Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Paul’s,

Last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the temple. Traditionally in Jewish custom, parents presented their children for purification forty days after their birth. The feast is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles may be included in the liturgy. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, Mary and Joseph presented him just like any other family – a true act of humility. The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and the events now point toward Easter.

Today our kindergarten children have their first full day at big school. Congratulations to our newest enrolments! Thank you to the parents of the kindergarten children who have juggled work and home life to enable the half days. The teachers have been busily assessing the students in numeracy and these half days have enabled that to occur so thank you. All students at St Paul’s will be assessed in numeracy. You may have heard the children referring to the MAI – this is the tool used. I am looking forward to seeing how well the students have improved since last year!

Jane and I are very grateful for the wonderful welcome we have received. As we are learning about the school, we have noticed a couple of things we have questions about. One of our early observations or should I say puzzles, has been around the collection of children in the afternoon. My understanding is that any child who is being collected by parents, needs to wait up on the stage area. Yesterday, I spoke to a number of children whose parents have told them to wait in different areas of the school. This practice is unsafe. I hope you will support us as we endeavour to keep all children safe and supervised at all times. If you need to make special arrangements, please contact me via the school office.

The other observation has been the variety of sports shoes that children are wearing on their sports days. The uniform policy states that shoes are to be mostly white. I spent some time talking to parents yesterday morning who spoke of the difficulty in purchasing suitable shoes for children. In my research, it seems that cross trainers are not the most suitable shoes for children and that running shoes are probably a better choice. Whatever shoes you select, I ask that you try to keep to the uniform policy that you all signed on enrolment. If the base colour for the shoes is white and the laces are white, then I think that is a good compromise. Coloured laces and flouro colours are not acceptable and I will challenge students who continue to wear them. I am hoping to go and speak to all classes this week about the shoes and then we can have a 2 week period of change when I will expect that all students follow the uniform policy. I realize that this is an area of concern for some and I welcome your feedback, questions and comments.

I am looking forward to our Opening School Mass on Friday. I hope to see as many of you as are able to attend.

Have a great week everyone,
Marian Bell

SYMPATHY
The St Paul’s community extends its sincere sympathy and prayers to Ms Janet Casey (Kate Year 5N and Isabel Kindy) on the recent death of her father.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS:
Below are the times for the Parent Information Nights. It is very important that one parent/carer from every family attends the relevant session/s for their child/ren. These information sessions will be held in your child’s classroom and you will be able to book a time for your ‘Ten Minute Chat’ with your child’s teacher.

If for some reason you are unable to attend please notify your child’s teacher in writing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 17 Feb.</th>
<th>Kindergarten - 7pm; Year 6 - 8pm.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18 Feb.</td>
<td>Year 1 - 7pm; Year 3 - 8pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19 Feb.</td>
<td>Year 2 - 7pm; Year 4 - 8pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 20 Feb.</td>
<td>Year 5 - 7pm</td>
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ALTAR SERVERS WANTED
Any child interested in becoming an Altar Server is asked to put his/her name on the sheet at the back of the church. They must be in Year 4 or up, received their First Holy Communion, attend Mass regularly and have their parents’ permission. Training will start in the next week or two. If you have any enquiries please phone Peter Samson on 0422 448206 or email peter_samson@rocketmail.com

NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY
Welcome to the library for 2014. The library is open every Tuesday and Thursday. The children will have the opportunity to borrow books this week. Year 5 will borrow books from the library on Monday with their classroom teachers. Kindergarten and Year 2 will borrow from the library on a Tuesday. All other grades will borrow from the library on a Thursday.

All children will require a library bag to borrow. Library books must be well cared for and returned to the library each week in good condition. We hope you understand that if library books are damaged or lost, families will be asked to pay for them to be replaced.
The library is open during the 2nd half of lunch for primary children on a Tuesday and Infants children on a Thursday.
Support from family members in the library is always needed and very much appreciated. If anyone can spare time on a Tuesday, or particularly on a Thursday morning from 9.10am to help re-shelf books, you are most welcome. Support to cover library books is needed all year round. You are welcome to take books home to cover. Contact and plastic is provided. Pop in on a Tuesday or Thursday morning prior to 9.30am. Any support that you can offer in the library is very much appreciated. Kind regards, Mrs Petrina Taylor. School Librarian

SACRAMENTAL UPDATE
Children in Year 4 who have made their First Reconciliation received letters and enrolment forms this week for their First Holy Communion. The enrolment form will show the date they have been allocated for First Communion. If this date is not suitable for you, it is your responsibility to find someone to swap with. Please then notify me in writing that you have done this and that both parties are agreeable to the change in dates. A full list of names and allocated dates will be placed on the Sacramental Noticeboard this week.
Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.
Sandra Sheehan, Sacramental Co-ordinator 0405 085 457

HEADLICE
We have had a few cases of headlice notified to the office. Please check your child’s hair regularly for any sign of nits/lice and treat hair if they are found. School policy – the general practise is that children may return to school once hair is treated. Thank you.

Thursday 6th February, 2014- CHOIR
For Primary- Years 3-6; 1pm- AV Room
All welcome to start rehearsing our melodrama musical
‘The Dragon Returns’
Leona Nash-Music Teacher

SOCIAL SKILLS FOCUS
Our social skills focus for next week (Week 3) is
Show respect for the environment

A WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND is a Marriage Enrichment experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset, your Marriage!
Weekend date: 21 – 23 March at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW
Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au
www.wwme.org.au www.facebook.com/WWMEasternUnit
Catherine McAuley Westmead
Enrolments for Year 7 2015

Catherine McAuley Westmead holds a number of School Open Mornings throughout the year. There will be two Open Mornings specifically for Year 7 2015 enrolments on:

**Tuesday 11 February and Tuesday 11 March 2014; 9.15 – 11am**

These mornings will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day.

To book places for a school tour on one of these tour mornings please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

There will also be a Year 7 2015 Enrolment Information Evening on Monday, 17 March from 6.30 – 7.30pm. This evening will provide further information on the school and the enrolment process. Completed enrolment forms may be lodged at this meeting. Prior to the presentations there will be a further opportunity to tour the school with school tours running at 5.30pm and 5.45pm.

Please RSVP for the Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening by phoning the School Reception 9849 9100.

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**Gilroy Catholic College**

**Welcomes interested families to our Annual “Open Evening for Year 7 2015”**

on

**Wednesday 12 March 2014**

Commencing at 6.15pm

in the Brother Damien Harvey Hall

**College Tours will be conducted at 5.30pm and 7.00pm only**

**Bookings are essential on 8853-8200**

**Enrolment Packages will be available on the night and from the College office until 11 April.**

**Gilroy Catholic College focuses on quality education within the nurturing environment of a faith community.**

**Gilroy is a Technology rich learning environment.**

**We aim to develop competent and confident young people who can think critically and make decisions informed by Catholic values.**

**Pastoral care is central to the organisation and operation of the school and endeavours to ensure that all students are able to recognise the dignity of their relationship with others.**

**Applications close 11 April 2014.**

**For further information visit our website or Email tpoole@parra.catholic.edu.au.**