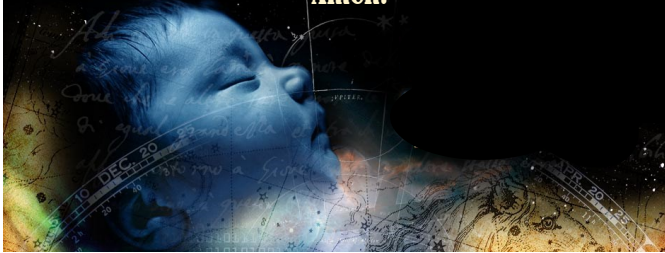




Christmas Blessing

**May the humility of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the joy of the angels,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be God's gifts to us
and to people everywhere this Christmas time.
And may the blessing of the Christ-child
be upon us always.
Amen.**



From the Principal . . .

Thank You

As we come to the end of the year I'd like to thank you for your support and hard work throughout 2014. When we look back over the year, we can be well pleased with all that has been achieved. It's been a wonderful year. Thank you.

In the mad rush that sometimes marks this time of the year, I hope that all families find moments of stillness to reflect on why we celebrate Christmas. Christmas is an ongoing invitation to each of us to be people of goodness and light.

May you all enjoy the joy, peace and hope of Christ this Christmas and may the New Year be filled with happiness, good health and many new adventures.

Farewell

We are sad to say farewell to a number of staff members: Sophie Salibi, Lorraine Caldwell and Hanya Senjov. Sophie is returning to University to complete her teaching qualifications, Lorraine will be taking a Learning Support position closer to home and Hanya will work as a School Advisor with the Catholic Education Office Melbourne. I thank them for what they've contributed to the school community. Each one has been an exceptional staff member and we wish them well as they pursue new challenges and opportunities.

Congratulations

I'd like to congratulate and thank all students for the way that they finished the school year. Year 10 students and staff had a terrific final day at Funfields in Whittlesea. As it was midweek they almost had the venue to themselves. No queues, all activities open! It was a great chance to spend time together and to reminisce about the year.

Similarly, Years 7 – 9 students enjoyed their final day which included an end of year mass and pastoral care activities. Many thanks to all families for your support in ensuring that students finished so well.

College Yearbook

One of the highlights of the final day is the distribution of our College Yearbook. Once again, it did not disappoint. The creation of our yearbook is the collaborative effort of the Year 9 *Stop the Press* class. There must be moments where this is a huge logistical challenge, however, the end product is something of which we are all very proud. Congratulations to Liam Stewart and the students on another fine effort. I'm sure that students and families really enjoyed reading the Yearbook, particularly this year's 3D edition

Spirit of CRC in Action

Last week at the final Year 7 assembly students

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Continued from Page 1

presented representatives from St Vincent de Paul with food and gifts that they have collected during Term 4 as part of their *Giving Tree* project. Congratulations to all Year 7 students and families for your incredible support of this project, and for seeing Christmas as time where we think of others who are not as lucky as we are. Thank you.

Williams Cup

The final event for this year's Williams Cup was the Years 7 – 9 Ball Sports Day. Final results for the Williams Cup 2014 are:

1 st Place:	O'Reilly	(148 points)
2 nd Place:	Guelen	(125 points)
3 rd Place:	Reis	(100 points)
4 th Place:	Corbett	(85.5 points)

Congratulations to O'Reilly House on winning the cup for 2014. They established an early advantage and never looked like being beaten this year.

SRC 2015

On behalf of the school community I would also like to congratulate the following students on their election to the SRC for 2015:

Year 8: Jocelyn Cuzcano, Tina Bui, Caitlyn Gonslaves

Year 9: Kim Ngo, Jans Garay, Kathleene Mendoza

Year 10: Nina Pombuena, Cindy Do, Amy Emukule

We trust that each representative will contribute much to our community next year and will learn a great deal from the experience.

Thank you to all the students across the school who nominated for leadership roles. We are very lucky to have so many people interested in putting themselves forward. It seems that the SRC will have many willing helpers throughout the year.

Houses 2015

Congratulations to the following students on being selected as House Captains for 2015:

Corbett:	Breeana Gibbons and Brayden Willie
Guelen:	Teresa Phan and Thien Truong
O'Reilly:	Alexander Celestial and Elane Le
Reis:	Daniel Mendez and Arianne Le

Social Justice Captains 2015

In 2015 we will have Social Justice Captains for the first time. Congratulations to the following students for being selected for this role:

Hieu Nguyen and Faith Nguyen.

Reports

Families will receive Semester 2 reports with this newsletter. Please take the time to **read** these reports carefully, and in preparing for 2015, think about the suggestions teachers have made.

Congratulations to all the students who can say that their report represents their personal best. This is all we can ask and is something of which you should be very proud. If your report indicates that there is room for improvement, make sure that you set yourself clear goals and think about actions you might take to achieve this in 2015.

Start of the 2015 School Year

Friday 30th January 2015:

Years 7 students only (9am – 2.15pm)

Monday 2nd February 2015:

All students return (8.40am – 3.05pm)

Book Collection Day

Books purchased through the College supplier can be collected from the College library on **Friday 23rd January, 2015**. It would be great if families could attend at the following times:

A – G:	8.30 – 11.00am
H – M:	11.00 – 1.00pm
N – Z:	1.00 – 2.30pm
All:	2.30 – 3.30pm

Payment can be made by cash, EFTPOS or credit card. No cheques are accepted. Families paying in cash are asked to bring an extra \$10.00 in case of price increases.

A small number of second hand books are still available from the library.

Uniform

The CRC Uniform shop at Sydenham will be open extra hours in January. Extended hours are as follows:

Tuesday 27th Jan, Wed 28th Jan, Thurs 29th Jan, Fri 30th Jan and Sat 1st Feb. Opening times are 10am – 4pm on weekdays and 9am – midday on the Saturday.

I ask that all families ensure that students arrive at school on Monday 2nd February with all their books and in full uniform.

Class Groups 2015

Year 7 2014 students will continue with their current class into Year 8.

7 Avoca	->	8 Attard	(Room 1)
7 Kiewa	->	8 Clarke	(Room 2)
7 Snowy	->	8 Edison	(Room 3)
7 Wimmera	->	8 Hollows	(Room 4)
7 Yarra	->	8 Orifici	(Room 5)

Year 8 2015 students will be remixed for their rotation and Italian and Chinese classes to give students the opportunity to get to know a range of students at their year level.

Years 8 and 9 2014 students will be in new class groups for Years 9 and 10 in 2015. These classes will be displayed on Book Collection Day.

Year 7 2016

Enrolments are now being taken for Year 7 2016. Application forms and College Information packs can be obtained from the front office at any time. The application form can also be downloaded from the College website at www.crystalbans.catholic.edu.au.

Year 9 Families: Please save the date

Next year the Year 9 Family Night will be held in the first week of school on **Thursday 5th February 2015**. We ask that you mark this date in your diary. Detailed information will follow on the first day of classes.

Since our last newsletter.....

Over and above the day to day activities of the school since our last newsletter students, families and staff have participated in the following:

9 Live
Trinity Ice Skating
Ball Sports Day
End of year mass
Orientation day for Year 7 2015.

I am sure that students and their families are very appreciative of all these opportunities and the time and energy that staff put into organising and offering these experiences.

Term Dates 2015

- Term 1: Monday 2nd February – Friday 27th March
(Year 7's begin on Fri 30th Jan)
- Term 2: Monday 13th April – Friday 26th June
- Term 3: Monday 13th July – Friday 18th September
- Term 4: Monday 5th October – Friday 4th December
(Years 7 – 9)

Please Note: Year 10 students finish at the College on Thursday 26th November but have an Orientation program at CRC Sydenham from Monday 30th November to the Friday 4th December.

Years 9 and 10 end of year exams will be held from **Wednesday 18th to Tuesday 24th November, 2015**.

Families planning to travel at the end of 2015 are asked to note that the Orientation program at Sydenham is compulsory and that exams must be taken within the exam timetable. They cannot be taken before or after the exam week.



CHRISTINA UTRI
PRINCIPAL



CHRISTMAS IN OUR PARISH

Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Eve

- RECONCILIATION -

ST PAUL'S
10.00am–12 noon

RESURRECTION
Every Saturday at 9.30am

- MASS -

EMMAUS
(Family) 6.30pm, 10.00pm

HOLY EUCHARIST
(Family) 7.00pm, Carols begin 6.00pm
(Vietnamese) 9.00pm
Carols begin 8.00pm
(Midnight Mass) 12.00am,
Carols begin 11.00pm

RESURRECTION
DAWN MASS at 5.00am
(Children's) 4.00pm, 5.30pm
St Nicholas will be attending.
(Family) 7.00pm
(Mid Evening) 8.30pm
(Midnight Mass) 12.00am
Carols from 11.30pm

SACRED HEART
(Family) 5.00pm, 8.30pm, midnight

ST MARY MACKILLOP
5.00pm, 8.00pm, Midnight

ST PAUL'S
6.30pm, 10.00pm

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day

- MASS -

EMMAUS
9.00am

HOLY EUCHARIST
(English) 10.30am
(Vietnamese) 12.00 midday
(Sudanese) 3.30pm

RESURRECTION
10.00am

SACRED HEART
8.00am, 10.15am, 11.30am
(Polish) 9.00am

ST MARY MACKILLOP

9.00am, 11.00am
NOTE: NO EVENING MASS

ST PAUL'S

(Maltese) 8.00am
(English) 10.00am
NOTE: NO EVENING MASS

Thursday 26th December

Boxing Day

- MASS -

EMMAUS
10.00am

SACRED HEART
(English) 9.00am
(German) 10.00am
(Polish) 11.00am

Wednesday 1st January 2014

New Year's Day

- MASS -

EMMAUS
10.00am

HOLY EUCHARIST
(English) 10.00am
(Vietnamese) 12.00 midday
NOTE: NO 9.00am MASS

RESURRECTION
10.00am

SACRED HEART
(English) 9.00am
(Polish) 10.30am

ST MARY MACKILLOP
11.00am

ST PAUL'S
9.30am

Dear Parents
It would be appreciated
if you could make sure
your Parish
Thanksgiving is up to
date, and if you
contribute by direct
debit or credit card
please advise the Parish
Office of any details
that may need
updating.



<p>St Mary MacKillop 152 Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs</p> <p>St Paul's 230 Sunshine Avenue Kealba</p> <p>Resurrection 51 Gum road Kings park</p> <p>Sacred Heart 4 Winifred Street ST Albans</p> <p>Emmaus Sydenham Road Sydenham</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 1A Oleander Drive ST Albans South</p>	<p>Love One Another As I Have Loved You</p>
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family Matters

Year 9 Family Night

The Year 9 Family Night will be held in the **FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL** on **Thursday 5th February 2015**. This is an important date in the school calendar. Detailed information will be given on the first day of classes.

On-going support

Christmas, New Year, and holidays can prompt different types of feelings and experiences – hopefully, most will be positive and enjoyable. However, life doesn't always run to plan. BUT you need not feel alone. Your local doctor is often a good first option. Otherwise, there are a number of community supports available over this time. Some examples are

Lifeline	131 114
Parentline	132 289
Griefline	9596 7799
Kids Help Line	1800 551 800
Headspace	9927 6222

All of these have websites for more information. You might like to post this note on your fridge at home. *Jenny Ricketts*



Wishing the school community a wonderful holiday break and a safe and prosperous new year in 2015.

Enrolments for Year 7 in 2016

Enrolments for Year 7 2016 are now open. Enrolment information is available from the school office or the school website.

Visits are conducted throughout the year and arranged at a time that suits families and the school.

Please ring Anne Stokie on 9366 2544 or contact her for further information at: astokie@crcstalbans.com.au

Alternatively, visit our website at: www.crcstalbans.catholic.edu.au

CRC ST Albans students return to school in 2015

Year 7 Students begin on **FRIDAY 30th January**

Years 8, 9 and 10 students return to school on MONDAY 2nd February

Please ensure all items of clothing, textbooks and other equipment are adequately named.

FULL SUMMER UNIFORM SHOULD BE WORN.

Someone Once Said...

"Life isn't about getting and having, it's about giving and being."

– Kevin Kruze

Naming Belongings

It is important that students name all belongings, including books, folders, pens, schoolbag, other equipment and all items of uniform before the return to school. With 490 students belongings can easily be misplaced. We can only return lost property to the owner if we know who it is. It would be great if all families could make this a priority before school returns in February.



KEY DATES 2015

A full calendar for Term 1 will be sent home to families in the first week of 2015. However, key dates for Term 1 2015 are listed below:

Thurs 22nd January 2015:

School office re-opens

Friday 23rd January 2015:

Booksale Day /
Years 9 and 10 Classes published

Wed 28th January 2015:

Student Leaders' Camp

Friday 30th January 2015:

Year 7 2015 start school

Monday 2nd February 2015:

All students return.

Thursday 5th February 2015:

Year 9 Family Night

Wednesday 11th February 2015:

MacKillop Awards Assembly

Wednesday 18th February 2015:

Ash Wednesday

Thursday 19th February 2015:

Opening Mass

Thursday 26th February 2015:

Interhouse Swimming Carnival

Monday 9th March 2015:

Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 10th March 2015:

Early finish for students (12. 30pm)

Wed 11/3 – Fri 13/3 2015:

Year 8 Great Escape Country Experience

Tuesday 24th March 2015:

SACCSS Interschool Swimming

Friday 27th March 2015:

Final Day Term 1

HOLIDAY SCIENCE FUN

MAKE YOUR OWN SECRET MESSAGE INK!

Do you want to write your password down so that no one can see it, or do you want to send someone a secret message?

Have fun with science these holidays when you make your own secret message ink with ingredients from your kitchen.

Ask an adult for help.



Things You'll Need

- Lemon juice
- Water
- Small bowl
- Spoon
- Cotton swab, toothpick or
- paintbrush
- White paper
- Light bulb
- Baking soda
- Water
- Whisk
- Paintbrush
- Milk
- Grape juice concentrate
- White crayon
- Watercolor paints
- Brush

Tips

- If you don't have a white crayon, you can substitute a white candle to make your invisible ink message. Then, paint over the writing with watercolors just as you would if you'd used a crayon.
- To read a message written with lemon juice or milk, you can also place the paper under a piece of cloth and iron the cloth to reveal your message. Alternatively, place the paper in a 350 F (177 C) oven for a few minutes until the message appears.
- For the white crayon method you don't have to paint over it. Take the paper, hold it up to a window in the day while it's a bit slanted. It isn't the most visible, but you can still read it just fine and it's a lot more simple.

Warnings

Be careful not to start a fire or burn yourself when heating your message.

Method 1 Lemon Juice Invisible Ink

Squeeze the juice of half of a lemon into a bowl. Add a few drops of water. Stir. Dip a cotton swab into the mix and write a message on a piece of white paper. Allow the message to dry. It will disappear. Hold the message over a light bulb until the message reappears.

Method 2 Baking Soda Invisible Ink

Mix 1/4 cup (60 ml) of baking soda with 1/4 cup (60 ml) of water in a small bowl. Dip a cotton swab into the mix and write a message on a white piece of paper with it. Let it dry. With a paintbrush paint some grape juice over your message and it will appear.

Method 3 Milk Invisible Ink

Dip a cotton swab into a shallow dish of milk and then write a message onto a white piece of paper. Allow the milk to dry. Place the paper over a light bulb. The milk will heat up at a slower rate than the paper, causing the message to reappear.

Method 4 White Crayon Invisible Message

Use a white crayon to write a message onto a white piece of paper. Paint over the message using watercolours and a brush. The message will reappear.