COMING EVENTS:

TERM DATES
2017

Term 1
01/02/17—13/04/17

Term 2
01/05/17—07/07/17

Term 3
24/07/17—29/09/17

Term 4
16/10/17—15/12/17

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Are you ready for Christmas?

When we are asked this question we normally think straight away that people are asking about whether we have done our shopping and bought the food for Christmas dinner. In our church the season of Advent is certainly a time for the preparation for Christmas but we are also asked to take time in reflecting on the hope and faith, love and joy in our lives. Do we lose sight of its real meaning in the Christmas rush? We do. So our challenge is - How can we bring the peace and joy of Christmas into the lives of others?

Well done to all those that contributed to the St Vinnies Trees here at school. My voluntary work with Vinnies has shown me that Christmas can be one of the most joyous times of the year but it can also be one of the loneliest. As we rush around in our preparations can we be mindful of those people in our community that are suffering in one way or another and spend time with them or offer up a prayer for their needs? And what about those closest to us? Are we giving our families the priceless gift of time this year? Are our relationships all that we would hope? Who amongst our family and friends are suffering this Christmas? Can we take a little time out of our busyness to be present to these people? Share these thoughts with your children.

End of year Mass and Graduation

Our Year 5 class of 2016 graduated this week and I thank them and their families for all that they have contributed to our community. I know the staff are proud of their accomplishments thus far and we look forward to their future connection as old scholars of St Martin de Porres School.

Next year I am hoping that a lot more children attend the end of year Mass as this is an important part of their learning life in a Catholic School. It is also important that the children celebrate with their Year 5 buddies their time together and so develop an understanding of moving on but also in celebrating an
Farewells and Welcomes.
Mrs Sofia Mortimer and Mr Ian Berechree have announced their retirements. Sofia has been a teacher here for over 17 years. In that time she has taught across all year levels, enjoying time with our youngest and oldest students. She is to be congratulated and thanked for her time here. Ian has been the grounds person, handyman, plumber, roof cleaner and mischief maker for the past eight years. He is the “character” that all schools need!
Our Tuckshop Coordinator, Jan Convey, is also moving on to new opportunities. I thank her for her work here over the past five years.
The following teaching staff are moving onto new / past school communities – Laura Spurling, Nicky Watson, Michaela Black, Leeanne McAloney and Amy Polglase. Nhada Larkin is taking family time in 2017. I sincerely thank them for their contribution to St Martin de Porres and wish them all the very best.
At our classroom induction on Monday the children were introduced to their teachers for 2017. It is with pleasure that I welcome Ms Chiara Turci, Ms Erin Coppins, Ms Helen Clark, Mr Dennis McEvoy and Mr Luke Buchanan and I welcome back Mrs Rachel O’Brien to our teaching team for 2017. Our new groundsman is Mr Jason Boundy.

Parent Information Booklet Online
At the beginning of our 2017 school year you will be sent via our App a Parent Information Booklet. This will provide you with all the relevant school management information. To help you in your planning for the 2017 school year here are two sections from the Booklet – School staff and Term Dates (please see page 3).

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and Holiday. I am very excited about the learning year of 2017.

God Bless
Craig.
### SCHOOL STAFF

**Principal**  Craig Fosdike  
**Assistant Principal**  Ben Catalano  
**Administration**  Gabby Bates, Lisa Mosca  
**Reception**  Chiara Turci (RCT), Rachel O’Brien (ROB), Rosie Beal (ROB)  
**Year One**  Rosetta Hamood (1RH), Sarah Bull (1SB)  
**Year One / Two**  Erin Coppins (1/2EC)  
**Year Two**  Joshua Rouse (2JR)  
**Year Three**  Anne Smith (3AS), Christine Houareau (3CH)  
**Year Four**  Judy Mackereth (4MA), Jessica Ainslie (4MA)  
**Year Four / Five**  Helen Clark (4/5HC)  
**Year Five**  Dennis McEvoy (5DM)  
**Italian**  Rosa Valente  
**Music**  Tarii Smedley  
**PE**  Luke Buchanan  
**Finance Manager**  Gary Rice  
**WHS Manager**  Karyn Kew  
**Education Support Officers (ESO)**  Ingrid Garton: classroom / Library  
Heather North-Plenty: classroom  
Leanne Gallagher: classroom / Uniform Shop Coordinator  
Natalie Harding: classroom  
**Canteen Manager**  Jason Boundy  
**Maintenance**  0  
**OSHC Director**  Pam Adams

### SCHOOL HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday**
- 7.00  Before School Care  
- 8.30  Teacher Supervision Commences  
- 8.55  Classes Commence  
- 10.50  Recess Eating Time  
- 11.00 – 11.20  Recess  
- 12.50  Lunch Eating Time  
- 1.00 – 1.40  Lunch  
- 3.20pm  School Concludes  
- 3.20pm – 6.20pm  After School Care

**Tuesday**
- 7.00  Before School Care  
- 8.30  Teacher Supervision Commences  
- 8.55  Classes Commence  
- 10.50  Recess Eating Time  
- 11.00 – 11.20  Recess  
- 12.50  Lunch Eating Time  
- 1.00 – 1.40  Lunch  
- 3.00pm  School Concludes  
- 3.00 – 6.20pm  After School Care

### 2017 TERM DATES

**Term One**  Wednesday 1 February  
Thursday, 13 April (12pm Finish)  
**Term Two**  Monday, 1 May  
Friday, 7 July  
**Term Three**  Monday, 24 July  
Friday, 29 September  
**Term Four**  Monday, 16 October  
Wednesday, 13 December

**Student Pupil Free Days**

2017 Student Pupil Free Days will be held on:
- Monday, 30 January  
- Tuesday, 31 January  
- Friday, 10 March  
- Friday, 9 June  
- Friday, 1 September  

Student Pupil Free Days are dedicated Professional Development Days for All School Staff
UNIFORM SHOP NEWS:

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS 2017

Monday 23 January
12.30pm - 1.45pm

Thursday 2nd February
3.00pm - 3.45pm

Monday 6th February
8.50am - 9.30am

Regards
Leanne Gallagher
Uniform Shop Coordinator

PARISH NEWS:

We are in the third week of Advent, very close to Christmas. Our theme for this week is Emmanuel! Not only that, this week we will be lighting the forth candle on the advent wreath.

The Jewish people had waited for a long time for the Messiah to come, a Messiah who would be a powerful leader and who would come to save them from slavery and lead them to freedom. And restore Israel to the great land. Let us take time to ask ourselves what are waiting for in our everyday lives? Are we ready to receive Jesus in our heart and in our home?

Also, I am looking for children who would like to dress up as Angels, Shepherds, Mary and Joseph. There will be a practise on 22nd December at 11:30am in the Church. Please come for the practice so that you know what you are going to do at the Children’s Mass.

Mass time for Christmas

Children’s Mass
24th December at 7:00 pm

Vigil Mass for the family
24th December at 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass
25th December at 9:15 am

If you need any further information, please call the Church office to get more details.

Thank you
Sr Kanistal
Pastoral Associate
OSHC NEWS:

We would like to wish all families and staff a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Families that are using us during Vacation Care please remember your children will need their school hat, sunblock and water bottles every day. We would also ask that the children wear suitable clothes and footwear for outside play in the sun especially when on excursions.

We have emailed enrolment /medical forms for 2017 that need to be updated, please return these asap as without them your children will not be able access OSHC. If you did not receive or are having trouble opening the document, please come and see me in the OSHC office for a copy. Please supply new medical plans and medication to be stored at OSHC for 2017.

School returns on Wednesday Feb 1st 2017 we will be open for those families that REQUIRE CARE for either or both days, but you must book in advance and be enrolled with our service.

Please inform OSHC if your children are to be collected by someone other than yourself. Due to government regulations, it is mandatory that we meet the child and staff ratios so it is very important that parents notify OSHC if they are making extra bookings, have collected their children from school early or they are not attending on that day. We would like to remind families that OSHC and Vacation Care are NUT and FISH free environments. This is to support the health needs of children that are at risk of severe allergic reactions.

OSHC bookings and cancellations can be done via phone: 83218308 or Email: PAdams@smdps.catholic.edu.au . Fees can be reduced by applying the CCB &CCR payments from Centrelink. Fees can be paid at the OSHC office, Direct Debit or via internet banking.

Regards
Pam Adams
OSHC Director

P& F NEWS:

A huge thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that helped throughout the year.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

Kylie Reidy
P&F Chairperson
CANTEEN NEWS:
Thank you sincerely to all the volunteers who have helped throughout the year, your support has been invaluable and I’ve really enjoyed working with you.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and happy & safe New Year.

Jan Convey
Canteen Coordinator

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

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Could all children’s medication please be collected from the front office by the end of term. Please check expiry dates of all medication and ensure all Asthma Spacers and mouthpieces are washed before being returned on day 1, 2017.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

that’s mine has a full range of name tags and labels, including inexpensive Shoe Labels, neat Pencil Labels, Return Address Labels and sturdy colourful Bag Tags to ensure your kids are organised for childcare, school, sport and camp.

TO ORDER:
2. Select your order and add to cart
3. Go to checkout, enter your personal details for delivery etc. and in the "Additional Information" section choose "SA: St Martin de Porres School" from the fundraiser dropdown.
4. Complete order and make payment.

PLAYGROUP NEWS:

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year

Playgroup will recommence next year on:

Tuesday 7th February
9.15am - 11.00am

Any enquiries please phone Trish on 0414 880 775.
Come Celebrate Christmas with us

Hallett Cove Catholic Community
1 Berrima Rd, Sheidow Park

Reconciliation
Penitential Service followed by individual Reconciliation
Thursday 15th December 7pm

Christmas Mass Times
Christmas Eve–Saturday 24th December
7pm Family Mass
10pm Mass
Christmas Day–Sunday 25th December
9.15am Mass