Dear Parents,

Our very first Parents and Friends’ meeting for 2010 will take place on Tuesday, 23rd February at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre and I look forward to seeing many of our ‘new’ parents as well as catching up with some ‘old’ families on this night. Following the meeting, I will continue to explain what is happening with our three million dollar refurbishment.

Last year, parents were given the opportunity to see the building plans, which were also displayed in the school notice board, for those parents unable to attend the meeting. At the P&F Meeting held on the 24th November, 2009, a powerpoint presentation on 21st Century learning and learning environments, as well as what research is telling us about what is best practice in teaching and learning was presented. There was great discussion last year and I thank the parents who attended for their interest and contributions. On the night, many questions were asked and answered about what will be happening when we move into our new learning spaces. We now have the colour scheme/carpet samples for the various classes and I am more than happy to once again answer questions, display the plans and share our exciting new colour scheme with interested parents.

THE SEASON OF LENT:
I know with the beginning of each new year many of us make resolutions to eat less, exercise more, spend more time with family etc… To realize these good intentions however we are called to make changes in our lives. A poster on display at my local gym always challenges me. It states: “If nothing changes, nothing changes” In other words if you are always late and yet continue to get up at the same time and do the same things, then you will continue to be late!

This message of ‘change’ is particularly relevant today, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. During this season of the church year we are challenged to examine our lives: Do we take time to pray? How do we treat others? Do we speak to our children about God and do we provide good modelling in the way we live our own lives? Lent provides us with a great opportunity to stop and reflect on what we may want or need to change in our lives. It is important that we all remember that change requires us to take action and may involve sacrifice. Recalling that gym quote may be helpful: “If nothing changes, nothing changes.”

GOD bless you and your families,

Christine Gibson

Chris Gibson, Principal

SUNSET DISCO FAMILY PICNIC
Friday 19th February 2010, 6.00pm in the school grounds

This Friday is the BIG NIGHT! Our BYO family picnic. Gold coin donation at the gate, please, to cover the cost of the DJ. Bring along a picnic blanket, fold-up chairs and food needed for your family – and of course, your dancing shoes! Drinks and ice blocks will be available for sale on the night. Danielle Bliss 0400 369 083.

SYMPATHY
The school community extends sincere sympathy and prayers to George Scoulou (Jacob 3P, Joshua 1D,) on the recent death of his mother.

PARENT/TEACHER INFORMATION NIGHTS
Thank you to parents and teachers for another successful round of Parent /Teacher Information Evenings. It was so good to see these meetings well attended and although for many experienced parents some of the information heard was not altogether new; it does send a clear message to the children that you, as a family, value education and the work the teachers put into organizing these presentations. The school/home partnership is a key element of the St Paul’s Community and it is important that we keep nurturing and strengthening this partnership. It is essential that the school keeps in touch with issues that are concerning you and hearing about strategies that are working well. I also appreciate parents respecting and adhering to the school protocols pertaining to Child Protection Legislative Requirements. I look forward to finding out how many parents completed the online Child Protection Training Module. Chris Gibson
CHILD SAFETY
An important role we have as the responsible adults in our children’s lives is ensuring their safety and that is why I find it so hard to understand why some parents continue to completely disregard our car park rules, putting the lives of children in danger. I know it can be frustrating to drive around a car park looking for a space to park, but the children are always supervised after school by staff so there is time to find a safe and designated parking space. It is far better to have your children wait a few extra minutes than put other lives at risk by parking unsafely. Parents can also help each other by leaving the school promptly once they have delivered or collected their children, thus freeing up the car park for others to use. The St Paul’s Car Park rules are in the back of the school calendar.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Thank you to all the parents who assisted at our swimming carnival on Monday. Your help ensured the day ran successfully and your time was very much appreciated.

Congratulations to the following children who were Age Champions as well as those children who were our overall Senior and Junior Champions and runners-up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Girl</th>
<th>Boy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8yrs</td>
<td>Sophie Brown</td>
<td>Alexander Ghosn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9yrs</td>
<td>Georgia Mentis</td>
<td>William Sloane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10yrs</td>
<td>Natalie Prout</td>
<td>Jack Robertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11yrs</td>
<td>Rachel Massar</td>
<td>Aiden Haber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12yrs</td>
<td>Lisa Sheraton</td>
<td>Harry Robertson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Champions:
Junior: Girl: Natalie Prout; Boy: Jack Robertson
Runners-up: Girl: Sophie Brown; Boy: William Sloane

Senior: Girl: Rachel Massar Boy: Harry Robertson
Runners-up: Girl: Lisa Sheraton/Madison Brown Boy: Aiden Haber

Congratulations to Green for being the winning Colour House Team.

LIFE EDUCATION PARENT INFORMATION SESSION
A reminder that next week the Parent Information Session is at 10.10am on Monday 22nd February in the Life Education Van.

DATES TO REMEMBER
February:
19th Year Two Mass 9.10am; Primary Assembly 5M; Sunset Disco 6.00pm
22nd Life Education Van visiting this week - Parent session 10.10am Monday
23rd P & F AGM 7.45pm Parish Centre
26th Year 5 Mass; Infants Assembly 1T

There are no Confirmation/Communion Parent talks as shown on the school calendar.

March
1st Welcoming Ceremony 9.10am; 2nd Hills Zone Swimming Carnival

GOOD FRIDAY - Stations of the Cross
Dear Parents & Carers,
Easter Sunday is the 4th April, which may seem a long way off, however I am already looking for volunteers to be part of the Good Friday Children’s Stations of the Cross. This sacred event is celebrated every year and is attended by the congregation of St Paul the Apostle School Parish.

If your child is in Grades 3-6 and is interested in participating in the Stations, please fill in the form below and return it to school by Wednesday 24th February. It will involve your child attending practice during lunchtimes, and being available to participate in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, 2nd April at 10.00am.

Please discuss with them the importance of the occasion and make sure they are committed to participating in this liturgy before you nominate them.

Thanking you for your continued support and co-operation, Leanda Standring (Religious Education Co-ordinator).

My child/ren ………………………………………………………………………………… in Class/es …………………………………………………………………………………
is/are interested in being involved in the Stations of the Cross liturgy. They understand they will be practising during their lunchtimes and also need to attend the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, 10th April at 10.00am.

Parent/Carer signature: …………………………………………………………………………