Dear Families,

Welcome to 2015, to a year that promises to be an exciting and challenging one for our school and parish community.

We welcome all our new families, and there are many, to our what is turning out to be, not so small school. As of today our numbers are 177, an increase of 35 children over the August census.

Along with the increase in student and family numbers we have welcomed new staff who have brought their particular enthusiasm, vision, professionalism and talent to make our school the best learning community around.

Our homerooms are inviting learning spaces and I encourage you to visit them and ask your child about the activities that occur in them.

In January we welcomed our new parish priest, Fr John Healy, to the Parish of Laverton and he is very keen to meet you all. Fr John has included a bio in this newsletter. I encourage you all to read it and get to know him. One of the ways to do this is at the mass celebrations, particularly on Tuesdays when we celebrate and attend mass as a school community.

Communication with the School

Our major forms of communication between the school and families is through these means:

1. Diaries – Each child is issued with a diary for personal and family communication with the homeroom teacher
2. School Website- This contains updated policies and/or procedures along with information on Outside School Hours Care, Camps and Information from community organisations.
3. Tiqbiz- This is our phone app and is used to remind families of events and information from homerooms. You can also send us absentee notes or queries.
4. Phone – The office is open from 8.30am – 4.00pm for phone calls.
5. Email – You can email staff or the office on the following addresses e.g principal@smdplaverton.catholic.edu.au or cwalsh@smdplaverton.catholic.edu.au

To email staff it is their first initial and surname followed by the domain address e.g for Gemma James (Deputy Principal/Leader of Learning) gjames@smdplaverton.catholic.edu.au

Upcoming Events

February 11
Gr 5/6 Camp (11/2 – 13/2)
Prep Free Day
SMDP Tour 9.30am
Traffic Movement

Attachments to this newsletter include our Traffic Management Policy. Please read this as your child’s safety and the safety of all our children relies on every car user exercising extreme caution when entering the school.

In the morning the one gate is open to allow staff to enter and park in the staff parking area (to the left of Gate 3.)

Families are requested not to park in this area as previous experience has shown that this is too dangerous for children to be dropped off or picked up in this area.

All families are requested to park in the area behind the drop off zone. Please follow the directions of staff in these matters.

Uniform

Please note that all children are required to wear the proper school uniform. For Term 1 and part of Term 2 the correct uniform is the summer uniform.

**SPORT UNIFORM IS TO BE WORN EVERY WEDNESDAY AND DURING SWIMMING/SPECIAL SPORTING EVENTS.**

We are extremely proud of our uniform and want all children to wear it with pride.

Meet and Greet and Whole School Welcome

This year we are inviting families to meet with their individual teacher for a meet and greet session to share your hopes and dreams for your child/ren

These sessions will be on Wednesday 18th February and Thursday 19th February from 3.20pm to 5.00pm

Each session will be about 10 mins and will be a great opportunity for teachers to find out about children from the people who know them best. Bookings can be made through “PTO” on our website or you can drop in to the office and fill in the booking form.

**BUT THAT’S NOT ALL !!!!!!!**

On Friday 20th February we are having a Whole School Welcome evening to give all families the opportunity to meet families of children from the same homeroom as our Meet and Greet is only one on one with the teacher. There will be a BBQ and jumping castles for the children and adults!

Invitations will be sent to families to assist with catering arrangements. Please come along and meet or catch up with families you may not have seen for a while.

Email addresses:

Home Room Teachers:
More Important News........Stay in tune with what’s happening in your child’s grade. Download our school app.

Our school has an app! Download the ticbiz app, then find and tick our school.

IT'S EASY.........................

Exciting new Technology has arrived. Our fully functioning lab will be used in Specialist ICT classes. Our mobile Mac Books and IPads will be used each day across the school.
OHSC NEWS!!!

Important: Our numbers are filling up, therefore if you require services on a regular basis, please book in as permanent NOT casual. Please be aware CASUAL spots are decreasing as we are increasing in numbers. If you are booked as a casual you cannot cancel on the day as we may have said NO to someone else.

PROGRAM FOR WEEK BEGINNING 6th FEBRUARY

Activities from 9th February

Making Sherbet

* Make your own flavour and colour your sherbet... YUM YUM

ART AND CRAFT STATION

* Bead making

*Pasta Necklace – wohooo

* Birthday Displays

* Hanging Mobiles

DANCE COMP

Let's dance to music... Get your dancing shoes on!!
Who’s the new boy on the block? What’s his story? Fr John Healy

I am delighted to be with you and since hearing of my appointment in Rome I have very much looked forward to arriving in the parish.

I was born in 1960 (so you can work out my age) in Footscray and grew up in Sunshine. I have one older brother who still lives in the Western Suburbs. I went to Our Lady’s in Sunshine and then to St John’s College in Braybrook. During my last year of secondary school I decide to join the Brothers of the Sacred, the founders of St John’s. In 1980 I took my first vows and then began teaching 1983 till 1991. During that time I taught at Don Bosco Primary School in Narre Warren, St John’s College Braybook and then St Peter Chanel Primary School in Deer Park.

1992 saw a change of direction when I entered Corpus Christi Seminary and was dispensed from my vows with the Brothers. After six years of training I was ordained in 1997. My appointments as a priest have been to St Francis Xavier Frankston, St Mary’s Greensborough and then to the Parish of Corio and Lara as Parish Priest. It was during my time at Corio I began ministry as a Reserve Chaplain with the RAAF. In June 2008 I resigned from the Parish and became a fulltime Chaplain in the RAAF. My time in the RAAF took me to Amberley in Queensland, East Sale in Victoria, Tindal in Northern Territory, Afghanistan and finally Wagga Wagga in NSW.

After six years in fulltime ministry in the RAAF it was time to return to the Archdiocese of Melbourne. In September of 2014 began a 3 month sabbatical program in Rome with 32 other priests. It was during my time in Rome that I was appointment to Laverton, Altona Meadows and Point Cook.

I follow Geelong in the football. I like cats, so you might see some new residence in the parish house, I particularly like Russian Blue cats.

In the words of St Mary Mac Killop of the Cross: “We are but travellers here.” I look meeting you as the year unfolds and us travelling together we proclaim the gospel.

Fr John

Teach Me to Listen

Teach me to listen, O God, to those nearest me, my family, my friends, my co-workers.
Help me to be aware that no matter what words I hear, the message is, ‘Accept the person I am. Listen to me.’
Teach me to listen, my caring God, to those far from me – the whisper of the hopeless, the plea of the forgotten, the cry of the anguish.
Teach me to listen. O God my Mother, to myself. Help me to be less afraid to trust the voice inside – in the deepest part of me.
Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit, for your voice – in busyness and in boredom, in certainty and doubt, in noise and in silence.
Teach me, Lord, to listen. Amen.
Fr John Valtin, SJ
Lumen Christi Mass: Thu. 9:15am
Stella Maris Mass: Fri. 9:15am

Fr. Ian’s Farewell Celebration

We will welcome Fr. Ian back on Saturday 14th. February to celebrate 6:00pm Mass with us and then to share a meal together in Queen of Peace School Hall. Please bring along a plate of food to share and BYO alcohol. Tea, coffee and soft drink will be provided.