



Santa Clara School

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Important Dates:

Friday 21 March:

- 9:00am Year 4 Participation Mass

Saturday 22 March:

- 9:30am Sacramental Adult Formation Workshop

Sunday 23 March:

- Week 3 Lent

Tuesday 25 March:

- 9:00am Whole School Mass – The Annunciation of the Lord

Sunday 30 March:

- Week 4 Lent

Monday 31 March:

- T20 / Big Blast Faction Carnival at Wyong Reserve for Years 3 - 6

TUESDAY 1 APRIL:

- 12:00noon Students depart
- 12:30pm Parent / Teacher Interviews
- 6:45pm School Board Meeting

Wednesday 2 April:

- 8:50am P & F Meeting

Thursday 3 April:

- 9:30am Interschool T20 / Big Blast for some Year 5 & 6 students at Fletcher Park

Friday 4 April:

- 9:00am Year 3 Participation Mass

Sunday 6 April:

- Week 5 Lent

**THURSDAY 10 APRIL:
STAFF PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT – PUPIL
FREE DAY – SCHOOL
CLOSED**

**FRIDAY 11 APRIL:
STAFF PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT – PUPIL
FREE DAY – SCHOOL
CLOSED**

20 March 2014

Prayer for the St Vincent Society Spirit

*Lord Jesus, we rejoice in the faith and courage of our founders,
especially Blessed Frederic Ozanam.*

*May their spirit be renewed in the Society of today
that we may be open to needs of the poor and disadvantaged
and receptive to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.*

Dear Parents/Carers, Staff and Students

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

The Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, by working together to shape a more just and compassionate society.

During my leave last year, I became a voluntary member of the St Joseph's Subiaco Conference and offered my services one day of the working week to visit the poor and the marginalised and offer hope and love in whatever ways possible.

In our society today, we have a colossal number of families in need – some only short term but many need our help for a greater time frame.

As I have returned to full time work, I can no longer do visitations during the week days, however I continue to do works of charity during the weekends.

I take this opportunity to thank the students and families of Santa Clara school who have kept the tradition of making gracious donations to the St Vincent de Paul Society each year. Please keep those donations of non perishable goods coming. A small act of kindness by each family makes a huge difference to those in need. One extra item in our shopping trolley

when we can afford it is all that is needed. Collectively this amounts to a great amount which can do lots of good.

Donations can be dropped off directly to my office via our Admin Officer, Mrs Suzanne Walker. I will then deliver the goods to the Subiaco Conference. Thank you and may God bless you.

WINTER ILLNESS

There are many children catching a few bugs during this time. If children are sent to school and they are not feeling well, they feel miserable, cannot concentrate on their work and also pass on their germs to others. Therefore, please keep your child at home if they are feeling sick, where they are comfortable and can recuperate. Parents will be contacted to come and collect their child from school if they are unwell.

PARENT CONCERNS

Parents are welcome to discuss concerns of any kind, at any time. It is more efficient, considerate and convenient to both parents and teachers if an appointment is made, so that full attention can be given to the issue at hand. Please direct all classroom queries to the classroom teacher first. You may wish to discuss further concerns with the Assistant Principals or Principal.

PUPIL FREE DAYS APRIL 10 & 11

A reminder to all families that Thursday 10 April and Friday 11 April are Pupil Free Days. All Teaching Staff and Teacher Assistants will be attending Professional Development workshops based on Brain Development, Early Childhood Education and Maths.

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR – BULLYING AND TEASING

Generally most of our children are very caring and supportive of each other. In particular, the older students caring for their younger 'buddies'.

However, we all know that incidents occur regardless of the vigilance of the teachers that can emotionally and physically be detrimental to a child. I believe these affect both the perpetrator and victim.

Your role and duties as parents is to inform the teacher if your child complains and/or appears stressed about incidents which affect their willingness to be at school. We will take immediate action if we hear from you rather than hearing it from a third party. Isolated friendship disagreements are not what I consider to be the problem. However, a

note can alert teachers to a particular behaviour being exhibited ie. upset for some reason.

CONGRATULATIONS BRENDAN JACKSON

Brendan Jackson is a Year 11 Trinity College student. He is also the proud son of Mrs Helen Jackson, our Reading Recovery Teacher. Brendan is about to participate in a study tour of Malaysia during April holidays as part of the Premier's ANZAC Writing Competition. He wrote an essay on a little known battle of World War 1 and out of 445 entrants he made it to the finals where he gave a

presentation and was interviewed by the selectors. He was successful and is one of ten students from a number of WA Secondary Schools who will tour historically significant sites throughout Malaysia, culminating on a walk of the infamous Sandakan Trail where many allied POW's lost their lives. He will be in Sandakan for the ANZAC Day commemorations.

Well done Brendan and congratulations also to Mrs Jackson.

Richard Win Pe
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

The next important phase for the Sacramental program for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation parents will be the Adult Formation Workshop, which will be held in the school hall on this **Saturday 22 March 2014, commencing at 9:30am**, and will be facilitated by Fr Vincent Glynn and Father Dennis.

If parents are unable to attend the Adult Formation session, they will need to go and see Father Dennis in person.

If you have any queries concerning the Sacramental programme, please do not hesitate to contact Father Dennis on 9458 2944.

Sacrament of Reconciliation	Sacrament of Eucharist	Sacrament of Confirmation
<i>Adult Formation Workshop:</i> 9:30am Saturday 22 March 2014 (Facilitated by Fr Vincent Glynn & Father Dennis)	<i>Adult Formation Workshop:</i> 9:30am Saturday 22 March 2014 (Facilitated by Fr Vincent Glynn & Father Dennis)	<i>Adult Formation Workshop:</i> 9:30am Saturday 22 March 2014 (Facilitated by Fr Vincent Glynn & Father Dennis)
<i>Parent/Student Workshop:</i> 4:45-6:00pm Tuesday 8 April 2014 (Facilitated by Dr Carmel Suart)	<i>Student Retreat Day / Excursion:</i> 9:00am Tuesday 6 May 2014 Schoenstatt Shrine Excursion, Armadale	<i>Student Retreat Day / Excursion:</i> 9:00am Wednesday 1 July 2014 Mary MacKillop Centre, South Perth
<i>Student Retreat Day / Excursion:</i> 9:00am Tuesday 6 May 2014 Schoenstatt Shrine Excursion, Armadale	<i>Parent/Student Workshop:</i> 4:45-6:00pm Tuesday 6 May 2014 (Facilitated by Dr Carmel Suart)	<i>Parent/Student Workshop:</i> 4:45-6:00pm Tuesday 22 July 2014 (Facilitated by Dr Carmel Suart)
<i>Celebrated on:</i> 6:30pm Wednesday 21 May 2014	<i>Celebrated on:</i> 9.30am Sunday 22 June 2014	<i>Celebrated on:</i> 9.30am Sunday 14 September 2014

YEAR FOUR PARTICIPATION MASS – FRIDAY 21 MARCH 2014

Tomorrow, Friday 21 March 2014, the Year Four class will be attending Mass at 9:00am. Parents and friends are welcome to attend the mass.

SUPPORTING PROJECT COMPASSION 2014

Thank you to all the children who have already donated some of their money into their classroom's Project Compassion moneyboxes. All monies will go to Caritas Australia. Through effective partnerships in humanitarian relief and development and by transforming hearts and minds in Australian community, Caritas Australia helps to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. All donations make a life-changing difference to marginalised communities around the world. Below is a story on how your donations assist Caritas Australia help people and communities around the world.



No words can describe how happy we were when we moved to this beautiful place. It was a dream come true." Archie

Archie's story – Philippines – A place where I belong

For most of Archie's life, he lived with his parents and nine siblings in a one-roomed house beside a flood-prone river in the Philippines. In 2012, a resettlement program supported by Caritas Australia helped Archie's family move to a safer house and take part in skills training.

Archie's family lived on a steep river bank in a one roomed home beside the Plaridel River in the province of Bulacan, the Philippines. Whenever strong rains or typhoons hit, the river rose and people were evacuated. Typhoons wreaked serious damage.

"Our roof had holes in it. So when it rained, it was like we were having a shower," he said as he explained that whenever strong rains hit, the houses had to be evacuated for higher ground.

Now 19, Archie experienced severe flooding three times, including September 2009's Super Typhoon Ondoy. "After this typhoon, our house looked like it had been torn apart by a wild beast. Mud covered every wall and corner, the plywood walls were dismantled, the roof was gone and the posts were bent."

In August 2012, an emergency resettlement program supported by Caritas Australia helped Archie and his family resettle into permanent and secure housing away from the flood prone river. "We are now confident and secure in the knowledge that we will not be devastated again by natural disaster," said Archie. "We are so much happier."

Through the program, Archie's mum learnt to make bags and he learnt to make candles which they sell to earn an income. But, as he left school halfway through his first year to assist his family, what he's most excited about is studying under Caritas Australia's Alternative Learning System and increasing his future prospects.

Caritas Australia has changed our lives. We are so thankful and happy that we are living in a safe community. I can see myself being able to send my younger brothers and sisters to school. Thank you Caritas Australia." Archie



WHOLE SCHOOL MASS – TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2014 – ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Our next School Mass (Annunciation of the Lord) will be held on Tuesday 25 March 2014 at the Santa Clara Parish. This Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Tim Costelloe. We look forward to seeing many parents and friends of the school children to attend this whole school mass.

The feast of the Annunciation of the Lord celebrates the angel Gabriel's appearance to the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38), his announcement that the Blessed Virgin had been chosen to be the Mother of Our Lord, and Mary's *fiat*—her willing acceptance of God's holy plan.

Originally a feast of our Lord, but now celebrated as a Marian feast, the feast of the Annunciation dates back at least to the fifth century, and the date of the feast, which is determined by the date of Christmas, was set on 25 March by the seventh century.

The Annunciation, as much as or even more so than Christmas, represents Christ's Incarnation. When Mary signaled to Gabriel her acceptance of God's Will, Christ was conceived in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit. While most of the Fathers of the Church say that Mary's *fiat* was essential to God's plan of salvation, God foresaw Mary's acceptance of His Will from all eternity.

The narrative of the Annunciation testifies powerfully to the truth of the Catholic tradition that Mary was indeed a virgin when Christ was conceived, but also that she intended to remain one perpetually. Mary's response to Gabriel—"How shall this be done, because I know not man?" (Luke 1:34) was universally interpreted by the Fathers of the Church as a statement of the Mary's resolution to remain a virgin forever.

Larry King
Assistant Principal – Religious Education

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Grace and Peace to you all!

For those parents whose children are being prepared for the sacraments this year, I would like to kindly remind you to attend the Adult Formation Day on 22 March 9:30am to be held in the Parish/School Hall. This is an essential part of your personal preparation as well as your child's preparation in receiving the sacraments.

Fr Vincent Glynn will be presenting the sessions. Do not miss out on this opportunity to renew your faith and be encouraged to practice and live it.

The program for the day is as follows:

9:30am	Registration
9:45-10:45am	1 st Session
10:45am-11:00am	Morning Tea
11:00am-12:15pm	2 nd Session

Kindly bring a plate to share for morning tea. I am looking forward to seeing you on that day.

God Bless You All!

Fr Dennis Sudla
Parish Priest

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL NEWS: WEEK 7 TERM ONE 2014

Hello Everyone,

This term is really flying and despite being very busy everything is running smoothly.

PARENT-TEACHER INFORMATION INTERVIEWS: On Tuesday 1 April students will be dismissed at 12:00 midday. From 12:30 teachers and parents meet to discuss individual student needs. Parents are asked to nominate a time on the interview schedules outside classrooms. These meetings are quite brief however a further meeting can be made if necessary. It is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to touch base and keep informed.

ABSENCES AND LATE ARRIVALS: The implementation of an electronic roll for Catholic Schools is falling into place for staff, students and parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support and understanding in getting this up and running in our school. It is greatly appreciated that many parents have adopted the habit of **emailing the teacher** in advance if students are going to be late or absent. If parents could **also include school administration** in their communications by adding admin@santaclara.wa.edu.au this will help streamline communications and avoid confusion. We all get caught from time to time and may be running late. If your son or daughter does arrive at school after the bell please ensure they report to the office before heading to class and procure a late note from reception. In the case of absences, schools require **written notification of student absences either by a note or email** from parents or guardians. This is in addition to a verbal notification that students are absent. This week we have included an article by Michael Grose on school absences for parent information. It is an interesting and informative article, well worth a read.

CYBER-SAFETY: At Santa Clara School we take all areas of student safety seriously, including Cyber-safety and awareness. Don't forget to keep 26 August free for the free parent workshop run by the trainers from the Australian Communications and Media Authority from 5:30pm. The ACMA's Cybersmart Outreach program offers a range of free resources for parents, teachers and children. Materials developed for parents include:

- *Cybersmart Brochures*
- *Cybersmart Guide for Families*
- *Say No to Cyberbullying*
- *Sexting*
- *Socialising on the Internet*
- *Guide to Online Safety*
- *Dealing with Offensive Content*
- *Mobile Phone Safety*

Cybersmart Gateway is a web portal giving all Australian primary and secondary schools easy access to the full range of the ACMA's cybersmart education resources. The Gateway hosts current ACMA resources, links to existing national and international resources and offers new materials as they are developed. The Gateway includes strategic tools for cybersafety education planning. Visit www.cybersmart.gov.au.

MATHS NEWS: Did you know that there is a Mathletics app? This free app makes it possible for students to access their Mathletics account quickly using the iPad or iPhone. Please encourage your children to use Mathletics at home. They can engage in activities at their year level to reinforce concepts, including some great games to reinforce basic facts and concepts.. At Santa Clara School we are focusing on a maths curriculum to provide children with the skills and vocabulary necessary to be proficient in maths, particularly problem solving. We would like to raise the profile of mathematics and encourage parents to engage in discussions and activities. Mathematics is often given a bad rap by adults and we, as parents and teachers, can do our bit to turn the tables on maths negativity or anxiety by encouraging our children, by demonstrating our own love of the subject and engaging in some fun maths tasks with our children.



Ms Temmen
Assistant Principal

OSC NEWS

VACATION CARE

- Vacation Care programmes are now available at the centre.

If you are interested in sending your children to Vacation Care, please return programmes no later than **Friday 4 April**. Any applications received after this date will incur a late fee.

As we are aware of sustainability, there will be only one programme per family.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

- Tuesday 1 April from 12:00noon

The Out of School Care will be open on Tuesday 1 April from 12:00noon for interested families.

Bookings are essential.

Please see Keren Barry in the OSC for more information.

PUPIL FREE DAYS

- Two Pupil Free Days at end of this term, Thursday 10 April & Friday 11 April.

The Out of School Care will be open for the 2 Pupil Free Days at the end of this term.

Bookings are essential.

Please put your children's names on the booking sheet in the OSC room if you are interested.

VACATION CARE EXCURSION

- Tuesday 15 April 2014 to Fremantle Prison

On Tuesday 15 April, we are going on an excursion to Fremantle Prison.

As it is limited numbers we are asking for expressions of interest now.

Please see Keren or Stacey to fill out a form.

Thank you.

Out of School Care are looking for donations for their sandpit and home corner. If you have any plastic containers, old cake tins, saucepans etc, we would love you to bring them in. Thank you so much.



P & F EASTER RAFFLE

The P & F are holding our annual Easter Egg Raffle.

Baskets have been placed in each classroom and we ask that each child please donate an Easter chocolate. Each child has also been sent home with a booklet of 10 raffle tickets to buy or sell.

Tickets are \$1 each. You can see Mrs Walker in the front office if you wish to buy or sell more. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 8 April so we require all tickets and money to be returned to the P & F box in the front office by Monday 7 April.

This is a great fundraiser for the P & F and we appreciate your support.

Thank you



CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday 21 March Cathy Park	Monday 24 March Trisha Forte	Friday 28 March Julia Pearson
Monday 31 March Jo Mazzoleni	Friday 4 April Laura Munut & Luba Crossing	Monday 7 April Trina Green

YEAR SIX NEWS

The students have had a very busy start to Term One. They have been working hard in their committees and doing a fantastic job as leaders of our school. The four committees are Public Relations, Library, Sport and Communications. The leadership badges were blessed with holy water during a blessing ceremony held in the classroom before being presented to the children and they are wearing them with great pride.

Last Tuesday, four students were chosen to attend the Grip Student Leadership Conference which was held at the Convention Centre. When we arrived, we were stunned to be amongst 1700 students attending. The children learnt that a leader is like a superhero because they both serve others. They help and offer assistance, encourage others by using kind words, they are role models and volunteer to plan and organise events for others.

The children were introduced to two terms, watermelon leader and strawberry leader. A watermelon leader is someone whose words and actions are not the same, eg how they appear on the outside is different to who they are on the inside. A strawberry leader is someone whose words match their actions, eg how they appear on the outside is the same as who they are on the inside. Children were given activities to complete differentiating these two types of leaders. The children learnt that they need to be strawberry leaders who lead with integrity. The children wrote a report about what they had learnt and presented it to the students when they got back to school.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

The Year 6 class will be organising a fundraiser for St Vincent de Paul. The St Vincent de Paul Society helps people who are homeless, sick and in need of food. They are organising a market stall with five different stalls. It will held on **Tuesday 8 April 2014 from 12:00pm - 12:45pm.** We will have lots of cakes, crafty items, toys, posters, cards and games for you to buy and play.

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

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.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.



Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

parentingideas.com.au parentingideas.co.uk parentingideas.co.nz

Michael Grose Presentations

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