



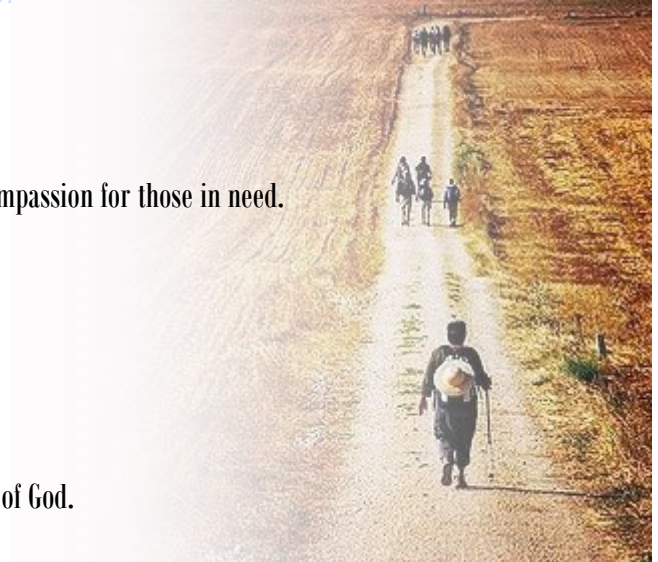
The Journey Begins

As we step into this New Year
restore our spirits. Renew our passion for learning and nurture our compassion for those in need.

Transform us as we seek to transform;
guide us as we seek to guide;
open our minds and hearts to the world around us;
to the Good News of justice and peace.

Help us listen more deeply to the world and to your Word,
so that we are attentive to the Wisdom that calls us all to the Kingdom of God.

Adapted from a prayer by Jane Deren (<http://www.educationforjustice.org>)



From the Principal . . .

Welcome

As this is the first newsletter for 2016, I'd like to welcome everyone back for the new school year. I trust that you all had an enjoyable and restful break, and are looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that the year will bring.

We've had a really good start to the year. Everyone is positive and refreshed, keen to get down to work and to make it a good year. With a very short Term 1 (8 weeks), it's important that we settle into good study patterns very quickly.

Congratulations to the Year 7 students who are settling in very well. Thank you to the Year 7 teachers and the Peer Support Leaders for all your work in assisting them to get to know each other and our school.

Thank you to families

A very big thank you to families for all you've done in the background to ensure a smooth start to the school year. It's a busy time as you sort through booklists, buy and label uniforms and once again establish the

routines of the school term, especially after the more relaxed life of the holidays. All this takes planning, energy and patience.

Your role in supporting the learning of students cannot be underestimated. It is very hard to do your best in your studies without good nutrition, effective routines, adequate sleep and the right materials for class. Thank you.

New families

On behalf of the school community I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to the students and families who've joined us this year, particularly our Year 7 students.

The start of secondary school is an important milestone; something that students look forward to with great anticipation and excitement. I hope that your start has been a smooth one, that you already feel 'at home' and that your time with us is enriching and fulfilling.

We look forward to meeting Year 7 families at the Family Nights which take place in a few weeks.

As well as the new students at Year 7 we also have students joining us at Years 8, 9 and 10. These students and their families come from diverse places: overseas, interstate, other areas of Melbourne and neighbouring schools. You are indeed very welcome.

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New Staff

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Eder Ramos, Mark Johnston, Anthony Barresi, Chris Torok, James Nardella and Emma Van Wees to our staff.

Eder Ramos: Year 10 Level Leader, English, Religious Education and Year 10 Chrysalis.

Mark Johnston: Materials Technology (Wood, Metal and Plastics), Robotics and Year 8 Pastoral Care teacher.

Chris Torok: Music and Year 7 Pastoral Care Teacher

Anthony Barresi: English, Humanities, Chrysalis and Year 10 Pastoral Care teacher

James Nardella: Learning Support Officer

Emma Van Wees Learning Support Officer

Each brings a wealth of experience, many gifts, fresh ideas and a strong commitment to learning and our students. I wish them every blessing as they join our school community.

Opening Mass

Our opening mass will be held on **Thursday 18 February at 9.30am** at Sacred Heart Church. At the end of the mass we will induct our 2016 School Leaders. I'd like to invite all families to join us if you have the time.

Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday 10 February is Ash Wednesday. We encourage all students and their families to begin the Lenten season by joining us at 8.30am at Sacred Heart Church or by attending mass in their own community on this day. Mass times for the different parishes have been included at the end of the newsletter.

It is sometimes thought that the name of Lent comes from the Latin expression for slowing down, 'festina lente', meaning to 'hasten slowly'. Actually, hastening slowly is not a bad way to describe what Christians try to do during Lent. The season of Lent is a time where we try to live more simply; focusing less on ourselves and more on others, sharing what we have and making more time for God in our lives.

It is a time to explore our faith more deeply and to live it out in concrete everyday actions such as feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, welcoming strangers and giving comfort to those in need. A key question for each of us, in this, the Year of Mercy might be – **how do others experience God's love and mercy through my words and actions?**

Year 10 2013 / Year 12 2015

Yesterday, Year 10 2013 students joined staff and students for morning tea. It was a delight to see them again, to reminisce about their time at St Albans and to celebrate what they've achieved over their final two years of schooling. All have done really well and are looking forward to their tertiary studies or entering some form of training and the workforce.

Congratulations: Year 12 2015

On behalf of the College community I'd like to congratulate the students and staff of Catholic Regional College Sydenham and Melton on the excellent Year 12 results attained by students. On any measure students are doing very well and we should all be very proud of what they've achieved.

We are particularly pleased with the results from a CRC St Albans perspective. There is much to celebrate with some outstanding results across many areas. Well done to all.

Kristian Vukadin (95.95), **Danny Pham** (95.05) and **Luke Corson** (92.35) all attained 90+ ATARs.

24% of our VCE students achieved an ATAR of 80+

Elijah Truong was the most accomplished senior VCAL student.

Amanda Marriot gained a study score of 50 in Art.

Congratulations: Nyakeer Akoul

On Australia Day, one of our former students, Nyakeer Akoul (Year 10 2013), was named the Brimbank Young Citizen of the Year. Nyakeer is a dynamic leader in the local community where she is a member of the Brimbank Youth Events Committee; the Western Young People Independent Network; New Change (Young Women's Leadership Group) and the Movement Maker Youth Arts forum. This is an outstanding achievement and well deserved. I am sure that Nyakeer and her family are very proud.

Contact with the School

At different times during the year families may wish to chat with staff regarding their child. This may be to raise a concern, to share information that might assist teachers or simply to share a 'good news story'. We encourage you to do this.

The initial contact for pastoral matters is always the Pastoral Care teacher, then the Year Level Leader. For learning matters it is the subject teacher and/or pastoral care teacher. The names of Pastoral Care

teachers and Year Level Leaders are printed below. Our office will help with the names of subject teachers when you ring.

Staff will try to return calls or respond to emails as quickly as possible, however, I'm sure that you'll appreciate that sometimes it's difficult to do this immediately due to teaching commitments. If the matter is urgent and the PC teacher or Year Level Leader is not available, parents / guardians might like to speak with Kevin Quinn (Deputy Principal Pastoral Care) or Grace Cini (Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching).

Some families prefer email to phone contact. Staff email addresses follow a consistent pattern: the initial of their first name followed by their surname and then @crcstalbens.com.au.

Alternatively, emails sent to the College email principal@crcstalbens.com.au will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member.

Year Level Leaders 2016:

Year 7: Peter Danger pdanger@crcstalbens.com.au

Year 8: Len Tobin ltobin@crcstalbens.com.au

Year 9: Christopher Orsini corsini@crcstalbens.com.au

Year 10: Eder Ramos eramos@crcstalbens.com.au

Pastoral Care Teachers

Year 7

7 Kiewa: Mona-lisa Cantsilieris
 7 Snowy: Chris Strachan
 7 Wimmera: Melissa O'Shea / Chris Torok
 7 Yarra: Josephine Lowe

Year 8

8 Attard: Claire Rayos
 8 Clarke: Jess Iaria
 8 Edison: Marcelle Gusman / Mark Johnston
 8 Hollows: Ross Russo / Flora Petruccelli
 8 Orifici: Sangeeta Arora

Year 9

9 Barton: Garry Connors
 9 Curtin: Belinda Moss
 9 Deakin: Daniela Ibrido
 9 Hughes: Emily Lowe
 9 Lyons: William Watson

Year 10

10 Little: Justin Mead
 10 McAuley: Maria Calafiore
 10 MacKillop: Liam Stewart
 10 Mannix: Anthony Barresi
 10 O'Connell: Clarence Marshall / Jacinta Dykes

The newsletter is published fortnightly and distributed on **Day 5 (Friday Week 1)**. Students will have a chance to read it before placing it in their diary to be taken home to parents that evening.

Newsletter Days for Term 1 2016:

Fridays: **05** February **19** February **04** March **18** March

The newsletter can also be accessed on Friday morning (Day 5) on the College website at:

<http://www.crcstalbens.catholic.edu.au>

Student Diary

All students have received their diary. As this is an important avenue of communication between home and school - we ask all parents / guardians to check diaries at least once a week.

Supervision

Parents and students are advised that the College grounds are supervised on a daily basis from 8.20am to 3.15pm, except on Wednesday when supervision commences at 8.30am and concludes at 3.15pm.

Outside these hours there are sometimes special activities, practices or events. For these parents are notified through the weekly newsletter or a special letter.

Parents need to know that students who arrive prior to 8.20am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 8.30am on Wednesday or who leave after 3.15pm are not supervised.

The library is open until 4.30pm on Monday – Thursday and 4.00pm on Friday. Students are able to complete homework or read quietly in this space if they need to wait for parents.

School start / finish times

Students need to be at school by **8.40am** on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and **9.05am** on Wednesdays.

Classes finish at 3.05pm each afternoon. **However, students may be detained by teachers until 3.20pm without formal notification to parents.** This allows teachers to follow up work, provide additional assistance or to address minor behavior issues before they become major.

Students who arrive at school prior to 9.05am on Wednesday mornings must remain in the school grounds. They cannot leave to go to St Albans with friends.

Notification of Absences

We ask that parents or guardians contact the school **before 10.00am** if a student is absent on any day. This can be done by phone on **9366 2544** or email to Jill Gerada at jgerada@crcstalbans.com.au. As Jill is responsible for tracking absences we ask that parent notification by email be directed only to her, not to other staff.

If the phone call or email notifying absence is received it will be taken as the official explanation of the student's absence and no further note is required. If no contact is made with the school, a note explaining the absence will be required on the student's return to school.

To ensure the safety of students the College has a policy of contacting parents when a student is away from school without notification. Jill rings parents after 10.00am. It is a great help if parents/guardians ring before we make contact.

Student Leaders' Camp

Prior to the start of the school year I was very lucky to spend an evening at our Student Leaders' camp. They were involved in a range of activities to develop their leadership skills, to articulate their hopes and dreams for the year and to begin planning.

It was an absolute delight to listen to their ideas and to watch them work. Their enthusiasm, energy and ideas were impressive, as were their skills in working collaboratively. I look forward to all that our School Captains, Vice Captains, Social Justice Captains, SRC members and House Captains will bring to our community this year.

Thank you to our School Captains and Vice Captains for their work in planning this program and to Kevin Quinn, Katherine Tohme and Hayden O'Doherty for leading this camp.

Changes in contact details

Families are reminded that the school needs to be notified immediately that there are changes to phone contact details or addresses.

Applications for Year 7 2017

It is hard to think that we are already planning towards next year. Enrolments are now being taken for Year 7 2017. 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.crcstalbans.catholic.edu.au.

Are you interested in learning Maltese?

Maltese language classes to VCE level will be available for juniors and adults in 2016. For more information please send an email to: learnmaltesevic@gmail.com or call on 0400 307 945.

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:

Student Leaders Camp
Peer Support Training
Day 1 for Year 7 students
Year 9 Family Night

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 2016

Term 1: Monday 01 February – Thursday 24 March
(Holy Thursday)
Term 2: Monday 11 April – Friday 24 June
Term 3: Monday 11 July – Friday 16 September
Term 4: Monday 03 October – Friday 09 December
(Years 7 – 9)

Please Note:

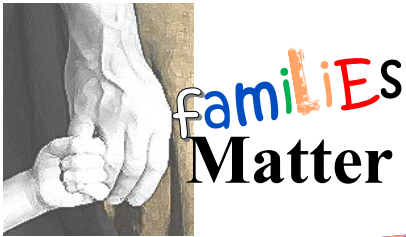
Year 10 students finish at the College on Thursday 01 December but have an Orientation program at CRC Sydenham from Monday 05 to Friday 09 December.

Years 9 and 10 end of year exams will be held from **Wednesday 23 to Wednesday 30 November, 2016.**

Families planning to travel at the end of 2016 are asked to note that exams and the Orientation program at Sydenham are compulsory. Exams must be taken within the exam timetable. They cannot be taken before or after the exam week. Please do not book travel before 09 December for Year 11 2017 students or 01 December for students in Years 7 – 9.



CHRISTINA UTRI
PRINCIPAL



SCHOOL FEES

We request families on Direct Debit & Credit Card payments to contact the office on 9366 2544 to set up their Direct Debit & Credit Card payments for the 2016 School Year.

Parents with Centrelink Concession Card/ Health Care Card please contact Mrs. Ross on 93662544 to make appointment for 2016 CSEF (formerly EMA). For more information on the CSEF please see the article at right.

If families are having any difficulties with fee payments please do not hesitate to contact me at the college office on: 9366 2544 — Anne Ross

Academy Uniforms are now ON-LINE!

1. Simply go to www.academyuniforms.com.au

2. Select **ORDER ON-LINE**

3. Select **CRC ST ALBANS** and enter password **ST ALBANS**

Orders can be sent to the **SYDENHAM CAMPUS** or your home address

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students.



HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef



Catholic Regional College St Albans

Enrolments are now being taken for Year 7 2017

To enrol call **Anne Stokie on 9366 2544** or visit www.crystalbans.catholic.edu.au for more details

OUR GARDEN

Pick your own tomatoes!

Pomodoro people are offering the chance to pick your own Tomatoes by the kilo from 30 different varieties at Days Walk Farm in the Keilor Valley, only 6km from CRC St. Albans. Picking days are on Wednesday and Sunday from 3pm and will run until the end of April or whenever the tomatoes run out! for more information and to book your tickets please go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pomodoro-peoples-pick-your-own-heirloomtomatoes-tickets-20305357872?aff=es2>

School community garden summer report

Not only has the community garden survived the summer heat and dry winds but it has thrived! Corn, zucchinis, cucumbers, pumpkins, gourds and tomatoes are just some of the vegetables that are producing heavily at the moment. It has primarily been through the hard work of all the students who committed their time and effort to preparing the soil to make this possible so thank you all once again.

There are some big plans on the way for 2016 so stay tuned. If you're a parent, former student, family or community member interested in workshops, working bees or other community garden events through the year please send an email through to hodoherty@crcstalbens.com.au to be added to our mailing list.



BRIMBANK SUSTAINABLE LIVING EXPO

Saturday 20 February 2016
10am-3pm

Westvale Community Centre, 45 Kings Road, St Albans

This is a no charge event, food and other items for sale on the day. Arrive in sustainable style, bus, bike or walk (bus route 420). Don't forget a lock and chain for your bike.

Turn over the page to see the full event program

For more information, call 9249 4665



Guest Speaker:
Jane Edmanson
from ABC Gardening Australia & 3AW The Big Backyard



COMPETITIONS, WORKSHOPS, LOTS TO SEE AND DO!

[HTTP://WWW.SLF.ORG.AU/EVENTS/TODAY/?TRIBE-BAR-DATE=20-02-2016](http://www.slf.org.au/events/today/?tribe-bar-date=20-02-2016)





Wednesday Morning Mass

*Ash Wednesday 10th February 8:30am
Sacred Heart Church*

All staff, students and families are welcome to attend mass at 8:30am to begin our Lenten journey.

Normal Wednesday Masses will commence on 2nd March.

A Wednesday Mass timetable will be published in the next newsletter.



**ASH WEDNESDAY
MASSES
IN OUR PARISH**

Kings Park

9.15am & 7.15pm

Holy Eucharist

9:00am – Whole School

6:00pm – English

7:30pm – Vietnamese

St Vinnie’s Crew

Meetings for the St Vinnie’s Crew (Social Justice Action Team) will be held every Friday at lunchtime in room 28. Any new members are welcome to attend and join the team.

Project Compassion

Project Compassion is coming!!! Start collecting your lose change.

Activities and ways you can support will be published in future newsletters.

We will kick start our Project Compassion Campaign on Tuesday 9th February (Shrove Tuesday).

Each Homeroom will have a Project Compassion Box to contribute to.

Fr Minh Tran’s Farewell Mass

On Sunday 31st January the Parish of Holy Eucharist farewelled Fr Minh Tran who served as Parish Priest for the past 10 years. It was a beautiful liturgy held outdoors that followed with a feast of food and drink and wonderful conversation.

We thank Fr Minh for his contributions to CRC St Albans and his unconditional support, love and care. We wish him all the best for the future.



YASHIE

Young Adults Sacred Heart Emmaus
Meet each Wednesday, @ 7.30pm
ROOM 15
@ Sacred Heart Primary School

KEY DATES TERM 1, 2016

Wednesday 10 February

MacKillop Awards Assembly / Ash Wednesday

Friday 12 February

School Photos

Monday 15 February

Year 7 Sunnystones excursion (Wimmera & Snowy)

Tuesday 16 February

Year 7 Sunnystones excursion (Kiewa & Yarra)
Year 10 Family Night

Thursday 18 February

Opening School Mass @ 9.30am
Families welcome to attend at Sacred Heart Church

Tuesday 23 February

8 Attard Family Night

Thursday 25 February 2015

Interhouse Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 01 March

Year 10 Religious Education excursion
Year 8 Hollows and 8 Clarke Family Nights

Thursday 03 March

Year 8 Orifici and 8 Edison Family Nights

Tuesday 08 March

7 Yarra Family Night

Thursday 10 March

7 Snowy Family Night

Monday 14 March 2015

Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 15 March 2015

Intercampus Mass / Early finish for students, except
Year 10 Outdoor Education

Thursday 17 March 2015

7 Kiewa Family Night

Wed 16/3 – Fri 18/3

Year 8 Camp

Tuesday 22 March

SACSS Interschool Swimming
7 Wimmera Family Night

Thursday 24 March:

Stations of the Cross / Final Day Term 1

St Albans Football Club



Registration & Family Day Sunday 7 February 11.00am - 4.00pm

We are seeking junior players of all ages from Auskick, under 9's to under 19's to fill teams in 2016

Come join us for a day of fun, food and plenty of laughs to kick-start our 2016 season

Available on the day:

payment plans
merchandise
registrations
canteen
rides raffles

NEW PLAYERS MUST BRING A COPY OF THEIR BIRTH CERTIFICATE

2016

GIRLS TEAM

U12s

BOYS TEAMS

U19s

U17s

U15s

U14s

U12s

MIXED TEAMS

U10s

U9s

Auskick



Proudly sponsored by
Xtreme Party Hire Pty Ltd Ph: 1300 88 44 72



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you speak, read and write English fluently? Do you enjoy making friends with people from other cultures? Can you spare 2 hours each week to help new arrivals learn English and settle in Australia? If so, your help would be invaluable. No qualifications or experience needed.

FREE TRAINING AND SUPPORT PROVIDED

Contact Rosemary Harman on 9366 0433 or harmanr@ames.net.au
or Suzie Todorovski suziet@ames.net.au