Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Paul’s,  
On Monday the whole school welcomed the new kindergarten students, our new students to other grades and Mrs Misek and myself. What a beautiful ceremony! The words have echoed in my ears all week.

   Welcome to the Family,  
   we’re glad that you have come to share your life with us  
   As we grow in love and  
   May we always be to you what God would have us be  
   A family always there to be strong and to lean on.  
   May we learn to love each other  
   More with each new day  
   May words of love be on our lips  
   In everything we say  
   May the Spirit melt our hearts  
   And teach us how to pray  
   That we might be a true family  
   (Psalty)

Thank you all so very much for the wonderful welcome Jane and I have received here at St Paul’s. We are very touched by your kind words and the support you have already extended and we hope and pray that we can live up to the high standard set before us. Thanks to all of the parents, grandparents and friends who joined us for the ceremony – it was lovely to see so many of you there. Thank you to the Year 2 parents who sent in morning tea and to those who set up, served and cleaned up afterwards.

Yesterday Mrs Misek and I went out to the zone swimming carnival at Windsor. It was very exciting to see our children swimming and achieving their best. Congratulations to our team.

Thank you to the many parents who responded to my invitation to reflect on safety in the car park. All of the emails had a common thread – safety is the priority. I welcome the suggestions and as a result, we will begin a different ‘kiss ‘n drop’ on Friday morning. Instead of driving nose in and then reversing out, we are going to trial a drive through approach. There will be bollards in place to enable this with someone to guide. To make this a success, all children will need to alight using the passenger side door closest to the curb. They will need to have their bag with them so the driver does not get out and open the boot. It is meant to be quick, seamless and safe. I ask for your patience as we trial this approach and as always welcome your feedback. There will of course be the opportunity for families to park as usual and to come into the school. I am looking forward to wearing my new fluoro vest!

Stop the press! A new sport sock has been designed and ordered to replace the existing brown sock worn on sport day. It is white with a brown and gold stripe with St Paul’s written in between the stripes. I am not sure when it will be available but it is coming soon! More information when it becomes available.

Have a great week everyone. Marian Bell
Dear Parents
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the very warm welcome Marian and I have received from the community here at St Pauls. While we are only in week 5, it is hard to believe that the term is already nearly half over. It feels like we have always been a part of this wonderful community and I am gradually starting to meet many families and match children’s faces to parents and siblings.

Many of you would have heard me talk about my role in supporting the learning here at St Paul's at the parent information nights last week, however, I was unable to be at all the meetings. This year St Paul's has taken on the Reading Recovery Program and I will be training as a reading recovery tutor. Reading Recovery is a daily, individualised intervention that engages children in reading books and writing their own stories. It enhances the classroom reading and writing program and enables children to quickly "catch up" to the average level of their class. Importantly Reading Recovery builds on the strengths of each child and encourages them to become independent, strategic readers and writers. While the program only targets Year One children, improving the teaching of literacy across the whole school is our major focus this year and I hope that I will able to work closely with all of the teachers to support children in all grades. I look forward to meeting many of you at the Sunset disco next week or at one of the many activities we have planned for Catholic Schools week. If at any time you have something you would like to talk to me about please feel free to call the school or email me at jmisek@parra.catholic.edu.au

SUNSET DISCO
Remember the Sunset Disco next Friday 7th March in the school grounds at 6pm. It is a great opportunity for families to meet up with new and old friends. This is a family disco – all children must be accompanied by an adult to the event (please do not drop your children off and collect them later).We will again be having the wood-fired pizza man here. This year we will have 2 vans, so the line-up will be shorter. There is also an option for gluten free bases this year – please text me by this Friday (28 February) if you would like a gluten free pizza base as they have to be pre-ordered (leave name and number required please). There will be drinks, glow sticks and ice blocks for sale on the night too!
Danielle Bliss  0400 369 083

GOOD FRIDAY - Stations of the Cross
A reminder to parents that if you have children in Years 3-6 who would like to take part in the Stations of the Cross at 10.00am on Good Friday, April 18, please complete the slip below and return it to Mrs Standring by Friday 7 March. Please discuss with them the importance of the occasion and make sure they are committed to participating in this liturgy before you nominate them. Please note Good Friday is during the holidays this year and therefore we may have an extra practise during holiday time. More information will be sent home closer to the date. Thanking you for your continued support and co-operation, Leanda Standring  (Religious Education Coordinator).

My child/ren ..........................................................in Class/es .......................................................... is/are interested in being involved in the Stations of the Cross liturgy. I/They understand they will be practising during their lunchtimes and will need to attend the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, 18 April at 10.00am

Parent/Carer signature: __________________________________________
ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL
On Tuesday 25 February, the following students Georgia Austin, Louis Bahan, Austin Borg, Ebony Borg, Halle Borg, Adelaide Byrne, Jack Cawley, Monique Clenton, Lewis Duncombe, Brianna ElBayeh, Jesse Featherstone, Joshua Featherstone, Alex Ghosn, James Halwe, Georgia Hill, Riley McIntosh, Lachlan Mulheron, Claudia Nguyen, Tristan Nguyen, Holly Rachwal, Kate Sloane, Alyssa Soldatos, Ryan Wendall, Louka Soldatos and Liam Wendall represented St Paul's in the zone swimming carnival at South Windsor.

All students are to be congratulated for their co-operation and efforts on the day. In particular, special mention must go to Riley McIntosh, Lachlan Mulheron and Kate Sloane, in their respective age groups. We wish these children the best of luck as they move on to the Diocesan swimming carnival on Friday. Also, a huge thank you to our wonderful parent helpers, Jennifer and Sean McIntosh, Emma Hill and Jodie Featherstone – your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Fiona Lambert and Angela Dunn

PUBLISHING TEAM NEWS
Please check the website for our latest reports on the Welcoming Ceremony by Isabella and Holly. There is also news on and Healthy Harold by Connor and Liam.

ICAS COMPETITIONS - Conducted by the University of NSW
To make sure students wishing to enter competitions do not miss out we are issuing a single form for entry in all competitions. The form is mauve and went home to children in grades 3-6 this week. For administration reasons the closing date for all competitions will be Friday 28 March. Please note that the children will be sitting for the competitions BEFORE SCHOOL at 7.55am. No late entries will be accepted.

Dates to Remember

February
28  Diocesan Swimming Carnival;  Primary Assembly – Year 4

March
3   Parents Representative Council AGM  7pm  DAC Blacktown (bring iPad)
4   St Paul the Apostle P & F AGM  7.30pm
5   Ash Wednesday – Whole School Mass  12 midday
7   P & F Sunset Disco  6.00pm school grounds

SOCIAL SKILLS FOCUS
Our social skills focus for next week (Week 6) is
Wash hand after toileting and before eating

SMARTLOVING WORKSHOP – Enhancing Marriage Relations
When:  Sunday 23rd March  2-5pm
Venue:  Holy Family School Hall, 32 Willowden Ave, Luddenham
Donation at the door  (afternoon tea provided)
Bookings essential;  call Jess 02 9319 6280  info@smartloving.org
       Spouses can attend on their own or as a couple