MARCH

Sunday 18th  First Eucharist
Tuesday 20th  Hot Lunch Order Envelopes Due
Wednesday 21st  Easter Raffle tickets to be returned to the school
Friday 23rd  Hot Lunch Order Day
Tuesday 27th  Easter Raffle Draw
Thursday 29th  Easter Liturgy—9.15am in the Josephite Centre. End of Term 1 @ 1pm.
Friday 30th  Good Friday

APRIL

Sunday 1st  Easter. Day Light Savings Time ends—turn back the clock.
Monday 2nd  Easter Monday  Public Holiday
Tuesday 3rd  Easter Tuesday
Monday 16th  Term 2 Commences 8.45am
Wednesday 18th-20th  Grade 5/6 Camp Coolamatong, Paynesville
Friday 20th  Out of Dough Lunch Orders
Tuesday 24th  P&F Hot lunch orders due. ANZAC DAY Liturgy 9.15am. Grade 6 Lavalla Transition Day
Wednesday 25th  Anzac Day—Public holiday
Thursday 26th  School Board Meeting 6pm
Friday 27th  Casual Cloths Day—Donation for the Mother’s Day Stall. P&F Hot Lunch Order Day. Commencement of Catholic Education Week 27th April—4th May
Dear Parents, Guardians & Friends,

Welcome to Fr James

Our new Parish Priest, Fr James Fernandez, has joined the Sacred Heart community. He comes to us from the parish of Cranbourne. Please join me in welcoming Fr James as we wish him all the best on his new journey here with us at Sacred Heart.

P&F Meeting

Our recently held P&F AGM was a very apt opportunity to reflect on the successes of the previous year and to re-elect our P&F Executive and Non-Executive members. Hence we congratulate:
- President – Lucia Macarang. Vice President – Jodie Gallicchio. Secretary – Brooke Sennett

Sacred Heart’s Parents and Friends’ Association has been established to enrich the education and learning of our children through active participation of parents and staff as partners in education. In particular, they provide support for the school in areas such as:
  - Social functions
  - Maintenance of grounds, buildings and equipment
  - Fundraising for particular needs in the school
  - Volunteer support for educational programs.

The P&F Association is a dynamic and supportive group that works with the school in identifying and supporting projects that lend themselves to betterment of facilities and provision of experiences for all students. They help raise much needed funds for the school through various fundraising activities, whilst maintaining a strong community focus. Their work involves the pastoral care of the Sacred Heart community through promoting the values of the school, welcoming and supporting new families and building networks where together we connect and support each other.

Meetings are held every second Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm and all families are most welcome to attend.

School Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday February 22 saw the first meeting of the School Advisory Board for 2018. The primary function of the Board is to improve the capacity of Sacred Heart as a Catholic school in order to deliver quality educational outcomes for its students. As an advisory forum to the Principal, it provides input on matters around educational, pastoral and financial matters as well as project development and facility management. School Advisory Board Members generally meet 8 times a year on a Thursday, but may also be called together at other times when specific projects or issues are being discerned. The role of the School Advisory Board is very much one of support, stewardship and collective representation in working for the best interests of the school and its student body.

Raising Queries or Concerns

If parents have any concerns about their child’s welfare or progress at any time, the first point of contact should be their child’s teacher. Parents are asked to make an appointment to see their child’s teacher and outline to that teacher what the appointment is about. It is inappropriate for parents to approach teachers close to class time to discuss important concerns. Parents are welcome to telephone, send an email or note to the teacher. Teachers are not available during class time, but a message can be left at the School Office. Teachers are not available for interviews with parents on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as they are required to attend Staff Meetings.

Volunteers in Schools

As many families would be aware, it is now a requirement for schools to ensure certain processes and procedures in relation to child safety are followed. Creating child-safe school environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by schools, families and their communities. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across policies, procedures, curriculum and practices. The new standards assist us to make all people accountable and provide for a strong and safe culture for our children.

As a result of the Victorian Child Safe Standards, schools are required to undergo screening and monitoring of volunteers. This is something which may be new to some parents as volunteers. Ultimately, this is about taking every step we can in the provision of a learning environment that is safe for our students.

Under the Child Safe Standards, school staff now includes an individual working in a school environment who is … a volunteer. This means that the stringent checking of referees, work history and so on that applies to the employment of staff in schools, also now applies to schools in relation to the engagement of volunteers who are involved in child-connected work. Given these expectations, schools are continuing to implement a process of transition. Work in this space continues to take place as we strengthen our commitment to child safety and will be articulated to the broader school community as we further embed what and how we enhance.

Presently, volunteers must comply with the following minimum requirements:
- Working with Children Check
- Read and signed the school’s Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Sign in/sign out at the Front Office

Staff News

I wish to advise that Kasey Burrell and her husband, Daniel are expecting their first child in August. Kasey will be taking maternity leave near the arrival of their child. We are currently looking at all options on the best way to replace Kasey so there is a minimum of impact on her and other grades in the school. When a clear strategy has been created, I will make sure that all families are notified.

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