extra unit of IQ. And if a genie appears from a bottle, that's what I'll ask for.

Most of our politicians have heard that the development of children's brains is hugely significant in influencing their success throughout the rest of their lives. Hence governments’ increasing attention to early childhood education and care.

What people may not realise is that brain development doesn't matter just because of its effect on kids' intellect. As a news report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *The Power of Social and Emotional Skills*, makes clear, it matters also for children's social development.

We don't need telling about the importance of "cognitive" skills. These days, governments conduct periodic tests of children's literacy, numeracy and scientific literacy as they progress through the school system.

They make the results available directly to parents, but also put them on websites so the whole world can compare the academic performance of particular schools. Teachers object that good teaching involves a lot more than the three Rs and that the emphasis on competition via "metrics" encourages schools to "teach to the test" and spend much time drilling for coming tests.

The OECD's PISA exercise now compares our cognitive tests with those undertaken in other countries, so that every year or so we agonise because we've slipped back in the international comp on this cognitive measure or that.

The point of this latest report is to agree with the teachers: there is a lot more to the adequate development of our kids than just nurturing their IQs. It finds that children and adolescents need a balanced set of cognitive and social and emotional skills in order to succeed in modern life.

Cognitive skills - as measured by achievement tests and academic grades - have been show to influence the likelihood of individuals' success in education and the jobs market. They also predict broader outcomes such as our self-perceived health, social and political participation, and trust.

But social and emotional skills - such as perseverance, sociability and self-esteem - have been shown to influence numerous measures of social outcomes, including better health, improved subjective wellbeing (aka happiness) and reduced odds of anti-social behaviour.

If that doesn't impress you, try this: cognitive skills and social and emotional skills interact and cross-fertilise each other, empowering children to succeed both in school and out of school. For instance, social and emotional skills may help children translate intentions into actions, and thereby improve their likelihood of graduating from university, sticking to healthy lifestyles and avoiding aggressive behaviours, the report says.

For children who are talented, motivated, goal-driven and collegial, and thus more likely to weather the storms of life, cognitive skills aren't enough. They need to be combined with social and emotional skills, which include conscientiousness and emotional stability.

The report stresses that "skills beget skills". They build on each other, and the earlier kids start acquiring them and the firmer their foundation the more skills are gained and the better the kids do in life.

You may say that children from "good" homes will acquire social skills from their parents without any fuss. That's fairly true and it's why, apart from making attendance at preschool universal, early intervention programs are best targeted at disadvantaged families, offering parents training and mentoring.

But though an early start is best, children's acquired skills remain malleable through adolescence. Programs aimed at older children emphasise teachers' professional development. Among adolescents, mentoring seems to work well, while hands-on experiences in the workplace can instil skills such as teamwork, self-efficacy (strong belief in your ability to reach goals) and motivation.

Improvements in social skills don't necessarily require major reforms or resources but can be incorporated into existing curricular and extracurricular activities, the report says. A lot of social and emotional skills can be gained from sport, arts clubs, student councils and voluntary work.

The report finds that recent developments allow us to measure social and emotional skills reliably within a particular culture and language. I reckon that as long as we retain our obsession with measuring and comparing academic performance we need to balance this with regular measurement of progress in acquiring social skills.

Surely our econocrats are bright enough to see that.
**St Paul’s Parish**
**Trower Rd, Nightcliff**

**Mass Times:**
- Saturday Mass: 6.00pm (Vigil)
- Sunday Mass: 8.30am and 6.00pm
- 1st Sunday of the month: 10.00am
- Syro-Malabar Mass: Last Sunday of month: 8.30am
- Children’s Mass

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**HOLY WEEK 30th March ~ 2nd April**

Monday ~ Liturgy 10am Yr 1/2 ~ Palm Sunday
Thursday ~ Assembly Yrs 3—6 The Last Supper to the Crucifixion.

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**Palm Sunday 29th March**
8.30 Ecumenical blessing of the palms followed by mass.
Fr Roy is looking forward to seeing you all on this special occasion.

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**Easter hat/bonnet parade**
Parents start thinking about your creative ideas for this parade which will take place on Wednesday 1st April.

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**Term 1 Calendar, 2015**

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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>26 7pm Celebration of First Reconciliation</td>
<td>27 Basketball Cluster</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>2 Assembly Holy Week End of Term 1</td>
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<td>10am Palm Sunday Liturgy ILC</td>
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**WANTED!**
Donations of unwanted Lego (girl or boy Lego) and Matchbox Cars or Toy Trucks for use at lunchtime for students to play with.

**Sewing Group**
We would like to set up a sewing group and would appreciate donations of needles, pins, cotton, fabric and anything sewing related.
Please send any donations to Miss Sally in Transition or leave at the Front Office.
Many Thanks ~ Wellbeing Team

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**Easter Fun Day**
Next Wednesday, in addition to the Easter Hat Parade, the SRC are organising some fun Easter activities to celebrate Easter and raise some money for Project Compassion. During the day, the students will have an opportunity to participate in activities such as:
- How Many Easter Eggs in the Jar?? – Guessing competition
- Colouring-in Competition
- Egg and Spoon Race
- Easter Raffle
Each activity will cost 50 cents to participate in, with all proceeds going to Project Compassion. So don’t forget your money and come along for some fun and support a great cause!
Miss Tessa & The SRC
Sports News

**BASKETBALL CLUSTER DAY FRIDAY 27TH**
The Basketball Cluster Day is being held this Friday 27th March, from 8.30am-2pm, at Marrara Basketball Stadium. Students will be given their Cluster Shirts this Thursday.

**COMPETITIONS IN PE**
During PE we have been running a number of competitions for all students to participate in. Results will be announced next week for the Paper Plane, AFL Kicking, and Tennis Rally Competitions.

**AFL FOOTY PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS**
For information regarding Auskick and Thunder Juniors programs for boys and girls of primary school age, please go to [www.thunderjuniors.aflnt.com.au](http://www.thunderjuniors.aflnt.com.au) or contact Shay Warburten (08) 89804817.

**Thunder Juniors Tigers Training** begins Tuesday 31st March, 5-6pm, Millner School Oval. 1st Round starts 17th April, 2015. Under 9s: at 6pm. Under 11s: at 7pm.

**Auskick** for boys and girls approximately 8yrs and under will be run at various venues and on different days around Darwin. Head to the AFLNT website aflauskick.com.au/ for links and more information.

**BASEBALL FOR ALL AGES**
A fantastic baseball program is being run at St Paul’s Catholic Primary School next term. This will involve T-Ball for students 8yrs and younger, and Rookie Ball for students 9yrs and older. The programs are **FREE** and will be held from 3.15 each **FRIDAY** of Term 2.

A flyer will be sent home next week.

**TERM 1 CLUSTER DATES**
Week 9 – BASKETBALL – Friday 27th March

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**TERM 1 SPORTS CALENDAR**
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

Tennis Cluster notes and Soccer Cluster notes have been handed out this week.
The Tennis Cluster in Week 2 is only for students who play competition tennis, can score and are able to be supervised on the day by their parents. There is a Hot Shots day later in the year for other players.

**Congratulations Henschke**
Harvesting food for life

5th Week of Lent
Project Compassion:

Cristian from Peru

Cristian’s community in rural Peru has always lived a traditional life, with simple diets and crops dependent on rainfall. Until recently, 33-year-old Cristian had to travel one kilometre to access running water. With the help of Caritas Huacho, Cristian and 14 other young farmers have introduced running water and irrigation to their remote Andean village. They now grow and harvest a wide variety of high-value, sustainable crops, which provide them all with a secure income and a wide variety of food.

Your donation to Project Compassion 2015 helps farmers in Peru secure a food source and income that benefits their families and communities for life.

Next term, on the 10 June, the students in 3/4 will be travelling to the Darwin Entertainment Center to watch the stage production of the much loved story, The 26-Storey Treehouse. Thanks to a joint initiative by the Entertainment Center and Buslink, St Paul’s has been able to secure a free bus transfer to and from the event. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting excursion. Thanks again to The Entertainment Center and Buslink.

BREAKING NEWS
The wait is over!!
The Curried Chicken is back
$4.50
Available Thursdays only
Long Term Dates for the School.

April 17  Soccer Cluster
April 21  Cybersafety Parent Presentation
         6pm
April 24  Tennis Cluster
April 27  Golf Cluster
May  7   School Photos
May  8   Mothers’ Day Liturgy
June 13  First Communion
July 20  School Closure Day – Teacher Professional Development.
July 27  Grandparent’s Liturgy
July 30  Australian Maths Competition.
August 27  School Concert
August 28  School Closure Day Teacher’s Professional Development
September 4  Fathers’ Day Breakfast
September 9-11 5/6 School Camp
September 19  Confirmation
December 3  Carol’s Night
VACATION CARE – Holidays April 2015

Family Name:

Child/ren’s Name

1: D.O.B
2: D.O.B
3: D.O.B

Parent Contact Details

Parent 1 – Name:
Mob:

Parent 2 – Name:
Mob:

Emergency contact name:
Mob:

Please circle days required OR circle All Days/Fulltime

Tuesday 7/4  Wednesday 8/4  Thursday 9/4  Friday 10/4

I………………………………………………………………………………………….………give permission for my

child/ren…………………………………………………………………………………………... to participate in the experiences and excursions as outlined in the Vacation Care Program. I understand that my child/ren will be walking, using the public bus service and/or private bus service as modes of transport to the listed excursions. I understand that ‘PG’ rated movies may be chosen if a ‘G’ rated movie is unavailable during that time. I understand that my child/ren must behave in accordance with school rules and in a manner becoming to students who attend St Paul’s Catholic Primary School. I agree to pay for the care required in advance. Bookings without payment will not be accepted. Fees $60 per child per day or $250 per child per week.

Parent/Carer Name:………………………………………………………………

Signature:…………………………………………………………………………

Date:……………………