

St Monica's Newsletter

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Le

2 Wingfield Street Footscray

Principal: Mrs Karen Colla

Ph 9689 4548 principal@smfootscray.catholic.edu.au

9 March 2018

Coming Soon

- Labor Day Holiday
- SCHOOL CLOSURE
- MIDDLE MASS
- OPEN DAY

CALENDAR

Please see attached Calendar

ASSEMBLIES

2.40pm in Hall or Church

12 Mar Labor Day

19 Mar Junior Assembly

26 Mar Liturgy – Palm Sunday (Church)

IN AND OUT THIS WEEK

Friday – Karen – Study Program

REMEMBER YOUR HAT



OPEN DAY

Our 2018 Open Day is coming up on Sunday 25 March – the same day as our Middle Mass. We thought we would do something slightly different and have a party! So on our Open Day we are inviting you to bring a plate / dish from your culture to share with everyone. We will provide the coffee and ice cream! Open Day is from 11.30 – 1.00pm. We look forward to seeing you all.



OPEN DAY Shared Lunch

Sunday 25 March
11.30 – 1.00 pm

Bring a dish from your country and share it with all of us!

LABOR DAY

Remember that school will be closed on Monday for the Labor Day Holiday

FAMILY HOMEWORK

Yes, we have Homework for families too! Today your eldest child will come home with a little pack. It will have an instruction sheet, a shield shaped piece of fabric and some textas. We are asking each family to draw / paint / create a family banner that identifies its 'special power.' We ask that banners be completed and returned to school by Wednesday 21 March so we can hang them in time for the Open Day. Instructions are included in this week's newsletter Extras.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

School will be closed on Friday 23 March while our staff engage in the second day of our Berry Street Professional Development.

KAREN ON STUDY LEAVE

For those of you who I have not caught up with, I have been lucky enough to be included in a Catholic Education Melbourne study program 'Reflect, Refresh and Renew Sabbatical Program,' which will be held in Ireland. I leave on Friday 16 March and return to school on Thursday 19 April. While I am gone the school will be in Annie Edsall's capable hands. She will be assisted by Paula O'Neill our Deputy in charge of Student Wellbeing as well as our regional principal consultant Wayne Richards. I look forward to sharing my learning with you on my return.

MIDDLE MASS

The Middle Mass is on Sunday 25 March at 10.30 am, just before our Open Day. It is a special day – Palm Sunday – the beginning of Holy Week. We invite all our families to come and celebrate with us.

WEBSITE

It is coming. Thanks to the efforts of Caroline and Alicia we are almost ready to launch our new site. Thanks to the teachers for rewriting pages and 'submitting' to having their photos taken. Stay tuned for our 'go live' date.

NEW ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE LEGISLATION

The state government has brought in new expectations for parents and schools around notifying of a child's absence and when an absence is acceptable (approved) or unacceptable (unapproved). This information is in the Extras below and on the Community Noticeboard.

FEES AND LEVIES 2018

Family Fees

In 2018 our school fees will be \$1372 per family, per year. (\$1330 if paid before the end of February) Fees can be paid in one amount at the beginning of the year or each term; \$343 per term (or \$333 per term - if paid in the first 2 weeks of term).

Student Tuition Levies

In 2018 the Tuition Levies for each child will be \$395 per child (\$305 for books & resources + \$90 for excursions). Parents who have a current Healthcare Card can apply to receive the State Government Camps and School Excursion Fund which pays the Excursion Levy and can be used to help pay for camps.

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VIÃNG MẮT TUẦN TỚI

Thứ sáu – Cô Karen – Du học nghiệp vụ.

REMEMBER YOUR HAT



NGÀY MỞ CỬA THAM QUAN TRƯỜNG

Chủ nhật 25 tháng Ba sau lễ khởi trung nhi 11.30 – 1.00pm.

Kính mong mỗi gia đình cùng đem đến một món ăn truyền thống để chia sẻ - Chúng tôi sẽ chiêu đãi café và kem. Mong gặp!!!

NGHỈ LỄ LAO ĐỘNG

Thứ hai 12 tháng Ba - Học sinh nghỉ học

BÀI VỀ NHÀ CHO GIA ĐÌNH

Hôm nay trẻ đã đem về nhà một bọc nylon nhỏ bao gồm trang hướng dẫn, mảnh cắt hình khiên và một số bút tô màu. Quý gia đình được yêu cầu thiết kế một khiên gia đình cho biết 'sức mạnh của gia đình'. Xin vui lòng đem nộp lại trước thứ tư 21 tháng Ba để có thể trưng bày trong dịp Ngày Mở Cửa Tham Quan Trường. Xem trang kèm.

GIÁO VIÊN NGHIỆP VỤ - HỌC SINH NGHỈ HỌC

Thứ sáu 23 tháng Ba giáo vụ họp nghiệp vụ chương trình Berry Street kỳ 2. Học sinh nghỉ học.

CÔ KAREN DU HỌC NGHIỆP VỤ

Cô Karen sẽ rời đi hôm thứ sáu 16 tháng Ba để dự chương trình du học nghiệp vụ chủ đề 'Reflect, Refresh and Renew Sabbatical Program' ở Ireland và sẽ trở lại trường thứ năm 19 tháng Tư. Cô Annie Edsall sẽ thế quyền hiệu trưởng và cô Paula O'neil phụ tá cùng sự cố vấn của ông Wayne Richards là cố vấn vùng. Rất mong được chia sẻ kiến thức thu học được khi trở về.

LỄ KHÔI TRUNG NHI

Lúc 10.30 sáng Chủ nhật 25 tháng Ba - lễ Lá đầu mùa Chay - trước buổi tham quan trường. Kính mong mọi người cùng đến dự.

TRANG MẠNG TRƯỜNG TA

Cảm ơn hai cô Alicia và Caroline cùng toàn thể giáo viên đã viết lại những trang cũng như gửi hình ảnh. Đón xem ngày 'khởi động trang'.

LUẬT ĐỊNH MỚI - TRƯỜNG HỢP TRẺ VẮNG MẶT KHÔNG ĐẾN LỚP

Chính quyền tiểu bang vừa ra luật định mới yêu cầu phụ huynh liên lạc nhà trường trong trường hợp trẻ vắng mặt không đến trường vì những lý do chính đáng hoặc không chính đáng. Xem chi tiết đính kèm hoặc trên bảng thông báo cộng đồng.



OPEN DAY Shared Lunch

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11.30 – 1.00 pm

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THIS WEEK'S EXTRAS

- **Prayer**



Keep adding to your Project Compassion Box. These boxes are a way for us to help those who are less fortunate than we. This week view the story of Evangeline who is strengthening Aboriginal culture, while making a living for herself and creating opportunities for her community. She and her community are supported through Project Compassion

<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/weekly-stories/week-4-evangeline>

- **Attendance and Absentee Information**

New information about parents' responsibilities in notifying school of their child's absence and a reminder of what approved and unapproved reasons for absences are.

- **Holiday Program Expression of Interest**

- **Family Homework**

- **Open Day**

- **Skoolbag App – how to keep up with School News**

- **Coles Sports for Schools is on again and we are accepting vouchers**

- **Calendar**

Victorian Attendance Legislation & School Practice

In Victoria, it is compulsory for children and young people aged 6–17 years to attend school.

Parents are legally required to ensure their child attends school every day and to provide an explanation for their child's absence from school unless an exemption from attendance has been granted or an exception to their attendance applies.

Evidence shows that daily school attendance is important for young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind both socially and developmentally. Young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health and employment outcomes and enjoy higher incomes.

The law provides a framework for school's attendance, exemptions and exceptions from attendance and parents' obligations relating to ensuring attendance. The rules are not in place to punish students' time away from school, which can be unavoidable. Instead, the laws are an effort to promote and improve student attendance across Victorian schools.

The compulsory school age

All children aged 6–17 years are required to either be enrolled at a registered school, or registered for home schooling. In some circumstances a parent can apply to the Regional Director to exempt a child from enrolment at school.

Responsibility for ensuring that a child attends school

School attendance is mandated under the *Education Training and Reform Act 2006*. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians or anyone who has parental responsibility for a child to ensure the child attends school on a regular basis. The rules apply to parents of compulsory school-aged children attending any Victorian Government, Independent and Catholic Schools.

Processes for following up attendance

'Poor attendance' for the purpose of the legislation

What is considered as "poor attendance" is determined on a case by case basis. However, under the legislation, if a student of compulsory school age is absent from school for five days within a school year and without a reasonable excuse, then further action can be taken, at the discretion of the principal.

Unexplained or unapproved absences

The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 provides some examples of what a reasonable excuse is for the purposes of explaining a school absence and includes, amongst other considerations:

- Illnesses and accidents;
- Unforeseen and unexplained circumstances;
- If the absence was a result of complying with another law;
- The child is receiving distance education through a registered school;
- The child is undertaking approved education, training and/or employment;
- The child has been suspended or expelled; and
- The child is attending or observing a religious event or obligation.

Unexplained Absence:

A principal will record an absence as 'unexplained' if no explanation about the absence is given to the school by the parent or carer of the student.

Parents are required to make contact with the school as soon as possible on the morning of an absence to give an explanation for the absence.

If you do not contact the school to provide an explanation on the day of the student absence, the school must attempt to contact the parent or legal guardian either by phone or in writing and seek clarification on the day of the recorded absence.

The school policy is to make efforts to contact the parents / guardians then contacts provided. If contact cannot be made the school will then contact Victoria Police.

If no contact can be made with the parent or other carers of the child within 10 days, the absence will be recorded as an unexplained absence and a noted will be made in the child's file. A parent or legal guardian can contact the principal at any time after the recorded absence to provide an explanation.

Unapproved Absence:

In general, a principal may record an absence as 'unapproved' when no reasonable explanation has been given for the student's absence. If a reason is given for a student absence is not approved by the principal than the school will notify the parent or legal guardian in writing.

Action that will be taken if your child reaches five days of unapproved or unexplained absence

If a child reaches five days of unapproved or unexplained absence in the preceding 12 months then the school and principal will work with the parent or legal guardian to implement the appropriate support or intervention to assist the child and ensure they attend school every day and remain at school during school hours. If the support and intervention do not improve your child's attendance, the principal may decide to make a referral to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Notification of absence

Parents are required to ensure their child attends school and to provide an explanation for their child's absence from school. This explanation will be recorded and be determined 'approved' or 'unapproved,' depending on the circumstances.

Parents are required to inform the school of an absence as early as possible; at least two weeks before in the case of a known absence or on the morning of the day of absence before 9.15 am. Absences can be notified by phone call to the school office or vis the Skoolbag App.

The school must make contact with parents when their child is not at school by 9.15 am.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



We have had a number of parents ask if School Holiday and Before School care is available. So we are seeking your feedback.

Would School Holiday Care be useful to you?

Would you be interested in using Before School Care?

If you are please complete and return the form below before Wednesday 14 March.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

SCHOOL CARE & BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

Name _____

Eldest Child's Name _____ Class _____

I am interested in School Holiday Care

I am interested in Before School Care

I would need Before School Care on these days each week

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

Friday

Family Shield Homework

Each year we ask our families to create a banner that we hang in our entry walkway. Each year there is a 'theme' or focus.

This year we're making '**Family Shields**' and the theme is '**Family Powers**.'

As we are looking at our Learning Powers at school we want you to think about your 'power' as a family. What is it that your family is really good at?

Listening, loving, including, helping, being curious, being positive, supporting....What is your family's **POWER**?

What do you have to put on the shield?

- your family name
- the names of the people in your family
- A picture or symbol (or two) that represents your family.
- The word that describes your family power.
- Some ideas are on the back

In this packet you will find;

- The shield shape
- A packet of texta's to use (but you can use other materials if you like)

We will display the shields in the entry way .

If you return your shield by Wednesday 21 March that will help us ensure that we have time to hang all our shields for Open Day.

Hàng năm quý gia đình được yêu cầu vẽ một biểu ngữ để treo ở lối đi vào cổng.

Mỗi năm đều có một chủ đề.

Biểu ngữ của năm nay là 'Khiên Gia Đình' chủ đề 'Sức Mạnh Gia Đình'.

Theo quý vị sức mạnh của gia đình là gì?

Có phải là lắng nghe, yêu thương, bảo bọc, giúp đỡ, quan tâm, lạc quan, ủng hộ...

SỨC MẠNH GIA ĐÌNH của quý vị là gì?

Trên biểu ngữ sẽ bao gồm:

- Tên họ
- Tên từng người trong gia đình
- Một hình ảnh hoặc một vài biểu tượng của gia đình.
- Ngôn từ diễn đạt sức mạnh gia đình của quý vị.
- Xem mẫu mặt sau.

Trong túi này gồm có;

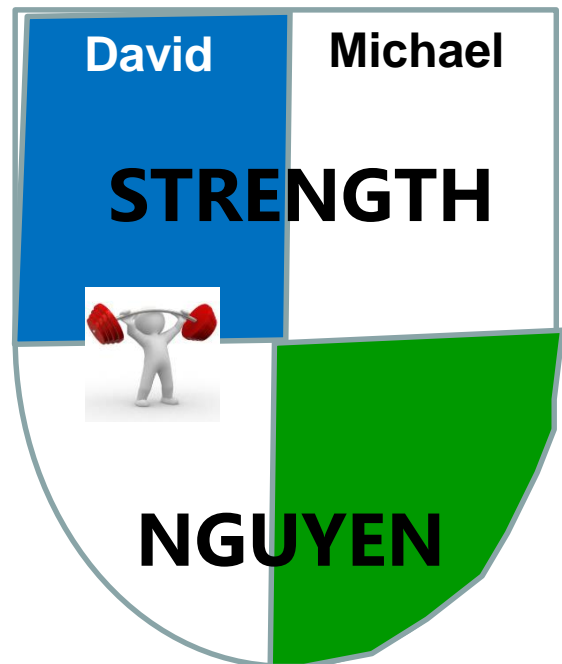
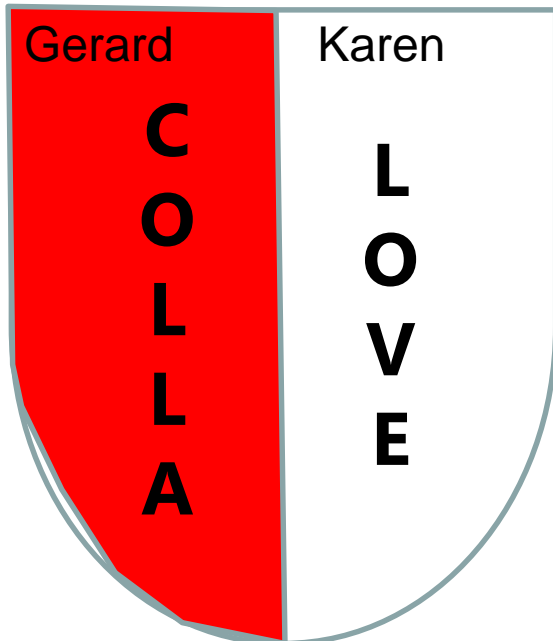
- Bản khiên
- Bọc bút lông màu(có thể dùng vật liệu khác nếu muốn)

Tác phẩm sẽ được treo ở lối vào cổng.

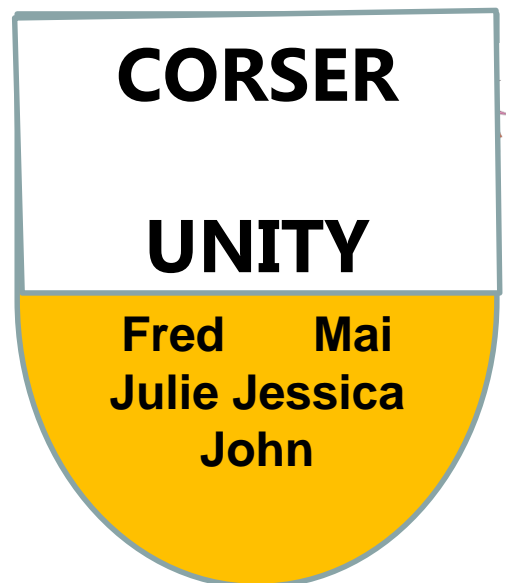
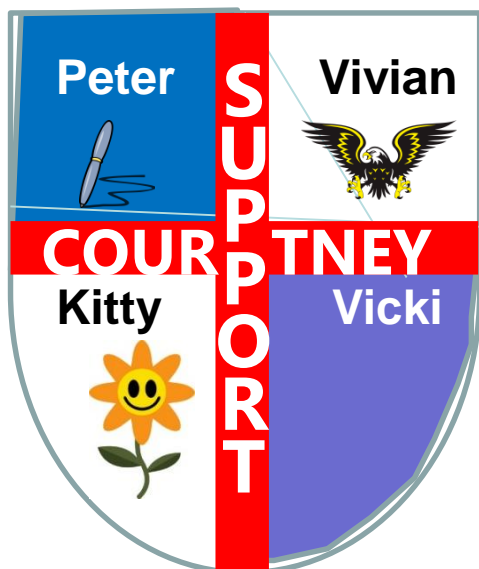
Nếu quý vị trả lại trước thứ tư 21 tháng Ba chúng tôi sẽ có thể thu xếp treo tất cả tác phẩm cho ngày Mở cửa tham quan trường.

PLEASE BRING BACK TO SCHOOL BY WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH

Some Ideas



Pick colours and pictures or symbols that match your family or the people in it.



PLEASE BRING BACK TO SCHOOL BY WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH



OPEN DAY Shared Lunch

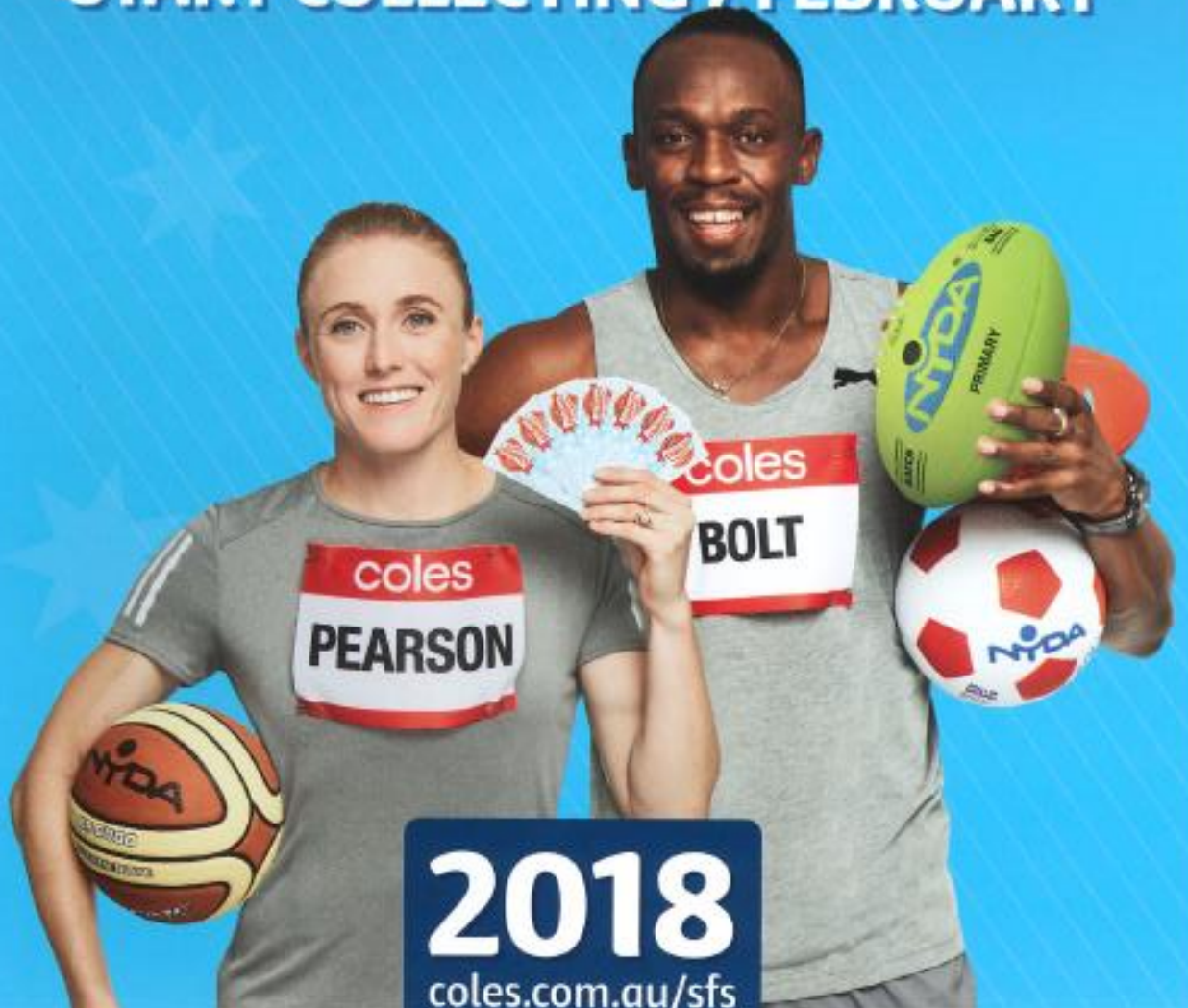
Sunday 25 March
11.30 – 1.00 pm

Bring a dish from your
country and share it
with all of us!

Get collecting now!



THE RACE IS ON TO COLLECT VOUCHERS FOR YOUR SCHOOL START COLLECTING 7 FEBRUARY



2018
coles.com.au/sfs

Skoolbag mobile app communicates directly to parent smartphones.

Skoolbag integrates with your School Website. Update your site, and Skoolbag mobile app all at once!

Dear Parents

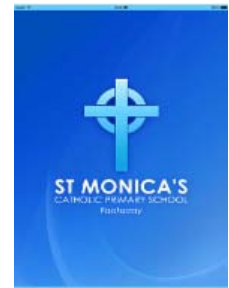
We send our Newsletter out via our Skoolbag app each **FRIDAY**. You can install the app on your phone or tablet device by following these instructions:

Search for: St Monica's School Footscray



For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SMARTPHONE (A PHONE THAT CAN GET THE INTERNET)

We will still be sending the newsletter out each week via email. If we do not have your email address on the newsletter list you can give it to Margaret or Ha in the office or your child's class teacher.

If you do not have access to email or a smart phone you can collect a copy of the newsletter from the office.

TERM 1 2018

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	29/01/2018		KIDS ARE BACK!!! 31/01/2018	PREPS START!!! 3	2/02/2018		 /2018
2	Assembly - Prayer & Welcome 5/02/2018	Prep Reading Meeting 6.30pm 6/02/2018	7/02/2018	PE & Art/Italian 8/02/2018	Hip Hop Session P -6 with Kevin 9/02/2018	 11/02/2018	OPENING MASS 10.30 11/02/2018
3	Assembly - Ash Wednesday Liturgy - Church 12/02/2018	13/02/2018	Ash Wednesday Alicia out Study Day 14/02/2018	PE & Art/Italian 15/02/2018	Hip Hop Sessions P -6 with Kevin 16/02/2018	 18/02/2018	18/02/2018
4	Assembly - Seniors in Hall 19/02/2018	Joe at RE PL 20/02/2018	Mary Jo, Paula & Annie out at PL 21/02/2018	PE & Art/Italian 22/02/2018	Hip Hop Session P -6 with Kevin 23/02/2018	 25/02/2018	25/02/2018
5	Conversations Assembly - Middle 26/02/2018	Learning Conversations 27/02/2018	28/02/2018	PE & Art/Italian 1/03/2018	2/03/2018		4/03/2018
6	Assemblies - Awards 5/03/2018	Emergency Drill 6/03/2018	Alicia out study Day 7/03/2018	PE & Art/Italian Sacrament Meeting I 8/03/2018	9/03/2018		11/03/2018
7	 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY 12/03/2018	CATHOLIC 13/03/2018	EDUCATION 14/03/2018	WEEK PE & Art/Italian 15/03/2018	St Pat's Mass Schools - Student Leadership Team 16/03/2018	ST PATRICKS DAY 17/03/2018	 MIDDLE MASS 10.30 & OPEN DAY 25/03/2018
8	Assembly - Juniors - In Hall 19/03/2018	20/03/2018	21/03/2018	PE & Art/Italian 22/03/2018	SCHOOL CLOSURE 23/03/2018		25/03/2018
9	Middles Holy Week Liturgy - in Church 26/03/2018	27/03/2018	28/03/2018	End of Term 1 School Finishes 1.00 pm Holy Thursday 29/03/2018	Good Friday 30/03/2018	Easter Saturday 1/04/2018	Easter Sunday 1/04/2018

OTHER DATES WE KNOW

Easter Holiday Friday 30 March - Sunday 15 April **SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN ON MONDAY 16 APRIL**

Senior Camp Monday 23 April & Tuesday 24 April

NAPLAN Tuesday 15 , Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 May

School Photos Wednesday 18 April

Masses Middles - 25 March Seniors - 27 May Juniors - 28 October

Graduation Mass - 16 December

First Communion - Saturday 18 or Sunday 19 August TBA