Dear parents, friends and Father Simon,

Staff returned 2 days earlier than students last week, engaging in a series of meetings and professional development centred on ‘inquiry’ learning. This is the first of four days that staff have each year provided for within school provisions. Further Professional Development is planned for the year including the areas of Technology (21/3 TBC), Spelling (TBC 18/3) and Religious Education (22/4).

Two new staff members were appointed (as teacher aides) just before the end of the year as additional funding became available. We welcome Kasey Leder (5/6N) and Kiara Wynn (2JS) to our school for the 2016 school year.

Our school is working with a ‘Family / schools partnership’ coordinator by the name of Tony Dalton. We are improving the way we interact with families and the community. Part of this work sees Tony leading groups of parents on ‘Learning Walks’ around the school. The first occurred late last year when some of our new prep parents witnessed the school in operation. We are aiming to do more. If you would like to join in please don’t hesitate to let your child’s teacher or me know.

I would like to extend an invitation to all families to join us for mass next Wednesday. Our school will travel to Monbulk to celebrate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our school year. Mass will begin at 10am. Everyone is very welcome. We should have room on the buses. If you would like to travel with us, just let me know.

Have a great week,

Duncan Arendse
Principal
An important notice for grade 4–6 families from Apple

Apple charger recall – this has been taken from the ‘Apple’ website:

“Apple has determined that, in very rare cases, the two prong Apple AC wall plug adapters designed for use in Continental Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Argentina and Brazil may break and create a risk of electrical shock if touched. These wall plug adapters shipped from 2003 to 2015 with Mac and certain iOS devices, and were also included in the Apple World Travel Adapter Kit.

Customer safety is always Apple's top priority, and we have voluntarily decided to exchange affected wall plug adapters with a new, redesigned adapter, free of charge. We encourage customers to exchange any affected parts using the process below.

Note: Other wall plug adapters, including those designed for Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, United Kingdom, and United States and Apple USB power adapters are not affected by this program..."

We have been advised that you are able to swap these over at the Apple Genius Bar or exchange by post. Please see the link below for instructions on how to do this, and also on how to identify if your charger is affected. The closest Genius Bar to Belgrave is at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre.


Regards, Michelle Turpin (ICT Leader)

Casserole Bank

Thank you to all who have already volunteered to help on the Casserole Bank this year. Your support is very much appreciated. A big thank you also to Jacinta Benne has kindly agreed to be the Casserole Bank coordinator this year. Jacinta will contact people by text or email to request a casserole when needed but with the number of volunteers this should be a couple of times a year or so.

If you have already volunteered:
If you have already put your name forward to cook (either via Facebook or directly to me), I will pass your phone number on to Jacinta. If you do not want your phone number passed on or would prefer email contact, please use the link below to supply your preferred email address.

Casserole Bank Volunteers (or http://goo.gl/forms/DRSLK8vaQ0)

Still want to volunteer??
If you haven’t already volunteered, it’s not too late! Please use the same link above to add your name and contact details to the list.

More information about the running of the Casserole Bank is also available on the above link (which you can read before deciding to volunteer or not).

Many thanks

Judy Smith

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

From time to time in any school, parents may have a concern or an issue about school life, which they need to resolve. The following steps outline the appropriate process to follow if you find yourself in this position.

STEP ONE

Speak to the class teacher or specialist teacher concerned about your issue or problems. (It is important to make an appointment so that teachers are not interrupted during valuable class time).

Simple matters can usually be sorted out at this level.

STEP TWO

If you are unable to find a satisfactory solution to your problem make an appointment to see the Deputy Principal or the Principal to discuss the matter further.

STEP THREE

If it is a serious matter, and you believe it still needs further attention, you can make an appointment to see the Parish Priest, who is the overall manager of the Parish Primary school.
**SCHOOL HOURS**

8.20am Yard Supervision Begins  
8.30am Classroom Open/Teacher in Room  
**8.40am** Children to be in classroom  
8.45am Lessons begin  
11.00am Recess  
11.30am Lessons resume  
12.55pm Children eat lunch in rooms  
1.05pm Lunch time  
2.00pm Lessons resume  
3.00pm Belgrave South bus leaves  
3.10pm Dismissal  
3.30pm Cockatoo Bus leaves  
3.30pm Yard Supervision ceases.

**Communication Methods**

1. Newsletter emailed every Thursday  
2. Classroom newsletter  
3. Schoolstream App (download from the app store)  
4. Instagram (download from the App Store & request to join “stmps16”). Contact the office if we do not accept your request. Usually it is because your username does not identify you by a name we recognise.  
5. P&F Facebook Page (befriend Communications P&F Member Toni Brockliss. To be added to STMPANDF

**Appointments with the principal**

I am always happy to meet with parents.  
If I am not available, please let the office staff know so they can make an appointment for you.  
Thank you,  
Duncan Arendse

**Coffee & Cuppa**

until 9.30am for Parents

Please pop into the Staffroom to share a cuppa with other parents.  
It is a great chance to catch up or meet other parents.

**Medical Report / Authorisation Form**

—**COMING HOME TODAY & to be RETURNED ASAP**

All students have been sent home with a ‘green copy’ of their Medical Report and over the page a Parental Authorisation Form.  
Families, please make any necessary changes to this document, sign on both sides (circle I DO / DO NOT) and return ASAP.

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**ACU—STUDENTS**

Australian Catholic University will be sending two students – 5/6N Sam Albert, P/1 Peri Stewart. Please make them feel welcome over the rest of the school term.

**Communication via Email**

One of the easiest ways to communicate with staff is via email. Last week we provided email addresses for all staff. Please be mindful that it may not always be possible to respond immediately, and any urgent matter should be phoned through.  
Staff will respond in an appropriate time frame. I have stressed this with staff and trust they will act professionally at all times in this matter. Thank you for your understanding.

**Candlemass**

Dear Parents,  
Candlemass is the time in our Church calendar when we celebrate the Presentation of Jesus and the Purification of His mother, Mary. Fr Simon warmly invites all families who have had a family member receive the Sacrament of Baptism, First Eucharist or Confirmation during the past year to attend Mass at one of our churches to receive a special blessing. Please bring your Baptism candle or a new candle with you.

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 6th February:**

- St. Joseph’s, Emerald 6.00 p.m.  
- Sunday morning Masses 7th February:  
  - Sacred Heart, Gembrook 9.00 a.m.  
  - St. Thomas More, Belgrave 9.00 a.m.  
  - St. Paul’s, Monbulk 11.00 a.m

With every prayer for God’s Grace and Blessing to be upon you,  
Andrew Milne,  
Sacramental Coordinator
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Welcome back!

We hope you have had a fantastic summer holiday and are looking forward to the exciting opportunities that 2016 will bring.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of familiar faces at After School Care and to welcoming lots of new faces as well.

Existing Families

Don't forget to manage your 2016 bookings.

Last year's bookings do not roll over so log on to the parent portal NOW to secure your bookings for 2016.

You can book for the entire term or year or even book specific dates.

New Families

Enrol online – allow 24 hours
Enrolling is quick and easy! Simply set up your own account online via the Parent Portal. Please note it is government regulation that all children must be enrolled BEFORE attending an Extend service. For information on operating hours and fees for your school, visit your After School Care venue or school website.

Enrol now, pay later
The annual enrolment fee per family of $20 is NOT payable until you first use the service. So why not enrol now so you can access the service later? It doesn't matter if you don't end up using the service, because you won't be charged.

Watch this space throughout the term for regular updates from our Extend team!

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au