Dear Parents,

Lent is a time for strengthening our faith and as we are fast approaching Holy week it is time to reflect on who we are and where we are going.

The symbol of the cross reminds us that we all have to face some hard times in our lives. We are called to accept these challenges as Jesus accepted His cross. When we take up our crosses we are following in the footsteps of Jesus.

Just as Jesus spent forty days in preparation for his work of redemption, so we too prepare for our own redemption. We are called to look at ourselves and how we relate to others.

Will you take up this challenge in these last weeks of Lent?

Let us pray:

Jesus you came to help us to see what you could see in the world. Your love for the poor, the downhearted, the outcast, the lonely, the weak, and the marginalized was enormous.

During this time in Lent, lend us your eyes, your heart and your mind so that we may see, feel and think as you do.

May we be always generous in our resolve to reach out to others with respect, honesty, tolerance, care, forgiveness and compassion. Amen.

Thank You

As Term 1 draws to an end I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their dedication, the students for their hard work and the parents for their unfailing support. In particular I thank the Parents and Friends Association for the time and effort they have put into special events during Term 1, your enthusiasm and dedication is greatly appreciated by all at St. John Vianney's. My best wishes for a Holy and safe Easter and a refreshing break.

God Bless,

[Signature]

Glenn Fatchell
Principal
Winter Uniform

Students should be dressed in their winter uniform by Monday 5 May. It is timely to revisit our uniform dress code at the change of season.

Uniform Dress Code

- children are to wear the correct school uniform neatly and with pride.
- parents are asked to ensure their children wear the correct uniform
- all items of clothing must be clearly marked with the child’s name and class
- girls are permitted to wear plain gold or silver single sleepers or studs
- ornamental bangles, bracelets, anklets or earrings are not to be worn.
- girls may wear one signet ring
- a necklace of Religious significance may be worn underneath the uniform
- boys are not to wear earrings to school
- nail polish is not to be worn
- boys hairstyles are to be neat and simple — no pronounced undercuts or designs,
- no rats tails or hair impeding their vision girls with should length hair are to have
  it tied back away from the face
- girls’ hair accessories are to be in school colours of blue
- school shoes are to be black and polishable
- sport shoes are to be a jogger design
- children are to wear the school hat everyday with the flap down and the peak of
  the cap facing forward.
- children without hats will be directed to the designated shade areas
- Yr. 6 students may wear their souvenir polo shirt on sports days

Note on socks ~ Please note boys and girls are to wear navy ankle style socks with both summer and winter uniforms. In winter girls may wear navy tights. On sport days children wear white sport style socks.

CROSS COUNTRY

Our annual Cross Country was held on Friday 21 March. Congratulations to all the students for their enthusiastic efforts. Thank you to the staff members who assisted in the cross country running so smoothly.

A special thanks to the Year 6 students for doing a marvellous job directing and encouraging the runners.

Congratulations to the athletes who have qualified for the Diocesan Crouss country which will be held on Tuesday 6 May at Eatsern Creek.

Margaret Hancock
Sports Coordinator

ENROLMENTS 2015

Enrolment Forms for Kindergarten 2015 are now available from the office.
TERM 1 CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3 April</td>
<td>9.15am Parish Mass—Yrs. 3-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>2.15pm Merit Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>Easter Raffle Wrapping 9-11 P&amp;F</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graffiti Education - Yrs. 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10 April</td>
<td>9.15am Parish Mass—Yrs. 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Raffle Drawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>10.00am Student of the Term</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>HOLY THURSDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>EASTER SATURDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>EASTER SUNDAY</td>
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</tbody>
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SCHOOL RESUMES ON MONDAY 28 APRIL  K-6

DEBATING NEWS

After a few weeks of auditions and mock debates, 9 students from Year 6, who are showing a great potential in debating, have been selected to from our Debating Team for 2014.

These students are: Allyssa Perez, Sean Garcia, Sabrina De La Motte, Noah Nourdine, Alysha Sinclair, Georgia Sultana, Shaun Muinoi, Yasmina Mekhail and Ashlyn Philip.

Our 2014 season promises to be exciting and challenging and we are looking forward to competing against St Andrew’s Marayong, St Francis of Assisi Glendenning and Good Shepherd Plumpton.

The students are currently engaged in learning some of the important skills of debating, such as research, writing of speeches, presenting these effectively as well as refuting the arguments of the opposition.

We wish our debaters best of luck in their learning and preparation for the debating season in Term 2 & Term 3.

Urszula Dobrzynski
Debating Coordinator
MERIT CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the following students

KINDergarten
Tyarrah Jimenez
Chanel Morales
Andrew Aggrey
Naomi Kaduthodil
Lara Hendrickson
Timothy Cheng
Sofia Carino
Justine De Abreu
Jerome Chin
Angelica.Icaca
Jacob Magsalin
Kristian Bermudez

Year 1
Deanne Jeremiah
Nikalai Sakalouski
Ysabella Sibucac
Isabel Mitchell
Mounir Abou-Yahi
Mariana Kayafis
Jai Abadiano
Pedrito Gatbonton
Bella Flores
Angelina Shafig
Jerrell Martin
Jasmine Rull

Year 2
Amelia Esposito
Jared Cruz
Andrew Lovering
Mariya Dcruz
Jackson Malouf
Chelsea Gumogda
Alexander Ayre
Charlize El Boustani
Mikayla Cunningham
Lincoln Nunez
Nikolai Quimpo
Angelo Williams

Year 3
Ivan Varan
Blake Tease
Sebastian Santiago
Kimrena Joe
Liesel Rull
Samuel Gutierrez
Diec Duckmanton
Kiara Tiqui
Giselle Quigg
Sebastian Franjic
Natasha Bernard
Kimrena Joe

Year 4
Kirsten Bermudez
Christopher Furtado
Lydia Boktor
Roslyn Langi
Jocelyn Chen
John-Paul Donevski
Kirsten Bermudez
Christopher Furtado
Lydia Boktor
Via Hokafou
Tegan Blanche
Caprice Torres-Rodriguez

Year 5
April Merleca
Christian Harms
Gerrell Quigg
Annaliese Zammit
Andreas Kaskaniotis
Aidan Morris
Justin Xuereb
Kyle Castro
Edric De Los Reyes

Year 6
Georgia Sultana
Shaun Muinoi
Louisa Dib
Myah Ngige
Alysha Sinclair
Leonelle Torres-Rodriguez
Holly Pham
Sophie Bompata
Zoe Perez
ANAPHYLAXIS
A LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY

Throughout our school we have several children with life threatening allergies to various forms of food. This is a serious issue the school must address and we have implemented various management strategies to cater for these children.

In order for our school to continue to be allergy aware we ask that you consider not including nuts, eggs, yoghurt or foods cooked in peanut oil as part of your child’s recess or lunch.

Thank you for considering the special health needs of these children.

CLOTHING POOL – Open every second Monday
The clothing pool will be open on Monday 28 April 2.30pm - 3.00pm operating from the old canteen.

We are in need of any winter uniform items.

Parents & Friends News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Thursday</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>School Banking books to be submitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday April 4</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Easter raffle tickets and chocolate donations due back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday April 7</td>
<td>9:00 – 11:00am</td>
<td>Easter Raffle wrapping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday April 10</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Easter Raffle will be drawn</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Easter Raffle – Drawn Thursday April 10
Tickets for the Annual Easter Raffle have been sent home; they are 50 cents each or three for $1.00.
Thank you to all of the families who have returned their money and tickets already. There are extra raffle ticket books available from the office so please be sure to collect an additional book to sell if you are able to.

Every year we are very fortunate to have great support for this fundraising event. Students from all classes are asked to donate a chocolate Easter egg to be collated into prizes for the raffle. This year we are continuing to raise money to purchase new pin boards for all classrooms. Please hand all donations to the class teacher. There is a collection bag in every classroom – let’s see if we can fill them up! All raffle tickets, money and Easter Egg donations are due back on Friday 4th April.

Raffle Prize Wrapping: Monday April 7 - we will be wrapping the egg donations into prizes. This is always a mammoth task. If you could set aside some time between 9-11am next Monday, your help will be most appreciated! Please meet the P&F committee in the Blue Room.

School Banking – Every Thursday
Banking Day is Thursday. Children will hand their yellow bank book to their teacher for the office box in the mornings. Bank books will be returned by Friday.

Many students have been issued with a certificate for their 10 tokens collected from 10 deposits, cumulative over 2013/2014. We hope your rewards gifts arrive before the end of term!
Mother's Day Stall – Friday May 9 11:30am-1:30pm
The P&F will once again be hosting a Mother’s Day Stall for students from K-6 to purchase a gift for Mums, Grandmothers and significant Mum figures in their lives on Friday May 9 (Term 2, week 2). All gifts are $7.00 with cards $1.00. The committee work hard every year to refine our search for a range of tasteful Mother’s Day gifts on a shoe-string budget! We need volunteers to help sell gifts at this stall. Please add this date to your Term 2 calendar.

Staying In Touch
Join the “SJV Parents & Friends” page on Facebook. Read updates and reminders of school events in your newsfeed; post a comment or question of concern to parents. We currently have 129 Likes. Have you liked us?

Next P & F Meeting – Friday May 16 at 2pm in the Staffroom.

Linda Hogan
P & F Secretary

Transition To High School – Presentation for parents: 26/03 @ 7:00pm
Last week I attended a workshop on “The Transition to High School”, organised by the Diocesan PRC. The guest speaker was Melissa Adams, a Professional Counsellor practising at Crossroads Counselling located in Pennant Hills. She gave some very valuable advice on how to help your child make a smooth transition to high school.

Transition is defined as “a period of change that can be both challenging and exciting, in which children and families adjust to new roles, identities and expectations, new interactions and new relationships.” Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Although research indicates that most students will have a problem free transition, here are a few tips to ensure that your child has a smooth change:

PROMOTE RESILIENCE - Kids need to experience hardship to be able to bounce back and learn to deal with difficult situations.
Engage in problem-solving conversations, encourage your child to figure things out for themselves. The earlier you teach your children this skill (as early as 3-5yrs of age) the better prepared they will be when facing adversities later on in life. When they are experiencing hardship ALWAYS be open and available to listen.

BE PREPARED - In years 5 & 6 ensure that you and your child visit your choice of potential high schools.
Talk about the difficulties that may occur and encourage your child to decide how she/he will deal with these situations (you may want to reference a time when they have overcome adversities in the past and have succeeded). Once you have made a choice, attend ALL the orientation days with your child (the more familiar the child becomes with his/her new situation the better the transition).

BE OPTIMISTIC - Mind your language, be sure to use positive language when talking about the challenges that your child may experience in high school. Be realistic but positive.
For example, instead of saying, “You have to be organised otherwise you won’t be able to cope”, you can try, “You know it’s important to be organised in high school, how do you think you will do that?”

RELATIONSHIPS It is important that they maintain their friendships with primary school friends which can act as a support network. Therefore, it is a good time to consolidate current friendships.
Encourage social contact outside of school.
Get to know the parents of their new friends.
A couple of early signs that your child is not coping well with these changes are:
1. Disengagement - coming up with all kind of excuses as to why they should not go to school (sore tummy, headaches)
2. Boredom - complaining of being bored at school.
As kids become adolescents they are less likely to communicate verbally so as parents it’s important that we learn to read the signs.
Some helpful references to help you prepare your children:
- The book "Brainstorm" by Dr. Dan Siegel
- www.smilingmind.com.au

Good luck to all the Year 6 students and their families with making choices and completing application forms for high schools for 2015.

Fran Nourdine
P & F President.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST ANDREWS COLLEGE

YEARS 7 AND 11, 2015
ENROLMENT INFORMATION

It would be appreciated if you could please put the article below in your newsletter:

A pre-enrolment meeting will be held at the College, Holy Family Campus, 116 Quakers Road, Marayong on 6th May at 6:00pm.

Applications for Enrolment for Year 7 2016 close on the 16th May.

St Andrews College is a Catholic secondary school located in Marayong, serving families in the Greater Blacktown area.

St Andrews College provides opportunities for each student to become a creative, competent, compassionate and confident person with an informed conscience and a firm conviction of faith.

Details of these are available in the College Prospectus.

Copies of the Prospectus and Application are available from the Registrar, Mrs Julie Sabine, phone: 9628 1999.

Further Information and Enrolment Applications can be obtained from the website at www.standrews@marayong.catholic.edu.au

Sydney Elite Chinese School Doonside - Chinese Language Programs

Class Days: Saturday/Sundays during school term

Times:
- Morning Class: 9.30—12.00pm
- Afternoon Class: 1.30pm—3.30pm

For more information: 9671 1551 Mobile 0410 939 078 Email: sydecisd@bigpond.com
South Marayong Out of School Hours
64 McClean Street Blacktown 2148
Email: smooshinc@bigpond.com
Mobile 0415231509

Week 1

Monday 14th April
Greatest Scavenger Hunt
Incursion cost $15.00

Tuesday 15th April
Art Express
Recycle & Bedazzle Day
Cost $5.00

Wednesday 16th April
Ice Skating at
Norwest Ice Arena
Excursion cost $25.00

Thursday 17th April
Celebrate Easter
Around the World.

Friday 18th April
Good Friday
Public Holiday

Week 2

Monday 21st April
Easter Monday
Public Holiday

Tuesday 22nd April
Camping INN
Bring your sleeping bag
for Camping Fun
Billy Tea, Damper & Bush craft

Wednesday 23rd April
ANZAC Day
Celebration & BBQ
Lunch Cost $5.00

Thursday 24th April
Tree Tops Adventure Park
Swing through the trees
Limited places
Cost 35.00

Friday 25th April
Anzac Day
Public Holiday

SMOOSH Daily Fee is $40.00 before CCB or CCR
Breakfast and afternoon tea are included in the daily cost.