Dear Parents and Guardians,

After seven years, the time has come for me to say goodbye to St Andrew's school community. The decision to move on was a difficult one, as I have loved my time in this wonderful place. There is an atmosphere of happiness and a sense that all is right with the world when I return here and that is something I will really miss.

My farewells from the School Board, parents and students took place last week and I thank each and every person for the generous gifts I received from both individuals and the community. I enjoyed celebrating St Andrew's Day on Friday and having the opportunity to address children and parents following the Mass and morning tea.

I shared my experiences of life when I was at primary school over 50 years ago, in particular the similarities and differences between my experience and the children's current experience. No devices (and in fact no television when I started school); walking to school rain, hail or shine; inkwells, inkblots and fountain pens (I think I lost the children at this point); 45 children in each classroom with one teacher; and no male teacher during my primary or secondary education - religious sisters being my teachers throughout my schooling. Such was life in a Catholic school in those days and in some ways not so different from primary schools today, where male teachers are in a distinct minority.

Each principal adds something different to the life of a school. We all help to build a thriving and flourishing community where Christ is the cornerstone, and the wellbeing of students, staff and families is paramount. Margaret Sweetman, the foundation Principal of St Andrew's, together with her staff built a facility that looks as good today as when it was built. Every new family comments on how lovely the buildings and grounds are and the atmosphere that prevails when they enter the school. She employed and developed a young staff, most of whom are still with us, albeit between having babies and creating their own families. They keep our school young at heart and a vibrant and energetic place to be.

As the Principal for the seven years following Margaret, I have endeavoured to build a quality educational environment where each child reaches their God given potential through academic, sporting, musical and other opportunities that we have offered to our students. I sincerely thank Warren Smith, who has held the position of Principal at St Andrew's for the past 18 months while I have been on secondment to the Catholic Education Office. He has held the school on a steady course in difficult circumstances at times, in particular due to the building programme that has been undertaken. He has devoted many hours to ensuring that the school has run smoothly and is in a good position to move forward.
Sam Fontaine, your new Principal will bring a new perspective to the school through his leadership of this community and I know that together with you, the school will continue to grow and our children to flourish spiritually, socially and educationally.

I have been blessed in my journey as Principal, well supported by my Assistant Principals, Bridget, Warren and Fintan, and by the School Board under the leadership of Michelle Varley and Judith Birchall. I thank each and every member of the School Board, P and F, Father Phillip, Father Andrew and Father Robert – our loyal and supportive parish priests over my time here - and the highly capable and enthusiastic staff, all of whom have worked tirelessly over the years to ensure the best physical and learning environment for our children. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2017 (if not before) when St Andrew’s celebrates its 20th anniversary.

God bless you and your families

NOTES SENT HOME THIS WEEK:
Morning Tea Invitation - Parent Helpers
Year 6 – Irene McCormack in 2015
Year 5 and 6 Classes for 2015
PP and Yr 1 Classes - relocation

Eileen Climo
Principal

VISION STATEMENT
St Andrew’s CPS offers an education that acknowledges, respects and nurtures the uniqueness of each person. Within a framework of Catholic values and teamwork, the students will be challenged and supported to recognise their gifts and develop their potential as they learn and contribute to their community.

SCHOOL NEWS

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9 December</td>
<td>Last day for Year 6 – Year 6 Reports go home. Staff Meeting. Year 6 Graduation Mass 6.30pm followed by ceremony in the Hall. Approximate finish 8.30pm.</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10 December</td>
<td>Last day for Kindy White. Kindy reports go home with children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11 December</td>
<td>Christmas Assembly with items from Yr 2, 4, choir and band followed by Volunteers Morning Tea - Hall Last Day for Kindy Blue and Gold. Kindy reports go home with children.</td>
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<td>Friday 12 December</td>
<td>Last day of Term 4 for PP-Y5 students. Reports go home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 30 January</td>
<td>Uniform shop open between 9.30am-11.30am</td>
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<td>Monday 2 February</td>
<td>Students Resume School Term 1, 2015</td>
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Many, many happy returns to those lucky children celebrating birthdays!
Billy B, Katie L, Jelyn S, Liam M, Emma H, Caitlyn D

Advent: The Second Sunday in Lent is this Sunday, 7 December. Advent has a dual purpose – as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. As we head into this significant Church season I ask all families within the school
community to donate non perishable food items to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to those in need in the lead up to Christmas. We ourselves have families who are finding life most challenging. This is a time to reach out and help others where we can.

**Saint Andrew’s Day Celebrations**: This was a very successful day of celebrations. The children and parents said goodbye to Mrs Climo at a special mass organised for the Feast of Saint Andrew. A lovely group of caring parents attended the farewell morning tea for Mrs Climo and a beautiful speech was delivered by our Parents and Friends Secretary Gwen Carroll. The School Choir sang a couple of lovely farewell songs to Mrs Climo, who was very moved. Later in the morning The Silver Threads band performed a number of orchestral pieces for our children. These silver haired adults may be older but they are amazingly talented and full of energy! To complete the day the P and F provided an amazing fun Big Splash event on the oval. A lot of water and a lot of Joy! Thank you P and F Committee, you are all legends of the Splash!! 😊

**Easter 2015**: Many families organise their holidays around Easter so please be warned that Easter occurs during the Term 1 school break in 2015. **Term dates for students are:**
- Term 1: Monday 2 February – Thursday 2 April
- Term 2: Monday 20 April – Friday 3 July
- Term 3: Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September
- Term 4: Monday 12 October – Friday 11 December

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<th>MJR AWARDS – 4 DECEMBER 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Preprimary</td>
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**Parentingideas.com**  **Helping kids to conquer self-consciousness**

**Michael Grose**

Self-consciousness can be awful. It’s the feeling you get that everyone is looking at you. Often eldest boys when in early primary school are extremely shy and self-conscious. It can make them do silly things. Then self-consciousness revisits later in early adolescence for many boys. Early teen girls often suffer from it, particularly if they are early or late maturers. Some kids just hate to do anything in public for fear of being noticed and perhaps laughed at. They think, quite wrongly, that everyone is looking at them. The truth of the matter is that most people aren’t looking at them. Here are some ideas to help your child or young person conquer self-consciousness:
1. **Help them prepare for public performances.** They can practise a talk or even rehearse an opening line to help them break the ice in social situations.

2. **Use baby steps in social situations.** If they feel uncomfortable meeting a whole bunch of new people, then they can just meet one new friend at a party, rather than try to meet too many people, which can be overwhelming.

3. **Practise strong self-talk.** Help them develop realistic and more assertive messages about themselves. “It will be fun going on stage at the concert with my friends” is far more helpful than “Everyone will be staring at me” or “What if I muck up?”.

4. **Catch kids being brave.** Let them know that even though they may have stumbled or fluffed a line or two the room didn’t cave in. It wasn’t so bad.

5. **Breathe in, breathe out.** Deep breathing where they count to 3 breathing in, but count to 6 when breathing out will help kids regain calm, control and hopefully perspective.

Self-consciousness may not be something we can completely eradicate but it is something we all can learn to control so it doesn’t stop us, or our kids, doing what we want to do.

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**Class Lists for 2015 / Orientation:** Class lists for 2015 will be compiled in the next few days and there will be some changes to the existing class lists. All parents were given the opportunity to share information with the Principal that could impact a decision on where their child is placed. This information was requested in writing prior to Friday 21 November.

On Wednesday 10th December the children will be sent on to their 2015 classes to meet their new classroom teachers and to do orientation activities. Class lists will be displayed outside the 2015 classrooms.

**2015 Booklists:** Newsletter 31 / 2014 featured a front page article all about the process of ordering from the 2015 booklists. The booklists were recently distributed to all children. The book lists are very easy to read and provide all the information needed for parents and guardians to ensure that children turn up to school with all of the equipment they require for a successful start to the 2015 school year.

**School Fees are now a priority:** Thank you to the families who have already met their fee commitments for the 2014 school year. The deadline for 2014 school fees has now past. We greatly welcome the payment of all outstanding monies which will help us meet our financial responsibilities as we draw even closer to the conclusion of the school year. Fees can be paid by cash, credit card, and direct debit or B Pay if these options are in place.

**Classroom Clean up:** During Weeks 8-9 classroom teachers have started to organise times when student desks and chairs as well as general classroom furniture such as book shelves will need cleaning. Teachers and Teacher Assistants will greatly appreciate all the help that they can muster at this ‘challenging time’ of the term. Please volunteer in advance as many hands make light work.

**Today:** We enjoyed a wonderful assembly. ‘The Nativity’ was presented by Pre Primary who were assisted by Year 6. We also distributed the final classroom ‘Making Jesus Real Awards’ for the school year.

**Daily drop off and end of day pick up:** It is important that children are delivered to school and picked up in a timely manner. We understand the occasional event happening that impacts a regular arrival and departure but it is very concerning when parents are frequently tardy. We would prefer that parents and guardians addressed our concerns.

**Community Carols on the School Oval / Picnic Dinner:** Tomorrow Friday 5 December at 5.30pm, there will be a family picnic on the oval. This will be followed by the singing of Christmas Carols from 6.00pm.
Please ensure that you pack according to the understanding that it is your responsibility to take your rubbish home. Also remember that parents must supervise children playing on the oval area. All other areas of the school will be locked and secured. The evening should conclude at about 7.30pm.

**Year 6 Graduation:** will take place in the Church at 6.30pm on Tuesday 9 December. Mass will be followed by a speech by an invited guest, the presentation of awards, the viewing of a PowerPoint which is currently being worked on by the graduating class and a light supper. Families are advised to circle this date on the Term Planner.

On Thursday 11 December the school community will assemble in the hall at 9.00am for a Christmas Concert followed by the annual **Volunteers Thank You Morning Tea.**

**School Security:** Parents, if you are passing the school out of school hours, especially along Victorsen Parade, which is where the school build is occurring, and you observe anyone illegally entering the building envelope please ring the police.

**UNIFORMS:** Summer uniform orders are now ready to be collected from the uniform shop. The uniform shop is open on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm-3.00pm and Friday mornings from 8.00am to 9.00am. Please note that the uniform shop will be open during the January school holidays. It will be open on Friday 30 January from 9.30am-11.30am. Children are to be in their full summer uniform during Term 1, 2015.

**Congratulations Charlotte:** Congratulations to Charlotte M in Year 5B for gaining a High Distinction in her 1st Grade Australian Music Examination Board Flute Exam at the University of Western Australia recently. Well done Charlotte!!

**Indonesian Cooking Day**

Food is the hallmark of culture. The Year 6B and 6W classes were very enthusiastic when attending their Indonesian cooking sessions on 14 and 21 November 2014.

I could see young budding chefs in the making. They cut, peeled and chopped garlic, onions, ginger, turmeric and lemon grass. Some sliced up chicken and beef and marinated them with their respective ingredients. Beans and vegetables were washed and cut to the required sizes. Eggs were cracked carefully for making omelettes and pancake batter. Each group consisted of four students and each group cooked a different menu item. At the end of their cooking session, there was an array of satay chicken, beef rendang, Nasi goreng, mee goreng and kuih cara manis (desert).

I noticed some students were completely mesmerised while performing their task, working collaboratively with their friends under the guidance of parent helpers. I could see the orderliness during the preparation time, acting responsibly making sure tables were kept clean and equipment used safely. Some were over zealous making sure their creative skills shone in the presentation of their cooked food. I couldn't be more proud to see each and everyone working harmoniously in the preparation and the cooking of their dish. The dishes were amazingly tasty and well presented. Thanks to Mr Zac Waddell, Miss Jessica Watkins and all parent helpers who sacrificed a couple of hours to supervise and help in making this cooking session a real success. Ibu Chin - LOTE Teacher
Pre Primary Blue Christmas Nativity

Pre-Primary Blue would like to share our experience of our Christmas Nativity.

Maicha (Innkeeper): I had to show Mary and Joseph where to go to the stable.

Ben W (Wiseman): I had to give my gift to Mary and Joseph.

Joel (angel): I flew on the stage and flapped my wings.

Taj B. (shepherd): When there was an angel coming I put my arm on my face.

Athie (shepherd): We had to walk onto the stage.

Isla G (donkey): I had to ride Orla and Max to Bethlehem.

Isla Lee (angel): We had to flap our wings.

Taj M. (soldier): We had to tell everyone that they need to get counted.

Nate (soldier): I was a knight with Thomas.

Ella (angel): I flew up the stage.

Ariad (soldier): I stomped onto the stage.

Will (soldier): I had to lead the soldiers and we had to stomp on the stage.

Finn (Shepherd): I walked up the stage with a stick.

Sassy (seller): I sold things in a box.

Alysha (star): I had to hold the star.

Jai (shepherd): looking after the sheep.

Thomas (soldier): March onto the stage.

Jacob (shepherd): I had to take my time and I had to walk to see baby Jesus.

T day (angel): I had to fly with my friends.

Sas (a boy cow): We were standing up sleeping with our hands.

Jimmy (shepherd): We looked at baby Jesus.

Zoe (angel): I flew up on stage.

Liv (angel): I flew on the stage to see baby Jesus.

Asher (soldier): March up to the stage.

Orla (Mary): Walked with Joseph to Bethlehem and had baby Jesus.

Benjamin (soldier): marching up on the stage.

Henry (seller): we sold things.

Nate (soldier): I am a knight with Thomas.