A Prayer For the First Day of School

Here we are again, Lord.
Their backpacks are loaded and their faces are scrubbed and their lunch boxes are full.
And I know you’ll walk with them, Lord. You always do.
But a parent still has to ask. Will You walk with them?
Will You whisper to them what they need to hear, when I’m not there to whisper it?
Will You please, oh please, cover their school with the protection only You can give,
and will You keep harm far away?
Will You make their minds strong and ready to learn?
Will You help them understand that hard work honours the One who created them?
Will You guide their teachers, giving them patience
and wisdom and creativity and more patience?
Will You bless them for their efforts?
Will You love all those children there, the ones whose lunch boxes aren’t full,
the ones who feel alone?
Will You teach my children to be kind and unselfish
and to love those who are different from them?
Will You point them back toward home just as soon as you can? Lord,
I give them to You today and everyday, trusting them to Your care. Amen.

Excitement abounds as we finally have been able to use and move into the new Year 1 classrooms. A sincere thank you to all of the staff and students who assisted in this move. I personally feel that it went very smoothly because to the dedication and cooperation of all involved. Thank you! I am sure that the Year 1 children can’t wait to show their parents through the new rooms.

Please remember that if your child is sick or even feeling unwell, school is not the place to drop them off. A number of children have been brought to school that have been unwell in the morning or night before, they should be kept at home under parental care. While I fully understand that this may not be possible in all circumstances, it is essential that sick children are not brought to school as they could make others in their class unwell and will not be well enough to undertake the rigors of school work. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

On Tuesday night, all of the staff and I attended the Regional Mass for Catholic Staff at St. Simon Peter Catholic Church. A very reverent mass was celebrated, with staff from a number of schools within our local area and staff from the Catholic Education Office.

Please ensure that no one brings dogs onto the school grounds, even if they are on leashes. Some children are frightened of dogs and while I understand that the dogs are trained and very obedient, we do not want to traumatize any of the students. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.
Last week, I was invited to Irene McCormack Catholic Secondary School, by the Principal so that we can continue to develop strong and beneficial procedures for the students who attend St. Andrew’s and want to attend this secondary school in the future. A very rewarding and productive meeting was held.

PARENT / TEACHER OPEN AFTERNOON 3.05pm-5:30pm
AMENDMENT: YEAR 1 – YEAR 6 ONLY
(NOT KINDY OR PREPRIMARY) TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY
It is essential that parents attend the open afternoon that will be held on Tuesday 24th February after school. At this time, general information will be presented and give parents the opportunity to meet and greet their teacher. If you are unable to attend please contact your child’s classroom teacher, prior to the meeting.

KINDY 2016 ENROLMENTS
We are in the process of analysing applications for children / families who intend to participate in the St. Andrew’s Kindergarten Program in 2016. If any parent has not enrolled their child, and they are born between July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012, they need to do so immediately. (We can only enrol children who have the correct enrolment application forms and that we know want to participate in our program.) Please do not assume that we 'know' that your child is seeking enrolment into the St. Andrews’s School Kindergarten Program.

Families with siblings starting Kindy in 2016 will not be required to attend an interview for your child. Although, if you DO have any concerns about your child that the Principal needs to be aware of please contact the office for an interview with Mr Fontaine as soon as possible.

P&F NEWS AND INFORMATION
A sincere thank you is extended to the St. Andrew’s P&F Committee who spent a considerable amount of time with me in a meeting to discuss future goals and aspirations of the school and P&F. The P&F have done a tremendous amount of work, for the benefit of the children at the school. I urge all of you, as a part of the community, to continue to support and attend all of the P&F functions and events. It is by this community support that we can continue to provide the very best resources and equipment for our children to use.

You are invited to the AGM of the St Andrew’s Parents and Friends Association on Wednesday 11th March commencing at 6:30pm in the School Hall. The next AGM will be held on the 25th November, 2015, the same night as the Schools Board’s AGM. Please put these dates into your diaries and it is hoped that you can attend. Maybe you can consider joining the P&F Committee this year as ‘many hands make light work’ and your small contribution may help the school and children in so many ways.

There will be no discount for the P&F Levy in 2015, as in previous years, as it is unclear about the guidelines needed for a discount and hence it has been placed under review. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

It is also hoped that in 2015, one parent from each class within the school will be able to assume the role of Class Rep. Their role will not be taxing in any way but merely as a port of call for information sharing about the P&F activities or the need to support other families within the school who are undergoing hardship. If you are interested in being a class rep for 2015, please speak to Mr Fontaine directly.
STUDENT ABSENCE DURING SCHOOL TERM TIME TO GO ON HOLIDAYS
Parents who remove their children, during normal school term time for a vacation, need to inform, the classroom teacher and the Principal in writing.

St. Andrew’s Catholic Primary School, does not support the withdrawal of children during important term teaching time for the purpose of vacations.

Should there be no alternative, please be aware that it is not the responsibility of your child’s classroom teacher to prepare and correct work during this time, nor to catch up on work that is missed.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter and I am personally happy to discuss this further with any parent, if required.

CHILDREN IN OTHER GRADES WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM – DURING SCHOOL TIME
Children who attend our school in Years 3 - 6 and have missed receiving one or several sacraments during their Primary School education have the opportunity to join in the Sacramental program. If this applies to your child, and you would like to find out further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Archer immediately.

STUDENT ACTION PLANS FOR ANAPHYLAXIS / ALLERGIC REACTIONS
Any student who requires an action plan for either Anaphylaxis or Allergic Reactions will need to complete a new Action Plan form, complete with current coloured photo and consultation with your family doctor and hand it into the front office as soon as possible. Please do not assume that if you have completed one of these forms before that it will suffice. Each year a new and updated form must be submitted to the school according to legislation. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

YEAR 6 STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT
The Year 6 student council met this week and they have decided to prioritise their initiatives for St Andrew’s School in 2015. The first initiatives are listed below and more will follow in the coming newsletters.

The children were asked ways in which we can continue to grow and further develop St. Andrew’s School.

1. **Badges** To acknowledge the achievement of students throughout the school, badges will be purchased and the children can wear them with pride. (Some suggestions include School Choir, School Band, and Sports Captains.)

2. The children felt that coloured sports banners and new school flag would enhance the image at our school.

3. **Student Leaders.** The students felt that they could be provided with the opportunity to chair and run assemblies, with a designated format. This would include introduce the assembly, speakers, class items and the reading of merit awards. A trial will be put into place shortly.

4. **Canteen Menu.** The children wanted to explore the idea of increasing the variety on the canteen menu, still ensuring that the foods are predominantly green light items. A trial period of some new items will commence this term, and will be then reviewed by our Canteen Manageress, Maria and myself.

5. **Our Environmental Ministry**, is in the process of looking at the school environment as a whole and the establishment of a designated vegetable garden area.

6. **Tokens.** The year 6 students would like to develop a token system to enforce appropriate behaviour at the school in a positive way. The children who, ‘do the right thing’ will have the opportunity to earn tokens, administered by the Year 6 students, for their factions. This is a work in progress and will be developed over the first term for full implementation in Term 2.
7. **Themed Free Dress Day and limited to Catholic charities.** We will be looking at having organised Free Dress Days for the students for a $2 gold coin donation. In this way it is very clear where the money will be donated to and it will not be a huge expense to families.

While the students and I acknowledge that there are a huge number of very worthwhile charities, we will limit our days to also work in with the liturgical year. Some suggestions include, but this is not set in concrete:

- **Term 1:** Wednesday 1st April - Project Compassion, (Crazy Tie or favourite shirt theme),
- **Term 2:** Friday 3rd July - Life Link, (Pyjamas to school Theme) Cancer Council of Western Australia,
- **Term 3:** Thursday 24th September - Caritas / Mission (In consultation with Fr Robert) (Sports Theme- favourite Sports athlete), CAN OF SPAM PER FAMILY
- **Term 4:** Monday 7th December - St. Vincent de Paul Society (Holiday Theme).

**Stay tuned for more innovations and ideas.**

**LITERACY AND NUMERACY AT ST ANDREW’S SCHOOL**

St Andrew’s Catholic Primary School have dedicated Literacy and Numeracy Blocks in each class to further develop the child’s skills in these areas.

**COMPLETE ADVANTAGE TESTING**

All kindergarten students participate in the Complete Advantage Language Screening Assessment in Term 1. This allows for the early identification of individual student needs.

**PIPS**

A computer based program known as PIPS is used within the Pre-Primary twice a year. Once in the first three weeks and again in the last term. PIPS is designed to determine the student readiness for learning and to pin point areas of student’s strengths and weaknesses.

**OBSERVATIONAL SURVEYS**

This is a package of assessments given to each student in Years 1 – 3. All Year 1 students will sit a full observational survey. The children in Years 2 and 3 will sit modified assessments, according to their individual needs.

The assessments are designed to again determine the student’s areas of strengths and weaknesses. The results enable the teachers and support staff to begin teaching your child at an appropriate level. The results of these assessments are analysed and interpreted and the findings and recommendations are given to St Andrew’s School for further consideration and implementation.

**RUNNING READING RECORDS / MATHS ASSESSMENTS**

All students in Years 1 - 6 MAY be assessed using this process. The results again enable the teacher to gain an understanding for a starting point to teach your child. Assessments also occur in Mathematics.

**STANDARDISED TESTS**

Each class will be completing a number of Standardised tests in a variety of Learning Areas so that data can be gathered. Once the gathered data is analysed, then sound teaching and learning practices can be employed.

**READING RECOVERY / EMU (EXTENDING MATHEMATIC UNDERSTANDING)**

Both of these very beneficial and valuable programs are being taught at St. Andrew’s. Our goal is to assist students to at least meet or better minimum literacy and numeracy standards.
TEACHER PROGRAMMING
The staff at St. Andrew’s School meet regularly after school hours in professional learning communities (PLC) as Junior / Senior clusters or as a whole group to plan, monitor and assess learning journey’s using the results from data and other testing (e.g. NAPLAN). All grade teachers program collaboratively so that both classes cover the same content and concepts at approximately the same time. In this way both of the grade teachers can share ideas, thoughts and skills to enhance the learning environment for the children.

JETS
Jets is a program that is offered at the school catering for children to be enriched above their current learning age.

RESOURCES
We have already purchased a considerable amount of resources, in every class, to support our programs. I hope that this information has assisted you. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sam Fontaine
Principal

Many, many happy returns to those children who have celebrated their birthday recently…..

P&F NEWS

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW’S NIGHT
Welcome to St Andrew’s night is next Friday, 20th February. The P&F are looking forward to seeing lots of families on the oval, enjoying the music, the bouncy castle, and sports equipment. Bring along your picnic dinner, or buy a sausage sizzle for $2, which includes a drink! We are still looking for volunteers to help out on the night, so please contact Michelle Hendry if you can spare an hour or two (0421 086 374).

P&F HAS A FACEBOOK GROUP
St Andrew’s Catholic Primary School P&F now has a Facebook Group. Request to join today, and keep informed of what your P&F are organising for both students and parents. Upcoming events planned include Welcome to St Andrew’s night, an afternoon at the movies, and Easter. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 11th March, more details to follow in the coming weeks.

All parents at St Andrew’s are automatically members of the P&F, and we would love to welcome new faces to our monthly meetings. Come along and see and hear what happens (bring a friend!) and find out what you can do to make 2015 our best year yet!
Our Goals for Year 2

I am going to remember to do my homework. Zachary Young

I am going to be a good friend and let people play with me. Rouen

I am going to talk less and listen more in class. Brodie

I am going to be nice to other people. Kumeroa

I will try to not get distracted by my friends. Alex

I will try to do my best with my work. Blake

I will be kind to all children at St Andrew’s. Noah

I will be happy every day. I love being in 2 White. Ben

I will try my best to write my words by myself. Rose

I will play with my friends. Laranya

I will let other people join in my games. Lauren

I will be a Happy Chappy. Towera

I am going to take care of others by being helpful and nice. Edoardo

I will be kind and I will forgive people. Joshua

I am going to be a Happy Chappy every day. Tanika

I am going to share with others. Siah

I am going to read every night so I will become a great reader! Lachie

I will practice my reading each night. Jaxon

I am going to be a better writer by practicing my writing at home. Zac

I am going to learn to write by myself. Jessica

I am going to be ready for work on time. Rhys

I am going to try to stay on task and not be distracted. Bianca

I will try hard to not be distracted or annoy others. Patrick

I will not talk when the teacher or others are talking. Alexis

I am going to try really hard in Maths this year. Mitchell