



Christmas Prayer

May the love that breathes life
into all of humanity
Be born in us
this Christmas season.

May the love that brings forth
all of creation,
Be born in us
this Christmas season.

May the love that overcomes
hatred
and brings healing,
Be born in us
this Christmas season.

May the love that forgives
and renews,
Be born in us
this Christmas season.

May the love that brings
the fruits of justice,
Be born in us
this Christmas season.

May the love that brings
the blessing of peace,
Be born in us
this Christmas season.

May the peace now be the gift
we share with all
our brothers and sisters.

(Richard Becher, in Shine On, Star of Bethlehem, 2004)

Principal's Report

Thank You

As we come to the end of the year I'd like to thank you for your support and hard work throughout 2017. As we look back over the year, we can be well pleased with all that has been achieved. Our school community is indeed blessed; blessed in the young people with whom we work, blessed in the staff who choose to work here; blessed in the loving and faith filled families who give us such support. It's been a really good 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 a beginning not an end in itself. Christmas calls us to be people who bring hope, peace and light to our world.

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

I wish everyone in the school community a safe, restful and enjoyable break.

Farewell

With the end of the school year we farewell a number of staff and thank them for all they've contributed to the school. Each has been an exceptional staff member and a fine teacher. Thank you to Ms Rosalba D'Astoli-Iannuzzi who moves to St Columba's in Essendon and Ms Josie Hanlon who will be taking up a position at Assumption College. Each has been a loyal, enthusiastic and long serving member of staff. I thank each of them for their dedication to our profession; for their care and support of students, staff and families, and for sharing their many gifts.

We also farewell Mr Will Watson, Ms Mere Heaney and Ms Lilly Vassallo who have completed contract positions at the College. I thank each of them for all that they've brought to our community.

Lastly, we farewell Mr Luke Walker, our College groundsman. His care of the gardens

and facilities and his bus driving over the last 12 years has been much appreciated by students, staff and families. We wish him well as he pursues a new career in another setting.

Well Done

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 with a boat ride from Docklands to Williamstown Beach. Despite the very hot weather, it was a great chance to have some fun 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.

Semester 2 Reports

These are now available to students and families through the Parent Access Module (PAM). Printed copies of the report have been forwarded to families who have requested the report in this format.

The Spirit of Christmas in Action

At the final Year 7 assembly students 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.

Journey: Shared Stories 2017

The 2017 edition of Shared Stories was launched in late November. This is an annual anthology of writing and art work by

19 December 2017

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Continued overleaf

students in 24 Catholic primary and secondary schools. The anthology forms part of the permanent collection of the State Library of Victoria.

For writers and artists there is no greater honour than to have your work published. Once again a large number of students from our school have had their art and writing accepted for publication. Congratulations to all the students who have had work included. This is an outstanding achievement. Well done.

Shared Stories was first published in 2006 with funding from the Felton Bequest. The concept was developed in response to the Cronulla riots in Sydney, as an authentic way of sharing perspectives across diverse groups.

From 72 pages it has expanded to a massive 512 pages this year. This year's theme "Journey" invited students from diverse backgrounds to explore their hopes and dreams for the future.

Thank you to Daniela Ibrido, English Learning Area Leader; Demet Divaroren, our writer in residence, and English and Visual Arts teachers for supporting student involvement in this activity.

Congratulations

We are thrilled to learn that Deng Shan (Year 10 2017) has been selected to represent Victoria in the FFA National Futsal Championships in Canberra in January. We wish Deng and his teammates all the very best in the tournament.

SRC 2018

On behalf of the school community I would also like to congratulate the following students on their election to the SRC for 2018:

Year 8: Emily Gerada, Sonany Istaifo and Nhi Nguyen

Year 9: Jasmine Bui, Rhanel Hao and Dennis Truong

Year 10: Danika Alwyn, Hayley Nguyen and Awer Makuach

We trust that each of you 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.

House Captains 2018

Congratulations to the following students on being selected as House Captains for 2018:

Corbett: Shirleen Nguyen and Alexander San Jose

Guelen: Damien Le

O'Reilly: Chiara Vallescas and Carl Mikhail Sevillano

Reis: Aebram Bactad

Social Justice Captains 2018

Congratulations to the following students for being selected as Social Justice Captains for 2018:

Social Justice Captain: Sharelle Lynch

Social Justice, Environment: Jasmine Paras

Start of the 2018 School Year

Thursday 1 February 2018:

Years 7 students only (9am – 2.15pm)

Friday 2 February 2018:

All students return (8.40am – 3.05pm)

The first day for the whole school on Friday 02 February will be **Day 10** of the school timetable. Students should be able to access their timetable on SIMON from Wednesday 31 January 2018.

Book Collection Day

Books purchased through the College supplier can be collected from the College library on **Thursday 25 January, 2018**. It would be great if families could attend at the following times:

A – G: 8.30 – 11am

H – M: 11am – 1pm

N – Z: 1 – 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.

Uniform

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

Saturday 27 January 9.00am–12 noon

Monday 29 January 10.00am–4.00pm

Tuesday 30 January 10.00am–4.00pm

Wednesday 31 January 10.00am–4.00pm

Thursday 1 February 8.00am–10.00am

The Thomastown shop closes at 5.00pm on Friday 22 December 2017 and re-opens on Tuesday 2 January 2018.

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

Classes 2018

Classes for Years 8, 9 and 10 2018 will be displayed around the school on the Book sale Day: Thursday 25 January 2018. Alternatively, students can access their timetable on SIMON the day before school starts.

Getting ready for Day 1

It's important that students name all belongings; including books, folders, pens, schoolbag, other equipment and all items of uniform before the beginning of the school year. This assists us in returning lost items to their owners.

Year 7 2019

Enrolments are now being taken for Year 7 2019. 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.crcstalbens.catholic.edu.au.

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:

- Year 10 Picnic
- Year 10 Graduation
- Shared Stories Launch
- Youth for Causes Showcase
- Year 8 Assembly
- Trinity Ice Skating
- VCE / VET Orientation (Year 10 2018)
- Year 7 Assembly
- Ball Sports Day
- End of Year mass
- Student Leaders end of year dinner.
- Orientation Day (Year 7 2018)

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 2018

Term 1: Friday 2 February – Thursday 29 March
Term 2: Monday 16 April – Friday 29 June
Term 3: Monday 16 July – Friday 21 September
Term 4: Tuesday 9 October – Friday 7 December

Please Note:

Year 10 students finish at the College on Thursday 29 November but have an Orientation program at CRC Sydenham from Monday 3 December to the Friday 7 December.

Years 9 and 10 end of year exams will be held from **Wednesday 21 to Wednesday 28 November, 2018.**

Families planning to travel at the end of 2018 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 7 December for Year 11 2019 students or 30 November for students in Years 7 – 9.



CHRISTINA UTRI
PRINCIPAL

WISHING YOU A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS



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 2018 School Year.

Parents with Centrelink Concession Card/Health Care Card please contact Mrs. Ross on 93662544 to make an appointment for 2018 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

Faith MATTERS

Christmas Mass In Your Parish

EMMAUS

CHRISTMAS EVE—Family Mass 7.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY—9.00am

HOLY EUCHARIST

CHRISTMAS EVE

Dawn Mass (Filipino) 5.00am

Family Mass (English) 7.00pm

CAROLS 11.30pm

MIDNIGHT MASS— 12.00am (Midnight)

CHRISTMAS DAY—10.00am

(Vietnamese) 12.00noon

(Sudanese) 2.30pm

RESSURECTION

CHRISTMAS EVE

Children's Mass 4.00pm

Family Mass 6.00pm

CAROLS 7.30pm

Mid Evening Mass 8.00pm

CAROLS 11.30pm

MIDNIGHT MASS— 12.00am (Midnight)

CHRISTMAS DAY—10.00am

SACRED HEART

CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Mass 5.00pm

9.00pm

CAROLS 11.45pm

MIDNIGHT MASS— 12.00am (Midnight)

CHRISTMAS DAY—8.00am

(Polish) 9.00am

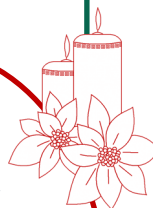
10.15am

11.30am

CRC

St Albans

Wishes you all
a safe and happy
Christmas
and a peaceful
holiday.



Key Dates Term 1 2018

A full calendar for Term 1 will be sent home to families in the first week of 2018. However, key dates for Term 1 2018 are listed below:

Monday 22 January:

School office re-opens

Thursday 25 January:

Book Sale Day

2018 class lists published

Wednesday 31 January:

Student Leaders' Camp

Thursday 01 February:

Year 7 2018 start school

Friday 2 February:

All students return

(Day 10 of the Timetable)

Wednesday 14 February:

MacKillop Awards Assembly

Ash Wednesday

Thursday 22 February:

Opening Mass

Thursday 1 March:

Inter-house Swimming Carnival

Monday 12 March:

Labour Day Holiday

Wed 14/3 – Fri 16/3:

Year 8 Camp

Tuesday 27 March:

SACCSS Interschool Swimming

Thursday 29 March:

Final Day Term 1

During our end of year Mass we celebrated the season of advent. Advent is a time of waiting. In our Christian story tradition we often have a period of waiting. In the readings at the end of year mass we heard about two people who have waited; Isaiah and Mary. Isaiah was waiting for the Prince of Peace and Mary was pregnant and waiting for the birth of Jesus.

In our own lives we all have experiences of waiting. As we are almost at the end of this year. Many of you are now waiting for the holidays, for Christmas Presents, for catching up with family. Throughout the bible Christians have waited for the world to be better.

Students were asked in their RE classes; in 2017, what is our world waiting for? What do we think the world needs? What are we waiting for as Christians? Here are some of the responses:

"In 2017 our world is waiting for peace for the many countries going through war".

"In 2017 our world is waiting for happiness for everyone".

"In 2017 our world is waiting for the birth of our saviour. We are waiting for Jesus to bring faith and hope to the world".

"At Christmas we are wrapping our hopes in the birth of a child".