Welcome back to all our students, families and staff. Special welcome to our new students and their families, along with new staff members, Antonella Chiodo – Educational Support Staff and Cate James – Office Management and Administration and Lynda O’Donnell – Principal. I am sure you will have received, as I have, a very warm welcome to the St Catherine’s School community.

I am so excited to be starting the year with you all and look forward to working with students, families and staff. If you haven’t already met me, please feel free to stop by the school office and introduce yourself.

The students have settled in quickly to the new school year and must be congratulated on their positive interactions with teachers and peers, as they learn new classroom routines and make new friendships. In the next few weeks, teachers will focus on getting to know your child, establishing expectations, routines, good learning behaviours and developing positive relationships.

**Make this year your child’s best ever at school**

A new school year means a fresh start for students. Regardless of your child’s performance last year, they start school with a clean slate. A break offers students the chance to begin new habits and adopt new behaviours.

Here are five ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school:

1. **Commit to your child going to school every day on time.** One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day – and gets there on time. Kids spend more time asleep than at school, so we need to maximise every day to get full value.

2. **Help kids start each day well.** A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and some words of encouragement from you will help set a positive tone for a day of learning. This may mean that you adjust your morning routine so that kids have plenty of time get up, eat and get ready for the day.

3. **Establish work & study habits.** The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work expectations from your child’s or young person’s school and help them establish a work routine that matches.

4. **Make sure your child gets enough sleep.** Many children and young people are sleep-deprived, which impacts on their wellbeing and their learning. A good night’s sleep consolidates learning, as well as assisting future learning. Children need between 10-12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine hours. Help kids get sufficient sleep by having a regular bedtime and get-up time each day. Have a 45-minute wind-down time each night, and remove screens and mobile phones from bedrooms.

5. **Insist kids exercise.** The old saying about ‘a healthy body and a healthy mind’ is so true. Exercise releases the chemicals needed for learning and wellbeing. Yet kids today get less exercise than those of past generations, which is an impediment to learning and mental health. Health professionals recommend a minimum of 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids of all ages. Encourage your child to play sport; promote free and active play and look for ways to make moving part of their daily lives.
Each week the newsletter is published to inform parents of important organisational information relating to school and class events. The school app tiqbiz also supports parents with reminders, messages and changes.

Positive, open and clear communication between staff and parents will support student learning and positive parent/teacher relationships.

Teachers are the first point of call, if a query or issue arises. If you need to speak with a teacher over a matter that may require more than just a quick conversation, parents are encouraged to make a time after school to meet with the teacher. The time before school when students enter into classrooms is a valuable time for teachers to connect with students and prepare for the morning lessons.

Whole School Mass

Parents and families are most welcome to join us for our whole school mass on Wednesday 3 February at 10:00am in the church. Prep students and families are also very welcome to attend.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings will take place in week 4 of this term. (see above for dates) More information regarding booking interview times will be distributed next week.

Medical and Contact Details

Over the holiday break, contact details or medical information of students may have changed. Updated information sheets will be sent home to parents in the fee information letter. Please ensure changes to information are recorded on this sheet and returned to school.

The administration staff are currently updating student records and request that parents notify administration staff of a current email address of at least one parent. This will ensure receipts, fee statements etc can be easily sent to parents.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Recent correspondence to schools from the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria, has advised schools, in this current climate of high alert, to practice lockdown and emergency evacuation procedures to ensure all staff, visitors and students are familiar with school procedures. Practicing emergency procedures is part of normal school practice and we will ensure in the weeks ahead that these procedures are practiced and that the safety and well being of our students and staff is given high priority.

As stated by Michael Juliff via the tiqbiz app, there have been NO threats made to St Peter’s, St Paul’s or St Catherine’s Schools.

Kind regards

Lynda O’Donnell
Principal

To the Principal, Teachers, Students and Parents

On behalf of the members of the Moorabbin / Bentleigh St Vincent de Paul Conference, I would especially like to “thank you” for your support over the year, especially your Christmas support. In all we were able to distribute 74 hampers (including 20 for those living in boarding houses) to those we visit through the year.

Many thanks.
Yours sincerely

Loretta Bowd
**Canteen**

Canteen will be available every Tuesday and Thursday. One parent will be needed for help with serving from 1:40-2pm. Please email Kylie Carapeto at carapeto@optusnet.com.au if you are able to help.

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**Introducing**

Scholastic

**Book Clubs LOOP**

for Parents

NOW AVAILABLE AS AN APP!

LOOP is the NEW Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our NEW iPhone and iPad app from the App Store.

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time.
- Select your school and your child’s class.
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for).
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure.
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school.
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date.
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how to order video, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP and click on HELP in the top menu.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SHROVE TUESDAY

Next Tuesday, 9th February is Shrove Tuesday. Traditionally, pancakes were eaten on this day to use up rich, indulgent foods like eggs and milk before the 40-day fasting season of Lent began. Next Tuesday between 8.30 and 9.15 the staff will prepare and serve pancakes to our school community. There will be no charge but families will be encouraged to bring a coin donation which will support the 2016 CARITAS Lenten Campaign. Donation boxes will be available on the morning for your donations. Please see the flyer on the back page of the newsletter for more information. Students with allergies will be catered for.

LENT/ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent is the time we prepare for the death and Resurrection of Jesus. It offers us an opportunity to take positive steps to follow in the footsteps of Christ and open our hearts to his presence in the world and in our lives. It is a time for us to think about the mistakes we have made and ways we can improve ourselves by growing more like Jesus.

During the season of Lent students can explore and enact how they can change their ways during the Lenten Season. They will be focusing on the elements of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The students will be encouraged to make donations to Project Compassion (Caritas). Donation boxes are located in each classroom and in the front foyer of the school. Caritas Australia’s ‘LEARNING MORE CREATING CHANGE’ Campaign is supporting an International Campaign to empower the world’s poorest people through education. Our donations will help bring renewed hope to the world’s poorest people, empowering them to learn more and create change. Please visit the website for more information. www.caritas.org.au

Please join the School Community next Wednesday, 10th February at the 10am Parish Mass to celebrate ASH WEDNESDAY.

FIRST RECONCILIATION 2016

See following page

Carmel Donlon
Religious Education Leader

CONVERSATION IN FAITH

TRINITY PARISH INVITES YOU TO ATTEND DAVID SPITTELER’S FILM PRESENTATION ‘BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA’

DISCUSSION AND INTERACTION WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS/REFUGEES TO FOLLOW THE FILM

WHEN: TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

AT 7:30PM

WHERE: MCKENNA CENTRE AT ST PETER’S CHURCH

844 CENTRE ROAD BENTLEIGH EAST
Sacrament of First Reconciliation in 2016

Preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation is celebrated within a partnership of the Family, Parish & School. At St. Peter’s, St. Catherine’s and St. Paul’s the sacraments are Parent Initiated, Parish Based and School Supported.

The Religious Education focus for the children in Year 3 this term will be on Reconciliation. The federated schools of the Holy Trinity Parish are very conscious of their responsibility to support parents in all areas of faith development, with a special program being taught during sacramental preparation time. It is also an expectation that your son/daughter has celebrated this sacrament (Individual Rite) before preparing to celebrate their First Eucharist next year in Year 4.

If it is your wish that your child makes their First Reconciliation, please follow the following procedure:

Please reply to your invitation to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and return it to the School Office by Friday, 5th February.

Reconciliation Family Sacramental Night
Families will have a choice of venues to attend the Reconciliation family workshops. There will be only two workshops and two venues offered for this Reconciliation family workshop. The two dates and venues on offer are:

   Monday 8th of February - Venue St. Peter’s (meet in the Church)  
   Tuesday 9th of February - Venue St. Catherine’s (meet in the hall)

Families are requested to choose one of the dates/venue via the online booking system. Please use the link below to register for one of these workshops. There are limited numbers for each session so please book as soon as possible. Remember the candidate and a parent must attend one of the sessions.

ONLINE BOOKING LINK - www.schoolinterviews.com.au
TYPE IN EVENT CODE IN UPPERCASE - YYK6X
FOLLOW THE PROMPTS

At these workshops, team members from the Presentation Family Project along with Father Michael and the parish/school team will lead families through a process to explore the significance of the sacrament of Reconciliation and explain the procedure being followed at the Holy Trinity Parish in 2016. All candidates are required to bring their pencil case.
You will also receive a book “Reconciliation for Parents & Children” so that you can start working through it with your child at home. Activities from this book will be set to be completed at home and will be followed up by the classroom teacher at school.

Following the night, please attend one of the Masses on the Weekend of February 13th & 14th. Close to the end of the Mass you will be invited to collect a purple candle to pray with as a family, during your preparation and for use in the Reconciliation ceremony.
Welcome back to 2016! In particularly a warm welcome to Prep students and families, as well as those students and families who may have joined our community in other year levels. Firstly, I would like to thank Angela Kerr who has worked with me to ensure the success of our banking program. Angela has stepped down as my assistant due to her other commitments within the school. Thanks to Gen who has offered to assist me to continue the banking program this year.

As mentioned the program will continue this year. It is a wonderful community opportunity that not only benefits the students, but the school, with Bendigo Bank Highett being very considerate and generous with their financial support for our school.

For those of you new to the school, from a personal perspective my kids have really enjoyed being involved with Bendigo Bank. They received a pack on signing up with the bank. Every Monday they now remind me to raid my wallet from anything to plastic. It doesn’t have to be much whatever you have available. They to fill out a deposit slip and get excited about calculating and receiving their month. It has also been a great incentive for them to save rather than money. The desktop, or mobile app also allows for them to view and review accounts motivating them to be money smart. They also look forward to their birthday where they receive a card and a free gift.

If you would like to sign up just visit Bendigo bank Highett and mention that will be banking with St Catherine’s. They will receive a special pack including a plastic wallet and deposit book. You will need personal ID to open your child’s account including:

- Medicare card
- Driver’s license (parent /guardian)
- Birth Certificate

**Once you are ready here are some key things you need to know:**

Banking will be every Monday except for weeks where a public holiday falls on a Monday. You/your child will need to fill in a deposit slip and insert this together with your cash deposit into your special plastic wallet. **YOU MUST LABEL THE PLASTIC WALLET WITH YOUR CHILDS NAME AND GRADE!**

The plastic wallet will need to be handed into the classroom teacher on a Monday morning. We will endeavour to return them by the end of the day, and at latest Tuesday.

**For those of you who banked with the school last year we are looking forward to assisting you again. Banking has begun so please bring in your money**

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any further queries please contact me at: krystynawrzesinski@gmail.com

Krystyna Wrzesinski
Welcome back for 2016!

I hope everybody is settling back into the school routine, no more sleep ins’! It has been nice to come back and see everybody. On Friday, 12th February from 5.30pm we are holding the annual Welcome BBQ. Please see the attached notice for all relevant details.

I am staying on as P&F President for 2016. I am looking for members to join me and the P&F Committee this year. I have had a few people say they are keen to join but we are still needing a few more. If you are interested, we will be holding a morning tea on Wednesday, 10th February from 845am-915am in the school hall. If you are keen or just want to see what is involved please come along for a tea/coffee and a chat. We would love to see you there or hear from you!

* If you cannot make this event I am happy to chat to you at the Welcome BBQ or on the school grounds

In the meantime I am happy to answer any queries you may have so please feel free to email me at carapeto@optusnet.com.au

Kind regards

Kylie Carapeto
P&F President

Easter Chocolate Drive

This year at St Catherine’s we are doing an Easter Chocolate Drive. Each family will receive a box of chocolates to sell to family and friends (or buy them for yourself!). An envelope is included for payments and should be clearly marked with the family name when returning it back to school with your payment.

The boxes will handed out on Monday 8th February to the eldest family member at the school and they need to be returned by Friday 11th March. If the envelope is not returned by the due date, unfortunately you will be invoiced for the chocolates as we will not be asking for them to be returned.

We appreciate your support as this is a fundraiser for the school.

Kind regards

Danielle Adams – 1/2 Class Rep, P&F Committee

Easter Raffle

We will be holding an Easter Raffle this year. There will be 10 tickets at $2 each which will be handed out to the eldest child of each family on Friday 4th March. Money and tickets with name and number are to be returned to school in the zip lock bag, by Friday 11th March.

We appreciate your support.

Kind regards

Danni Adams – 1/2 Class Rep, P&F Committee

Kylie Carapeto, P&F President
St Catherine's Moorabbin
Shrove Tuesday Celebration

Tuesday the 9th February is Shrove Tuesday.

Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a day where Christians enjoy their final indulgence before the Lenten season.

We'd like to invite all our families to join us at St Catherine's between 8:30am and 9:15am for some pancakes.

There will not be a charge for the pancakes although donations will be accepted for Project Compassion.