Welcome one and all to the 2016 school year!

What a wonderful start we have enjoyed so far, settling in to the 2016 school year and welcoming our new families and Foundation children to the St Aloysius School community.

We look forward to the ‘Beginning of the School Year Mass, next Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) and our ‘Welcome BBQ’ on Friday, 12th of February, to come together as a school community.

We invite our school community to celebrate the ‘Opening of the School Year’ Mass.

on Wednesday, February 10\textsuperscript{th} at 10:30 am St Aloysius Parish Church.

This year our ‘Opening of the school year Mass’ will coincide with Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Introducing our 2016 School Captains.

Looking forward to the year ahead – Amika (Vice Captain), Charlotte (Captain), Isaac (Captain) and Jacob (Vice Captain).

We wish them the very best in their leadership roles for the 2016 school year.
Dear Families.

Welcome back to St Aloysius for the 2016 school year. I hope you all had a restful, fun filled holiday and that the children are now ready for an exciting year at school. Our staff have been back from holidays for a while now and are planned and organised thoroughly for their teaching programs to start this week.

Welcome to our Foundation children, this week we had 36 Foundation children commence their educational journey with St. Aloysius and it was wonderful to see such enthusiasm from all. We are looking forward to a great year of learning.

This year we are welcoming into our St. Aloysius community many new families, we welcome; the Alsop, Craig, Richardson, O’Brien, Williams, Noordam, Ashmore, Bradley, Dawes, Di Cesare, Holloway, Mathews, Orchard, Vaughan, Vawdrey, Ahlawat, Chandler, Henderson, McCarthy, Murphy, Pritchard, Roberts, Rodda, Rowse and Wright families.

I would like to welcome June Byron to our teaching staff, we wish June all the very best for her time at our wonderful school. June will be teaching in the Yr 5/6 area alongside Claire McAdie. Bernadette Lynch commences a new role at our school this year. Bernadette is our Religious Education Leader working in the area of Faith Development with our families, staff and students. We also welcome Kaitlin Hare to our staff, Kaitlin will be working as a Learning Support Officer in the Yr 5/6 area also. We will also welcome back Tamara Wilson who is teaching Yr 5/6 and Performing Arts to the whole school, and Shay King who is teaching Yr 1 / 2. Bec Atkinson is our Reading Recovery teacher this year.

Congratulations and Best wishes to Donna Bryce who is the new school Deputy Principal. Donna will support me in my role as Principal as well as Leading our school in Learning and Teaching and caring for children with Additional Needs. Thanks needs to go to Savior Herd who filled the DP and REC role so well for the past three years at St Aloysius. We wish Savior well in his new role as Yr 1 / 2 teacher in 2016.

Beginning of the School Year Mass Parents and family members are warmly invited to come to celebrate the Beginning of the School Year Mass on Wednesday, February 10th at 10:30 am. This year this Mass will coincide with Ash Wednesday, Ash Wednesday being the beginning of the Church’s Season of Lent. Each year we commence the school year with this celebration, firmly setting our school in the traditions and practice of the Catholic Church. Families are welcome to join us on that day!

Assemblies, will be held each Monday at 3.00pm. During these times awards will be presented to children and reminders will be given. Parents, you are invited and most welcome to join us each Monday for assembly.

Weekly Prayer sessions will be held in our Auditorium each Friday at 8.40. Families are invited and welcome to join us for these prayer times as well. Classes will take turns at preparing and celebrating these times and we would appreciate parents supporting our attempts to involve children in communal prayer each week. We would also appreciate the children arriving at school in time for prayers so early arrival would be good.

We are part of an Oral Language project with Catholic Education Office Ballarat and this will require a number of school closure days during the year. The first 2 of these OLSEL school closure days are 24 and 25 Feb so this is early notice of these days.

The whole school Welcome BBQ will be held on Friday, 12th of February at 6.00pm. Everything will be supplied except your drinks and dessert and it would be great to see our existing families welcome any new families who have joined us. A special invitation to the Prep (Foundation) children to get to know their Year 6 buddies. This is a P&F initiative for our whole school community to come together.

Get to Know You interviews will take place on Monday, 15th February from 1.30pm – after lunch time.

Congratulations to Todd and Nicole Featherston who welcomed Phoebe Mae on December 18th, 2015 a little sister for Tatym in 1/2K. Also, Sam and Lottie Rouse welcomed Freddy Robert on January 14th, 2016, a baby brother for Isla in 1/2K.

And on a sad note, we extend our condolences to Maddie, Phoebe and the Cahill family on the sad loss of their Grandfather this week.

Kind Regards,
Joe Caruana
Things to remember for the beginning of the school year

Medical Forms: Asthma Action Plans, Anaphylaxis Action Plans, Allergies etc., Please ensure that the school office has up to date information for your child, this is essential – ensuring accurate emergency contact information is provided.

Student Information: Family Verification Reports will be sent home to families this week, please read through these carefully, ensuring that the details are accurate, please make changes where needed and return these forms to the office as soon as possible, to ensure that we have up to date information for your child.

School Times: The school is open for arrivals as from 8:30 am each day. Children are not to come to school before that time, as the playground is not supervised. Children are to be picked up from the school at 3:20 pm each day from either the Ripon Street entrance, or the Leith Street gate. NB: Both points are supervised by staff. Children need to be collected as close as possible to this time. Please phone the school office should you be delayed so as to prevent the children from being concerned! Any child who has not been collected from Leith Street by 3:30 pm will be moved to the Ripon Street entrance for supervision.

School Crossing: In an effort to maximise safety for all student parents are urged to utilise the Supervised Crossing in Leith Street when collecting or delivering children to the school. Ripon Street poses a greater issue. Children are required to wait for an adult to walk them across the street (Ripon) or to cross Ripon Street at the corner of the school site. We do have a ‘perfect’ traffic safety record to date – I would like to maintain that in the future with all children entering and leaving the school safely. I have asked children to hold the hand of the adult when crossing the road. Children who are waiting to leave the school grounds are required to wait in the ‘blue box’ (painted on the ground outside the Library). Please support the staff of the school who supervise After School Duty by ensuring that all children comply with our protocols.

Communication: where possible please make an appointment time with your child’s teacher to discuss and concerns, to respect our children’s learning time.

Staff Meetings: Each Tuesday and Wednesday staff meet to discuss and plan. Please ensure that children are collected in a timely manner on these days. Teachers will not be available for conferences or discussions, as these meeting must commence promptly at 3:30 pm. Any child not collected from either Ripon Street or Leith Street prior to that time will be required to wait in the foyer until collected. Thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Student Absences: It is essential that we maintain accurate records of Student Attendance. In order to do this we are required to keep a record as to why each child is absent on any given day. To facilitate this parents are required to notify the school on the morning of the absence. Also the school requests that a written note be sent to the teacher upon re-entry. A proforma is included on the Skoolbag App and school website to assist parents with the communication. Another option for notification is to email the school re: your child’s absence: aloysis@saredan.catholic.edu.au. Please note: the student attendance percentage appears on your child’s Report each semester.

School Fee accounts will be distributed in the next few weeks. NB: there are several means of paying accounts by fortnight, month, term or yearly. We accept cash (least preferred option), cheque, EFTPOS, direct debit, B-pay, Centrepay. Family Fee Assistance forms will be available from the school office in the next couple of weeks. This assistance is available for those families with a valid Health Care or Pension Card.

Fruit Snacks and lunchboxes. Children are encouraged to bring two ‘fruit snacks’ to consume in class as appointed times NB: this time may vary from class to class. This is to be either fresh fruit or vegetable sticks (no processed food for this time please!). Children are supervised for both recess and lunch eating times.

Please note: As we have a number of students in this school with various allergies, sharing of food is vigorously discouraged. Whilst we are not a “Nut-Free” school, please be mindful that there are children in our school who can experience reactions to nuts – please consider this when packing your child’s daily food.

Hats: The “No Hat – No Play” policy applies for Terms 1 & 4. Please ensure that your child has their hat (clearly named) at school on a daily basis! For everybody’s safety and happiness, please ensure your child has their hat each day.
JUNIOR NEWS

Welcome to our first week of school! The children have settled in beautifully to their new classrooms and school environment. We have spent this week getting to know each other and introducing and establishing routines. A few reminders for parents and students - diaries need to be signed and returned to school EVERY day, fruit snacks should be of manageable size, hats and drink bottles will stay at school during the week but are sent home on Friday’s to be washed and cleaned. We’ve enjoyed meeting with the first group of parents today and are looking forward to meeting with the remainder of you next Wednesday. Please remember we are always available to answer your questions - regardless of how trivial you may think they are! Have a great week.

Foundation team - Leah, Jodie & Georgia

Welcome back to everyone. We have had a very settled and happy start in the 1/2 area. Thank you for preparing your children to start the year well. We start Home Reading and Spelling next Monday. Physical Education is held on Wednesdays. Please remember to wear your sports uniform on Wednesday. A reminder for School Uniform requirements; Boys – blue shorts, yellow shirt, navy socks, black school shoes and for girls; school dress, white socks and black school shoes.

Please remember that children are not to enter the classroom at the beginning of the day, they just need to place their bags in the bag locker and then go outside to play until the bell. Have a great week!

Bev, Shay and Savior

MIDDLE NEWS

Welcome Back! We are all very excited to begin the school year. We trust that you all had a fabulous holiday break filled with fun times, relaxation and laughter with friends and family.

The week has commenced without a hitch, lots of smiles from the beginning until the end of the day! We warmly welcome Bridie O’Brien into 3/4T, Ted Alsop and Ellie Noordam into 3/4E and Harry Alsop and Abbey Noordam into 3/4P. We are pleased they are enjoying their first week at St Aloysius and making lots of new friends.

To begin the school year we are inviting each student to bring a bag or a small box of items which they treasure or which tell something about who they are. They will then present their items to the class. Each classroom teacher in the middle unit will also be presenting and preparing their own collection too! We would invite students to bring this bag or box to school on Monday.

Homework, will officially commence next week. More details about this will follow along next week. Homework will be sent home on a Thursday and is then due the following Thursday.

Just a reminder, that as students will have sport on a Tuesday, students are required to wear full sports uniform each Tuesday. It is wonderful to see so many organised people, remembering their drink bottles, fruit, diary and of course their smiles each day! Enjoy the rest of the week, Ciao, Kelvin, Anne and Jo.

SENIOR NEWS

Welcome to the start of a new school year. It is great to see everyone’s smiling faces. We have a very busy and exciting term planned in the Senior unit with a focus on healthy minds and healthy bodies. Notes have been sent home this week in regards to the Maths Mate program used in the Senior unit and on the Social skills program which will be implemented by our School Pastoral Care worker, Amy. We would appreciate the return slips being sent back to school with your child as soon as possible. A big focus for us this term is getting the students to take responsibility for remembering to bring their homework, returning notes on time and having the necessary equipment at school. This is a very important skill for students to begin to be independent. We would appreciate your assistance in assisting the students to build their independence.

Homework has started to be sent home this week. It will consist of a Maths Mate Sheet, Spelling words, a spelling sheet and nightly reading. It is very important that at this age, students are still reading to an adult on a daily basis and being read to by an adult. We look forward to meeting parents at SSGs and the Introductory Parent Interviews coming up. A note for our Year 5 families that the Year 5 children’s iPads are expected to be at school in two weeks. Sorry, there has been a hold up with iPads.

We look forward to a wonderful term together! Claire, June, Tam and Katherine
Parents & Friends News

A big warm welcome to the 2016 school year! Please join us for our whole school ‘Welcome’ Family BBQ on Friday, February 12th 6pm - St. Aloysius School

- **P&F MEETING** Information regarding the P&F meeting dates for 2016 will be sent home to families soon. Please keep a look out for dates as all members of our school community are welcome to attend.

- **TUCKSHOP** Our school Tuckshop will commence on Friday 12th of February. Thank you to Chris Kelly for coordinating the running of the Tuckshop this year. If you are interested in helping out in the Tuckshop please leave your name at the school office.

- **ICY-POLES** Icy-poles are available at lunchtime for 50 cents each during Term 1, commencing this week.

- **Second-hand Uniform** the Second-hand Uniform Shop is operating and offers a good selection of uniform items for sale. If you are interested in just having a browse or are after a particular item, please message Bron Kennon, on a Thursday during school hours - Ph. 0409 162 353. If you would like to place uniform items for sale, please place clean washed item in a plastic bag, with an envelope attached listing items, price and your contact details. If you would like to donate items to the second-hand uniform shop or as spare clothes for school, please leave clean washed items at the school office. Thank you.

  
  Have a wonderful Term, everyone!

---

**St Aloysius Parish News**

**Sacramental Dates for 2016 - Reconciliation (Year 4 children who have been Baptised and Confirmed)**

- Parent Meeting, 18th February 10am or 7pm
- Celebration date – 16th March

This Sacrament is open to all children who have been Baptised and Confirmed, (in grade 4 or above) if you are wishing for your child to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist this year then they must celebrate the Sacrament of Penance first. There will be a parent meeting on Thursday 18th February either at 10am or 7pm. This meeting will be held in Ryan Hall. Please bring your Baptism and Confirmation Certificate to this meeting. The cost of the program is $25. Enquiries please contact the Parish Office on 5335 9460 or redan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**First Communion (First Eucharist) (Year 4 or older who have been Confirmed and celebrated Reconciliation)**

- Parent Meeting, 28th April 10am or 7pm
- Celebration dates – 28th & 29th May and 4th & 5th June

**Confirmation – (Baptised Catholic and in Year 3 or older)**

- Parent Meeting – 21st July 10pm or 7pm
- Celebration dates –20th, 21st, 27th & 28th August

---

**Children becoming Catholic:**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) is a process for children who haven’t been baptised Catholic or have been baptised in another Christian tradition. A parent information session for families of children aged 7 and older seeking for their child to be either Baptised or received into the Catholic Church will be held on:

- **Date:** Tuesday February 9, 2016
- **Time:** 7.00pm
- **Where:** St Patrick’s Cathedral Hall (small hall)
  3 Lyons Street South, Ballarat.

Please call Anita Houlihan, Family Ministry Coordinator, at St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish Office on 53 312933 for further information or to register your attendance. Thank you
**Damascus College Open Mornings**

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Open Mornings. The Open Morning will include a tour of the College by current Damascus students and the opportunity to ask questions. It is also a great way to see the inner workings of the College on a typical school day.

**OPEN MORNINGS:**
Thursday 4th and 11th February, 9am – 10.30am

**PLEASE NOTE:**
Enrolment Applications for Year 7 2017 close on Friday 12th February 2016

**STUDENTS OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND OPEN MORNINGS**

---

**St Patrick’s College Year 7 2017 Enrolments closing soon**

St Patrick’s College prides itself on ‘raising fine boys to the status of great men’ and Enrolments for the Year 7 2017 school year will be closing soon.

Please note that Enrolment Applications for students entering Year 7 in 2017 will close on Friday, February 12, 2016.

Enrolments received after this date could be disadvantaged, so you are welcome and encouraged to hand your son’s completed Enrolment Applications into our College reception at 1431 Sturt Street, Ballarat.

Enrolment Application forms are available from College reception or by phoning College Registrar Mrs Lorrie Liston on 5322 4449 or emailing lliston@stpats.vic.edu.au

We look forward to welcoming your family into the St Pat’s community.

---

**St Patrick’s College Scholarships for 2017**

To encourage and recognise the pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life, St Patrick’s College is offering Scholarships for Years 7, 10 and 11 entry level.

Scholarships are available in the categories of academic excellence, art, performing arts, music, sport, leadership and general excellence. All categories have an academic component and boys must sit a scholarship test conducted by the Australian Council for Education Research.

A Scholarship Testing Day will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2016 between 9am and 12 noon at St Patrick’s College.


A non-refundable fee of $93 must be paid to ensure your place.

Registrations must be made prior to midnight on Friday, February 12, 2016.

For enquiries, contact College Registrar Mrs Lorrie Liston on 5322 4449 or email lliston@stpats.vic.edu.au

---

**Sebastopol Football Netball Club**

Want to get muddy and not get into trouble off mum and dad?????

Bored sitting around in winter, want to get out and about and try something new, that is great fun, and join a sporting community that’s really growing…… Sebastopol Junior Football Club needs new players.

Junior registration night: Sebastopol football ground Marty Busch Reserve, Burnett St Sebastopol

**Tuesday 16th February 2016, 4:30 -7pm**

Come down, check it out, meet some Western Bulldogs AFL players, and try and win some awesome prizes in our raffles that we will be running.

Be there or be square! Any questions call: Kade Clery – 0468965003 Andrew Blake – 0458146020
February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 9th</td>
<td>SAC meeting at 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10th</td>
<td>Opening of the Year School Mass, 10:30am St Aloysius Church – all welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10th</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12th</td>
<td>Welcome to School BBQ at 6pm – all families welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 15th</td>
<td>‘Get to Know’ parent teacher interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 18th</td>
<td>Penance parent info meeting 10am and 7pm in Ryan Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 24th</td>
<td>Close Closure Day for staff OLSEL development – Student Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 25th</td>
<td>Close Closure Day for staff OLSEL development – Student Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please check the school calendar each week for updates to the Term’s events.

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEW ONLINE BOOKINGS – ARE NOW OPEN

‘Get to Know You’ – Parent teacher interviews will be held on Monday, 15th February 2016

We are pleased to advise that we are offering parents an online Parent / Teacher Interview Booking Service. This service will allow you to quickly and efficiently select a timeslot with your child’s teacher, and once you have booked your preferred timeslot a confirmation email will then be sent.

This booking service is now open to parents and will remain open until Friday, the 12th of February, 2016. Any parents who are unable to access the service are welcome to call in to or phone the school office and we can book an interview time for you.

Please access the service by visiting - www.schoolinterviews.com.au

- Enter the code as follows - 8YVSA (case sensitive)
- Then select ‘Go’ and follow the prompts to complete your interview booking

Thank you for your support.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUND – (CSEF)

Dear Parents, As you may be aware last year the Victorian Government introduced the - Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Eligible families will receive $125 paid directly to the school, in Term 1 of each year.

Families wishing to apply for the program should go to the CSEF website to download the parent application form.

Applications close on Monday, 29th February, 2016. Completed forms should be returned to the school office prior to this date.

CSEF Eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being valid on 27, January 2016.

For further information, please visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.
Bringing up Great Kids
Bringing up Great Kids is a reflective parenting program developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation

- Building supportive parent-child relationships
- Exploring messages and beliefs we bring to our experience of parenting
- Understanding the world through our children’s eyes

February Saturday 13th & 20th 9.30am – 1.30pm $85 or $45 with concession
May Tuesday 3rd & 10th 9.30am – 1.30pm

Tuning in to Kids
An evidenced based parenting program focused on raising emotionally intelligent children through:

- Understanding the impact of emotions on behaviour
- Identifying and understanding your own emotions
- Enhancing emotional connection within your family

March Tuesday 1st & 8th 9.30am – 1.30pm $85 or $45 with concession
May Saturday 21st & 28th 9.30am – 1.30pm

Parenting Skills

- Managing challenging parenting moments
- Keeping cool when the kids heat up
- Choosing when to accept, prevent or influence children’s difficult behaviour

February Tuesday 16th 9.30am – 1.30pm $45 or $25 with concession
March Tuesday 22nd 9.30am – 1.30pm
April Tuesday 19th 9.30am – 1.30pm
May Tuesday 17th 9.30am – 1.30pm
June Tuesday 21st 9.30am – 1.30pm

We can come to you!

Our groups can be conducted within community and school settings and can be adapted to suit your community’s specific needs

Transition to Prep
Supporting parent’s as they support their child’s transition 1 hour

Transition to Secondary
Supporting parent’s as they support their child’s transition 1 hour

Drum workshop
Using rhythm to reduce tension, stress and anxiety 1 hour

Learning to Bloom
Staying in touch with your strengths - a program especially for women 6 hours

ESSENCE  Increasing awareness of the mind/body connection to reduce stress 6 hours

DRUMBEAT  Promoting social connection through a team drumming experience 10 x 1.5 hour sessions

Mindfulness Practice  Managing stress and strong emotions 4 hours

*These programs also run onsite – individuals are invited to enquire

For more information about accessing these services please call

Phone: (03) 5327 7960, or the Family Relationship Centre on 1300 303 988
Email: ballaratfrc@centacareballarat.org.au
All groups will be held at the Family Relationship Centre 34 Peel Street North Ballarat
You can install your Skoolbag app on your phone or tablet by following these instructions:

For iPhone and iPad users:
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open".
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

For Windows 8.1 Phone and Windows 8.1 or 10 device users:
1. Go to the Windows Store on your 8.1 Windows Phone or Windows 8.1/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 8.1 version Windows Phones, or Windows 8.1 and 10 devices.

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au