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St. Matt's Matters Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Caregivers,

I sincerely hope that the holiday period was a treasured time of relaxation, family and friends.

A very warm welcome to an exciting new year of faith, fun and learning. Together, as a community of students, parents, teachers and parish, we look forward to working in partnership towards providing a high level of quality Catholic Education to our students, developing them spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially and physically. We welcome especially new families and teaching staff to our community. We trust that your time here will be rewarding and that you quickly feel part of our school.

A rewarding journey into 2018 awaits as we aim to develop the whole child and foster their lifelong relationship with Christ. As parents and partners in your child's education I encourage you to work alongside the talented, dedicated and professional staff here at St Matthew's as they provide and facilitate opportunities for your child to grow to their full potential. Your support is appreciated and is an integral part of the success of our community.

Congratulations on a wonderful start to the school year by all the children. I have been very proud to see the children quickly settling into their learning and living in harmony with each other. Our Kindergarten children, who officially started this week, have been particularly outstanding.

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, Inspire us to do our best this year! Amen

I look forward to working with you as the first educators of your children to make 2018 a most rewarding year.

In partnership let us continue to work to develop in the children strong minds and gentle hearts.

Peace and best wishes

Tim Vane-Tempest

Principal

Feb 7 Wed	Parent info evening 7 pm - 8:15 pm
Feb 9 Fri	Welcome Bbq 5 pm - 8 pm
Feb 12 Mon	Assembly 2:45 pm Presented by Stage 3. All welcome
Feb 13 Tue	Shrove Tuesday Burning of the Palms for Ash Wednesday 2:45 pm
Feb 14 Wed	Ash Wednesday Parish Mass 9:00 am
Feb 16 Fri	Welcome School Mass 9:45 am
Feb 19 Mon	Zone Swimming Carnival Hawkesbury Oasis
Feb 19 Mon	Assembly 2:45 pm Presented by Year 2

Welcome BBQ

Fri 9th Feb 5.00 - 8.00pm

Welcoming all our new families and kindy families to St Matthew's

Bring a chair & blanket and enjoy the night meeting new friends!

SAUSAGE SANDWICH & DRINK AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

- *PHOTO BOOTH
- *JUMPING CASTLE
- *POLICE CAR
- *FIRE BRIGADE

St MATTHEW'S WELCOME BBQ RSVP

STUDENT'S NAMES: _____

CLASS: _____

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN ASSIST WITH THE BBQ

NAME: _____

Our school is a place of "Holy Ground."

As **LEARNERS**

We are

SAFE RESPONSIBLE RESPECTFUL

Of

✧ **SELF**
✧ **OTHERS**
✧ **SCHOOL**

Important Information and Reminders

CANTEEN OPERATIONS IN 2018

Last year we advised that the canteen operator and the days of operation have changed. The new operator is Tuckshop 2 U which is a mobile canteen service. The operating days will be Monday & Friday. Tuckshop 2 U offers a full food service and can provide both lunch and afternoon recess. It is hoped that with an increase in demand we will be able to build the days back to the canteen being open for the full week.

Starting in Week 2 of Term 1 we will have a stand that will sell a limited range of items including drinks (juice and water), ice blocks and ice creams as well as a small range of snacks. There will be no lunches available from this stall and there will be no need to pre-order. We are also looking to have special lunch days during each term. This service to the students on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Our opening school mass will be at 9:30 a.m. on Friday 16th February. At this celebration our Year 6 SRC and Sports Captains will receive their leadership badges and our new Kindergartens will be formally welcomed to our school community. All parents are warmly invited.

WELCOME BBQ

Will be held on Friday 9th February from 5:00-8:00 pm. An invitation has been sent home to families today and included in this newsletter. We need assistance with the BBQ and drinks. If you can help please let Mrs Babazogli or Mrs Roberts know.

SPORTS UNIFORM

All students will wear their sports uniform on two days in the week. **All students will wear their sports uniform on Wednesday** and one other day in the week which will be the day for their PE lesson. The days for each Learning Group is listed in the table below:

Stage Group

Days for Sport Uniforms

Kinder	Wednesday/Friday
Year 1	Wednesday/Thursday
Year 2	Wednesday/Thursday
Year 3	Wednesday/Thursday
Year 4	Wednesday/Friday
Stage 3	Wednesday/Thursday

STAFFING NEWS

Along with many new families and students, this week we welcome a number of new members of staff to our school community. A full staff list is included below.

Principal	Mr. Tim Vane-Tempest
Assistant Principal	Mrs Janine Whiteman (Acting)
Kindergarten	Mrs. Annette Larnach Miss Sarah Galea (Miss Chircop)
Year 1	Miss Stephanie Viviani
Year 2	Mrs Jessica Moussa (Miss Grima) Mrs Alyssa Bennett (Mon-Wed) Mrs Emma Worrall (Thurs/Fri)
Year 3	Miss Rosemary Sant Mrs. Ann Climpson
Year 4	Mrs. Fiona Baldock Mrs. Ann Burke
Stage 3	Mrs. Sharon Williams Miss Jacqui Mortimer Miss Lauren Schembri
Support Programs	Mrs. Janine Whiteman (Numeracy Leader)
Learning Support	Miss Noreen Keane (Literacy Leader) Mrs Mary Thornton (Mon, Tues, Wed) Mrs Rhona Hughes (Thurs, Fri)
Teacher Assistants	Mrs. Kathy Richards (Won-Wed) Mrs. Joanne Liso (Thurs, Fri)
Japanese	Mrs Lauren Athanasiou (Tues)
Teacher Release	
Coordinator	Miss Jessica Prior (Wed) & Mrs Karen Brand (Wed)
Music/Drama	Miss Abbey Pollack (Thurs,Fri)
PE	Mrs. Karen Brand (Thurs,Fri)
Library	Mrs. Alyssa Bennett (Thurs)
Administration Staff	Mrs. Stacey Roberts (Mon-Fri) Mrs. Sophia Babazogli (Tues, Wed, Thurs)
Grounds/Maintenance	Mr. Terry Munsey (Tues/Thurs mornings)

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Will be held on Wednesday 7th February starting at 7pm. We will gather in the hall to begin the evening and then move to learning spaces for specific grade information. There will be two sessions held on this evening, the second being a repeat of the first, this is to allow parents with children in multiple stages to attend. Teachers will have an information sheet to share with you at these meetings, if you are unable to attend please ensure that your child picks up this information.

REGULAR ATTENDANCE – EVERY LEARNER EVERY DAY

Once again in 2018 student attendance at school will be a major focus. Daily attendance at school is the most certain way to ensure that children achieve to the best of their ability. In 2017 we were able to increase average daily attendance to 87%. In 2018 the Every Learner Every Day campaign aims to have a minimum average of 90% daily attendance for all children. To achieve this the single most important factor is continued parent commitment to have your children at school each day before school starts. Did you know that missing just two days a month is more than one year of missed learning in 12 years? If your child is sick they should be at home but otherwise every day counts so please ensure your child is at school on time ready for learning every school day.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter day will continue to be shared on **Thursday** of the odd weeks of the term. Most notes will also be sent home on Thursday each week. This is to ensure that all communications, as far as possible, go home on the day of publication and are not missed. There will be, on occasion, the need to send home notes on other days, so please check with your child/ren each day.

SCHOOL FEES

There will be a change to the way that school fees are billed in 2018. Presently school fees are billed by term but from 2018 fees will be billed by instalments. There will continue to be 3 billing instalments in the year those dates will be 29th January to 17th May 2018, 18th May to 3rd September 2018 and the final instalment is 4th September to 21st December. All current payment options will be available in 2018. If you wish to discuss any matter related to school fees please make a time to speak with Mrs Roberts and myself.

SCHOOL BANKING

In 2018 school banking will be on Wednesday of each week.

EXTRA CURRICULAR PARTNERSHIPS

Our extra curricular partnerships with Music Corp and Destiny Martial Arts will continue in 2018. More information to follow.

KISS & DROP

A reminder to all in our community about the importance of using the Kiss & Drop area with safety and care.

As we know our local area police are conducting random patrols of this area and will issue fines for any breaches. Last year police highlighted double parking, blocking traffic flow and staying too long in the drop off/pickup zone as the main areas of concern.

For all parents and users of the Kiss & Drop area I have included the guidelines for using this service:

- ***Kiss & Drop will operate between 8:30 am and 9:00 am and 3:15 pm and 3:35 pm***
- ***Teachers are assigned to the Kiss and Drop duty from 3:15-3:35 pm only***
- ***Cars follow in single file through the drop zone***
- ***Drivers should move as far as possible into the zone before stopping to allow children to get out or when picking up***
- ***Children need to exit the car on the left hand-side so they are not walking behind or between cars using the zone***
- ***No overtaking of vehicles in the Kiss & Drop zone***
- ***Drivers need to stay in their car at all times – no parking is permitted in the Kiss & Drop***
- ***When leaving the Kiss & Drop zone be aware of other drivers and pedestrians.***
- ***If the Kiss & drop is full please drive around the block for the safety of pedestrians and to ensure traffic flow.***

Fact sheet: Active Kids Rebate program

What is the Active Kids Rebate program?

The NSW Government will provide a rebate through a voucher system to parents/guardians of school enrolled children. The \$100 voucher can be used for registration and participation costs for sport and fitness activities.

The initiative will reduce the barriers to participation and help change the physical activity behaviours of children and young people in NSW.

The majority of children and adolescents in NSW are not meeting the daily recommended levels of physical activity. In 2015, more than 1 in 5 children in NSW was overweight or obese.

Who is eligible to claim the voucher?

Every family in NSW with a child enrolled in school from Kindergarten to year 12 will be eligible for the Active Kids Rebate.

It will not be means tested and one voucher will be available for every child in the family annually over the next four years.

There will be no limits on the number of applications per family, as long as every child is enrolled in school.

What can the voucher be used for?

The voucher can be used for registration or membership fees for after-school, weekend sport and structured physical activity programs, including swimming lessons, from a wide range of providers.

The vouchers will be redeemable through approved sport, fitness and physical activity providers upon registration.

Who will administer the program?

The Office of Sport will work in partnership with Treasury and Service NSW to implement the systems required to enable families to access their voucher through an on-line process.

The Office of Sport will work closely with approved sport, fitness and physical activity providers to support the largely volunteer workforce in implementing streamlined systems to allow users to redeem their vouchers upon registration.

When will the program be introduced?

From January 2018 families will be able to claim their voucher/s online from the NSW Government.

Where can I find more information?

Applications will be facilitated by the Office of Sport. More information will be available on the website as the program details are further developed
www.sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids

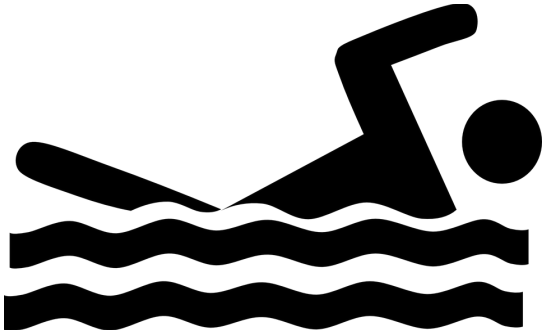
BUILDING HEALTHY HABITS

Children are learning habits that will often last them a lifetime. Consider the following:

- Breakfast is important. Children who eat breakfast have better concentration. Eating breakfast can reduce snacking on high-energy foods in the afternoon in both adults and children.
- Be realistic about the size of the serve you offer children. Forcing children to finish what is on their plate when they are not hungry may lead to overeating and/or strong food dislikes.
- Avoid giving children processed snack foods high in sugar.
- Encourage brushing teeth in the morning and before bed to develop good dental habits.

Sport

Welcome back to a new and exciting sports year!! We have plenty of sporting opportunities on offer for all ages this year! Tennis, Footy, Gala Days and Carnivals just to name a few.

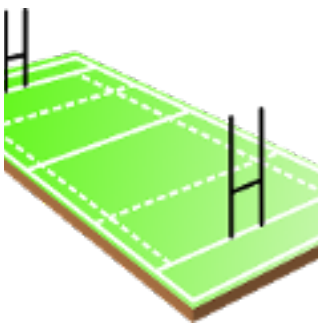


A big thank you to all of the parents who helped out at the Swimming Carnival last year and to all the parents who were able to come and watch the students swim with amazing results. We had several school records broken this year and 25 students attending the Zone Carnival 2018. The **Hills Zone Swimming Carnival** will take place on **Monday February 19 2018** at the Hawkesbury Oasis, Windsor.

Congratulations to our St Matthew's Swimming Team 2018:

Addison Jordan, Chaise Jordan, Max Turner, Tyler Rowley, Gemma Seget, Georgia Boulos, Joshua Baffo, Darcy Buckingham, Ben Bugeja, Sarah Beattie, Georgia Crozier, Kade Burgess, Shelby Buchardt, Emerson Finch, Jude Deguara, Chase Kerin, Sophie Howard, Amy Galea, Adrienne Murray, Holly McKay, Madison Rowley, Myah Cowled, Matthew Simpson, Isabella Spiteri, William Crozier

Hot Shots Tennis coach Fiona Roseby will be holding Tennis lessons over the month of March on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 - 4:30. There will be a note going home later this week, there are limited spaces so please hand back the notes as soon as possible to ensure your child's spot.

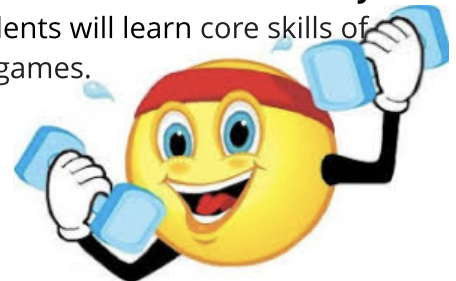


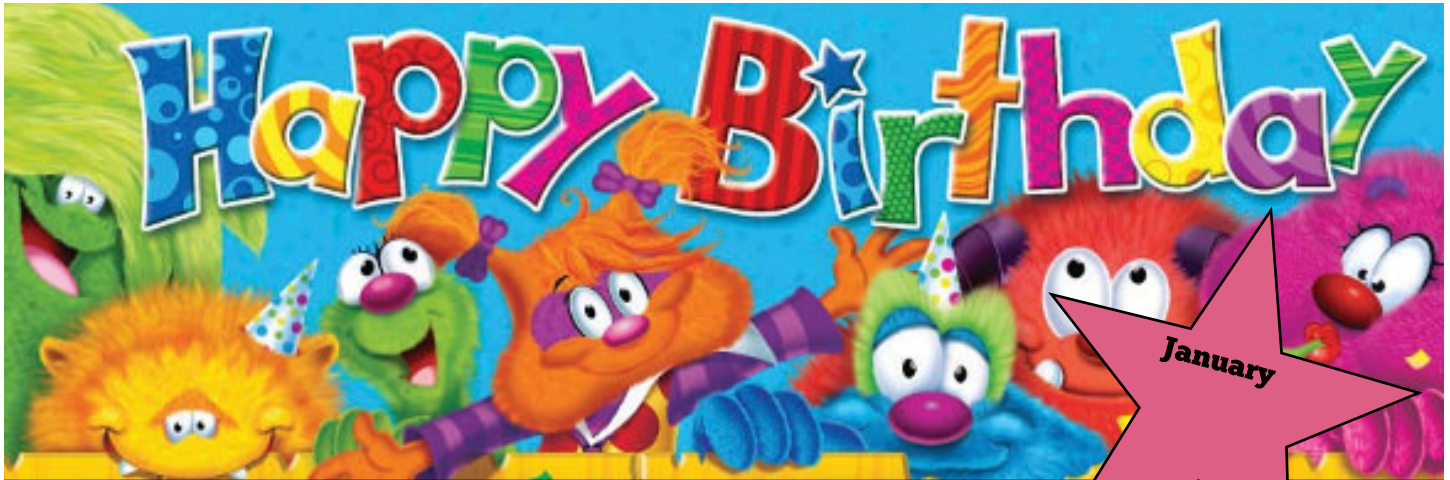
Stage 3 Touch Football trials will take place in Week 4 on Thursday February 15th 2018. Please keep in mind the gala day will be held on **Friday April 13 2018** (last day of Term 1).

There will be a **NRL Skills Clinic** for the whole school on **Wednesday February 28** during school time. The students will learn core skills of Rugby League through fun and engaging games.

BOOTCAMP is every Thursday morning at 8:00am starting in Week 2. Students will meet at the front gate of the school each

morning. If your child attends COSHC in the morning please speak to them regarding permission to attend. The focus this term is to build up strength and endurance for events such as Swimming, Cross Country and upcoming gala days.





KINDY	Katalina Wanders	William Lovern	
YEAR 1	Victoria Tierney	Nathaniel Zambrano-Chung	
YEAR 2	Nicolas Spiteri	Zahlia Baldacchino	Zach Baldacchino
	Jack Caldwell	Pyper Phillips	
YEAR 3	Gwenlian Gregory	Talon Barton	Alishya Zhou
	Dominique Xerri	Louis Gatt	Savanah Flewin
YEAR 4	Luka Layton	Lucas Sheehy	Hannah Kent
	Emily Su		
YEAR 5			
YEAR 6	Noah Krix	Mitchell Cwojdzinski	Cody Kirkland
	Jack Isles		