



**Thank you** to all those involved in making our **Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday** celebrations such wonderful community events last week.

So, Christians enter the Season of Lent.

The season of **Lent** holds deep significance for Catholics, embodying a period of **reflection, repentance, and renewal**. Drawing inspiration from the teachings of St Paul, **Lent encourages the faithful to undergo a spiritual transformation**. As St Paul writes, *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me"* (*Galatians 2:20*). This poignant reminder underscores the essence of Lent, where believers are called to **die to their old selves and embrace a renewed life in Christ**. Through acts of penance, prayer, and fasting,

Catholics seek to deepen their relationship with God, echoing St Paul's words: *"We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God"* (*2 Corinthians 5:20*). Furthermore, Lent serves as a time for Catholics to embody St Paul's call to emulate Christ's humility and sacrifice. St Paul urges, *"Have this mind among yourselves, Christ Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a servant"* (*Philippians 2:5-7*). By embracing self-denial and acts of charity, Catholics strive to follow Christ's example of love and service. Lent becomes a journey of spiritual growth, as believers open their hearts to God's grace and prepare to celebrate the triumph of Easter. **Through the lens of St Paul's teachings, Lent is not merely a period of sacrifice but a profound opportunity for inner renewal and a deeper connection with the divine.**

**This Sunday St Paul's leads the Sunday Parish Mass** at St Paul's church. Our students will be welcomers, readers, altar servers and singers. **All are welcome** to join us on **Sunday at 8am**. These masses have been great experiences and the Parishioners love the connection we are forming with our school and Parish.

God Bless

**Mark Roberts**

A.P.R.E.



*Patience with others is  
LOVE.*

*Patience with self is  
HOPE.*

*Patience with God is  
FAITH. ~ Adel Bestavros*

**A Prayer for the Virtue of Patience:** Father, grant me the grace of patience, that I may bear all things with a tranquil heart. Help me to trust in Your perfect timing and to embrace every moment with a spirit of calm and perseverance. May I learn to see challenges as opportunities for growth and to respond to difficulties with a gentle and enduring faith. Teach me to be patient with myself and others, mirroring Your boundless love and compassion. Through Christ our Lord, Amen. **St Paul:** Pray for us.

# St Paul's Whole School Priority – Family Engagement

At St Paul's, our Parents and Friends (P&F) Association plays a vital role in fostering family engagement. By participating in various activities and initiatives, you can strengthen your connection with the school and positively impact your child's educational journey. Research consistently shows that active parental involvement leads to better academic performance, higher self-esteem, and increased motivation in students.

Here are some fantastic opportunities available for you to help us achieve more in 2025 by working together:

- **P&F Annual General Meeting:** come along and hear about all the great things planned for 2025 and how you can support school events and activities.

[P&F meeting @ Gracemere Hotel RSVP](#)

- **Parent Workshops:** Attend workshops designed to equip you with tools to support your child's learning at home.
- **NAPLAN breakfast** – providing breakfast on Naplan mornings and investigating ways for a weekly breakfast club.
- **Community Events:** Participate in community events to build a stronger school community.
- **Parent/Teacher conferencing** – book you spot to discuss with the class teacher insights into your child and how their learning is progressing.

Together, we can make a significant difference in our children's education and well-being. Let's make 2025 a year of growth and success!



**nathanwallis**  
conscious intelligence



## PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2025  
**TIME:** 6.00PM - 7.30PM  
**VENUE:** LIBRARY - THE CATHEDRAL COLLEGE  
 Please click [here](#) to register your attendance

*Host of the documentary "All in the Mind", and co-host of the TV Series "The Secret life of Girls", Nathan Wallis, Aotearoa's renowned neuroscience educator, has been captivating audiences over 250 times per year to sell out events in New Zealand, Australia, & China.*

## The Developing Brain (5-12 years)

In this presentation, Nathan provides an informative narrative on how our day-to-day interactions with children and young people, significantly the early years, plays a critical role in defining later outcomes for our children. In this talk, Nathan will guide you through the stages of brain development from the first 1000 days and into adulthood. He will reveal little tricks that will hopefully make parenting easier, and help you open up communication with your child. You will walk away with a much better understanding of how both your child's brain and your own brain works!

This talk is for those parents or caregivers who want a quick snapshot of brain development. Tune in and get a summary of the latest research and everything a parent, grandparent or whānau needs to know.

## Important Dates

12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	NAPLAN starts
17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	P&F AGM 5.30pm Gracemere Hotel
17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	St Patrick's Day
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Harmony Day
25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parent Teacher Interviews
28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Dion Drummond school performance
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Cross Country & <b>END OF TERM</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Term 2 commences

## P&F Supporters Gear

St Paul's P&F want to expand family's options for supporter's gear with the addition of caps for approximately \$10.

These would be mainly for adults or children to wear outside of school (they don't replace the school hat). They are seeking expression of interest for the idea for ordering purposes. Please fill in this google form.



[Supporters Cap EO!](#)



St Paul's P&F have made sports house mascots available for those wishing to have a 'Sports House Polo Shirt' for sports carnival days like, cross country, athletics and swimming. The transfers are only intended for sport carnival polo shirts and are not to be used on the school uniforms.

HTV images of the sports house mascots are available for purchase from the office for \$5 each. EFTPOS preferred.



These can be applied at home with a heat press or iron, just scan the QR code below for application instructions. The P&F can apply these for you onto your own shirt, just leave your shirt at the office with your family name and phone number. ONLY for application to sports carnival house shirts. NOT to be applied to PE polo.



Polos in the following preferred colours are available from Best & Less in sizes 4-16 for \$8. Adult sizes are available from Menswear Direct along with children's sizes (JB's Wear). Long sleeved options are available from Target. Please use polo shirts for sun safety.

Corinth Cockatoos  
"Gold/School Gold"



Antioch Emus  
"Royal/ Royal Blue"



Damascus Kangaroos  
"Red/School Red"



## EASTER RAFFLE

It's time again for our annual **Chocolate Easter Raffle!** Each family is asked to donate Easter eggs for the raffle. Please leave the donations at the office in the air conditioning. All proceeds go to Caritas Australia to support their Project Compassion Appeal.



**End of Term Meal Deal**

**WEEK 9 - FRIDAY 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Order online – orders close

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March @ 10am!**

**NO TUCKSHOP WEEK 10**



**Gracemere Little Athletics**

Sign up / Open Day  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Gracemere Little Athletics would like to welcome everyone to come along to our open day at St Pauls Primary school back oval, access via Victoria Street. Sign up for the new winter season and meet returning members. We will have a go at a few events to try and be there to answer any questions you may have.

**\$5 to try! (for insurance purposes)  
\$5 off your season fee when you register.**

Sausage Sizzle to follow



## Cool lunchboxes

An insulated lunchbox with an ice brick can keep the lunchbox 12°C cooler and the lunchbox foods safe.

Try adding a frozen:

- Water bottle
- Plain milk popper
- Reduced fat yoghurt



Frozen water bottle



Frozen reduced fat yoghurt pouch



Frozen ice brick



Frozen plain milk popper



Frozen reduced fat yoghurt tub



 **WE NEED YOU!** 

## JOIN OUR PARENTS & FRIENDS (P&F) COMMITTEE

Are you passionate about supporting our school community? Do you have great ideas and leadership skills?

We are looking for enthusiastic and dedicated individuals to take on the roles of:

✦ **P&F PRESIDENT** - Ensure the needs and wishes of the parent body are given a voice, help organize events, and work with school leadership to make a difference.

✦ **P&F SECRETARY** - Keep our committee running smoothly by managing meeting minutes, communication, and important records.

## What we do?

By joining the P&F, you'll have the opportunity to:

- ✓ Build connections with other parents and school staff
- ✓ Contribute to fun and meaningful school initiatives
- ✓ Be a voice for parents and help shape our school community

Nominate yourself or someone you know today!

## You Can Help!

For more information on the roles and responsibilities, please follow this [link](#).

Or if you would like to chat, you can chat to Mel Raguse, Carly Hill or Belinda Sutton.

Let's work together to create a great school experience for our children! 