WELCOME to a new school year, to both returning and new families. I know you have enjoyed a long, hot summer holiday and many are happy that school has started again! I look forward to a year in which, with your support and encouragement, your children continue to grow and develop at St Andrew’s. By working together, we provide the best learning opportunities and experiences for your child.

I also welcome to St Andrew's, Mr Fintan Archer, our new Assistant Principal, and Eilis Stubberfield (who has worked here in the past). I know they will love working with our wonderful school community.

Sadly, we will be farewelling both Father Andrew and Father Tom this month, as each has accepted a position in another parish. We will farewell them at the Ash Wednesday Mass this coming week, and I invite as many parents as possible to be in attendance. We will also acknowledge both priests at our first assembly of the year, on Thursday, 14th February.

This year, assemblies will be held every second week instead of every week. Check the term planner for the dates of the assemblies.

There are a few changes taking place this year, due to the increasing demands being made of teachers and education generally. I would appreciate your noting the following and supporting us as we endeavour to provide optimum learning conditions for your child.

MORNING ROUTINE: Staff members are on duty from 8.00am in the Undercover Area. On arrival at school, all children (Years 1 – 6) should come to this area where they remain until the 8.20am bell goes. At that time, the duty teacher sends them to their classroom. No children should be at the classrooms prior to this time. Parents of Pre-primary children usually ‘deliver’ them to the teacher at 8.20am but once you child has settled into full time school, please avoid going into the classroom.

DROP and GO: Parents and guardians of Year 1 – 6 children are asked to avoid going into classrooms before school. Please DROP your child in the Kiss ‘n’ Ride, at the gate or at the UCA each day and GO. Children need to organise themselves each morning and they need to develop the necessary skills to do this. These skills include making their way to the UCA and the classroom, unpacking their bags and following class routines for themselves. For some parents this is difficult, but it is in your child’s best interests in the long term.

Companions on the Journey

Children Are ...

Amazing, acknowledge them.
Believable, trust them.
Childlike, allow them.
Divine, honour them.
Energetic, nourish them
Fallible, embrace them.
Gifts, treasure them.
Here Now, be with them.
Innocent, delight with them.
Joyful, appreciate them.
Kindhearted, learn from them.
Loveable, cherish them.
Magical, fly with them.
Noble, esteem them.
Open Minded, respect them.
Precious, value them.
Questioners, encourage them.
Resourceful, support them.
Spontaneous, enjoy them.
Talented, believe in them.
Unique, affirm them.
Vulnerable, protect them.
Whole, recognize them.
Xtraspecial, celebrate them.
Yearning, notice them.
Zany, laugh with them.

Written by Meiji Stewart
**TEACHER AVAILABILITY:** Teachers are responsible for all children from 8.20am, so are not available to parents or guardians before school. On too many occasions last year, I would go to classrooms several minutes after the bell, to find parents engaged in conversation with the teacher, while 30 children waited (sometimes not very patiently). If you have information that the teacher needs to have, please put it in writing and ask your child to give it to the teacher. Alternatively you can leave a written message at the school office for delivery to the teacher. However, messages left at the office may not be received by the teacher until recess.

**TEACHER INTERVIEWS:** Teachers are not available for parent interviews before school. They are available after school and at various times during the school day according to their ‘non-contact’ time. These times will be listed in the parent information handout, available at the Parent Information Afternoon on Wednesday February 20th. Parent interview request forms are available from your child’s classroom or the school office. If you are unable to come in to meet with the teacher and wish to discuss the matter by phone, please indicate this on the form.

**CLIMBING FRAME:** The climbing frame is out of bounds at all times unless there is a staff member on duty, supervising children’s play. There are notices advising parents that the equipment is not to be used by children under five years of age, but these are frequently ignored, particularly at the end of the school day. Please assist us by not allowing your children to play on this equipment while you are waiting for other children or talking with another parent.

**KINDY 2014:** For children born between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Kindy interviews for 2014 take place in April and May. We have only a few places left and I believe there are a number of current families that have not yet submitted applications. You may miss out if you do not have your application in before April, as once the interview process has been completed, offers are sent out and places are filled by late May.

**TOTAL FOOTBALL ACADEMY (SOCCER PROGRAM):** TFA will be running an after school soccer program in Term 1 2013 at St Andrews Catholic Primary School. Registration forms will be distributed during a free demonstration. During the 6 week program games will be played inside an inflatable soccer field, which captures the imagination of students, giving them a great soccer experience. Training will take place inside a skills square focusing on different skills each week, such as dribbling, turning and shooting. Start date: Tuesday 26th of February, Preprimary - Year 4, 3:00pm - 4.00pm. Sign up online at www.totalfootballacademy.com.au or call Daniel on 0410 899 819.

**STUDENTS’ INTERNET ACCESS** In order to access and use the internet at St Andrew’s CPS each student must read and sign an Acceptable Use Agreement. Please read through, discuss and sign this with your child/children. Please also complete and sign the Parent Letter and return both forms to the classroom teacher as soon as possible.

**THANK YOU**
Thank you for having your child prepared for school with all the booklist and uniform items required. This makes such a difference to the start of a new school year as children adjust to a new teachers, classmates and classrooms.

God bless you
Eileen Climo
Principal

This week the newsletter is sent out as a hard copy to all families. From next week it will be emailed to your current email address. It is also available on the school website www.standrews.wa.edu.au or from the school office.