



# **Upcoming Events**

## Primary Welcome Picnic

Date: Friday 17 February -Monday 30 November

Time: 5:00pm

## Shrove Tuesday

Date: Tuesday 21 February - Monday 30 November

# Parent & Friends Committee Meeting

Date: Monday 6 March -Monday 30 November Time: 6:30pm

#### Year 7 Retreat

Date: Thursday 30 March - Monday 30 November

#### Year 9 Retreat

Date: Friday 24 February - Monday 30 November

## Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Date: Monday 13 March -Monday 30 November

## Year 8 Camp

Date: Monday 6 March - Friday 10 March

# Year 6 Surf Day

Date: Tuesday 14 March -Monday 30 November

# NAPLAN online begins

Date: Wednesday 15 March - Friday 24 March

# Parents & Friends Committee Meeting

Date: Monday 3 April -Monday 30 November

Time: 6:30pm

## From the Principal



Dear Families and friends of St Paul's,

Welcome back to the 2023 academic year at St Paul's. As you may have seen or heard already our theme for the year is "Empowering Voices." In a Catholic College in the Edmund Rice tradition, this is not only important but an intrinsic characteristic we hold dear.

Our current College Strategic Plan (available on the College website HERE) has five strategic directions and one of these is Empowering Voices. The meaning of the two words themselves is important as they give a clear indication that all members of our extended community, parents, caregivers, students, staff, and old scholars should feel able, encouraged and empowered to make a positive contribution to this great community. Having been encouraged, it is our commitment that the voices will then be listened to. Through this commitment we will ensure that child protection, safeguarding and an excellent education are at the forefront of our work.

In a rapidly changing world, our students need to be able to express their understandings of what is important to them and to also be able to influence all things that have an impact on them. What is crucial for us collectively is to provide the Catholic, Edmund Rice Education values and lens through which the students can come to understand and enact what will make our College and our world a better place for all.

Many different and varied opportunities will be provided for everyone to ensure this theme is being actively lived out.

#### A Great Start to the Year.

We have begun this year with significant growth again, in both staff and student numbers. Our student population has exceeded one thousand for the first time in the College's history. With this increase has come the employment of another thirty new members of staff. The quality of staff has again already been evident, and they have all collectively brought great passion, skills and commitment to the vision of the College. We are here to enable every student with the very best opportunities to empower the students to fulfil their unique God-given potential through active participation in the community. This is so clear whenever we meet.

Our beginning of year Mass was nothing short of inspirational. With the COVID world denying us of many opportunity to gather together we were blessed to have all 1200 members of the community gathered in the gymnasium to celebrate the Eucharist together. We were blessed to have Fr Philip Marshall preside and his amazing ability to communicate with the very young, and the not-so-young was inspirational.

In addition to the Opening Mass we have held parent information sessions, a Yr 4 camp to AFL Max and our very beautiful Reception Rite of Passage / Welcome ceremony. This week our co-curricular program kicks off and our School Advisory Council meets to discuss our aims for the year and provide direction and challenge to the Leadership team of the College.

We encourage members of the community to make contact with us should you wish to join a committee such as the School Advisory Committee and Parents and Friends Committee. We are always on the look-out for people with lots of passion and energy!

2023 promises to be a very challenging but exciting and rewarding year for this great College. I encourage everyone to get involved in some way or another.

God bless.

Paul Belton

# **Opening Mass**



## **Primary News**



#### Dear Families,

A heartfelt welcome back to every one of our families and a special welcome to all our new families who have joined us this year. Our first day, in the Primary Years, was a great success with an extremely smooth beginning to the term for our staff and children. As expected, there were a few tears in the morning, from both children and parents in the Reception classes; however, these quickly dried up as the morning progressed and from day two, it's been happy days for all.

It has been such a long time since we have been able to welcome parents around our Primary space and it's been wonderful seeing them mingling, chatting and being with their children in their classrooms. We want to see more of it and invite parents and caregivers to volunteer as much as possible. Parent and community participation can contribute to the life of our college by building and strengthening family connection in so many positive ways. To become a volunteer, please contact Cindy Talladira, our Risk and Compliance Officer, for more details at ctalladira@stpauls.sa.edu.au. Cindy will be more than happy to help you.

Each week the children will be coming home using the language from Our Common Ground which is St Paul's staff, student and family commitment to developing Personal Responsibility. One of our goals in the Primary Years this term is to take a different aspect of Our Common Ground and break open our understanding in a meaningful and engaging way. This enables the students to make very clear connections between our expectations and commitment to our behaviour, which defines who we are at St Paul's. We take very seriously our development of personal responsibility by helping ourselves, and others, to always want to be a better person, each day! This week, our focus has been "Respect the College's Catholic ethos and all faith backgrounds". What a wonderful focus to begin our year, acknowledging the very essence of who we are — a welcoming, inclusive Catholic community.

This week we celebrated with our new Reception families their child's Rite of Passage and welcome into our community with a beautiful Liturgy led by Fr Mathew. Each child received a citrus plant as a symbol of nurturing. We pride ourselves in working together, in partnership with our families to nurture each child in helping them to grow into being the best version of themselves. Thank you to Miranda McGlaughlin, and the team around her, for organising such a wonderful event.

We are very excited and looking forward to seeing our Primary Years families at our upcoming Welcome Picnic. Families are invited to bring their own picnic, rug and/or chairs and mingle with other families. This event is scheduled to be held on Friday 17 February from

5pm - 7pm. Please feel free to pop in or stay for the whole time. In the event of poor weather the event will be rescheduled.

I am truly looking forward to another fantastic year and to further strengthening the already wonderful connection and partnership we have.

Until next fortnight, take care.

Marianne Loftus

Head of Primary Years



# Reception Rite of Welcome



On Wednesday afternoon the new Reception children were officially welcomed into the St Paul's College community during the Rite of Welcome celebration. Children, families and staff gathered for a welcome liturgy, during which each student was gifted a citrus plant. The plants are symbols of the academic, social and spiritual growth these young people will experience throughout their journey at St Paul's College.

Beginning Reception is an exciting journey, some of the highlights for our new students included:

Zac said that he loves drawing rainbows.

Vanessa said, "I love playing with the playdoh and going on the playground."

Sofia's favourite part of school so far was colouring and gluing things.

Lakey said she loves "making new friends and going to get the lunch orders with Ava."

Alicia said that she likes playing games and brushing her teeth before coming to school.

And Elijah wanted to tell me that he was learning, he also ate some grapes at lunchtime.

# **EREA College Captains Meeting**



It was a great moment this morning for our College Captains Brodie Richter and Anthony Yuel to gather with student leaders from fellow Edmund Rice Education Australia schools Rostrevor College and Christian Brother's College.

The meeting was an opportunity for these College Captains and Head Prefects to reflect on ideas, discern ways of sharing in the mission of EREA schools, and be together in solidarity.

There are more gatherings planned in the future to build on this excellent meeting today.

# Merit Ceremony at Government House



Today some of our 2022 graduates that achieved SACE Merit certificates attended a ceremony at Government House. Our students achieved merits in Accounting, Business Innovation, Modern History and the Research Project. This time next week, we will be further celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2022 at the St Paul's Academic Assembly. Congratulations to all involved.

Pictured are: Harsimrat, Shrey, Lucas, Jaskaran with Mr Muscat at Government House.

## 2025 Sibling Enrolments



We are currently accepting enrolment applications for 2025 entry. We invite current families to submit applications for any younger siblings planning to commence at St Paul's in 2025 and beyond. While we give priorty to siblings, it is important that we receive a completed application for each sibling a minimum of 2 years prior to commencement. Please click here to complete our online application form.

## Parents and Friends - All Welcome



The St Paul's Parents and Friends Committee is a friendly group who assist the college by building community for the benefit of all students.

We invite you to join us for our first meeting for 2023 on Monday 6 March at 6.00pm in the College staffroom where we will discuss plans for the year ahead.

To RSVP for the first meeting please email Tania at tstone@stpauls.sa.edu.au

Parents and Friends Meeting Schedule Meetings are held in the staffroom

#### Term 1

- Monday 6 March, 6:00pm
- Monday 3 April, 6:00pm

#### Term 2

- Monday 15 May, 6:00pm
- Monday 19 June, 6:00pm

#### Term 3

- Monday 7 August, 6:00pm
- Monday 11 September, 6:00pm

#### Term 4

- Monday 30 October, 6:00pm
- Monday 20 November, 6:00pm End of Year Celebration

We look forward to meeting you.

# Uniform Shop

The College Uniform Shop is on-site and operated by Midford.

Opening hours during school term are:

Tuesday 8am - 4pm

Wednesday 8am - 4pm

Thursday 8am - 4pm

Payment is by card only, no cash please or you can shop online.

Order online or to make an appointment if purchasing mutliple items please visit https://Midford.as.me/StPaulsCollege Midford website passphrase: Stpauls1958

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