Dear Parents, Caregivers and Children

For many people in this part of the world Advent heralds the start of the annual school holidays and the frenzied activities leading up to Christmas – ‘only (so many) days to Christmas!’ The weather is hot as summer starts to bite. Those who seek relief from the heat in air-conditioned shopping centres will be assaulted with Christmas carols that focus on the baby Jesus. What has Advent to say to our December experiences?

The Advent readings form a rich tapestry of images centred on the truth that God has come among us. In Advent we do not pretend that we are waiting for Jesus to be born in a stable. That happened once in history and it will not happen again. We remember that birth as we remember our own birthdays. The God who came among us is still among us. Advent’s invitation is to become aware of the all-pervading presence of the risen Jesus as Emmanuel – God among us.

‘They watch for Christ, are sensitive, eager, apprehensive in mind, who are awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in honouring him, who look for him in all that happens, and who would not be over-agitated or overwhelmed if they found that he was coming at once …

‘This then is to watch: to be detached from what is present and to live in what is unseen; to live in the thought of Christ as he came once, and as he will come again; to desire his second coming, from our affectionate and grateful remembrance of his first’. (John Henry Newman Parochial and Plain Sermons Vol. 4)

Therefore, the final week of the school year has arrived, a week of busyness, of completing tasks, of celebration and of anticipation. It is the first week of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year. In contrast to the frenetic activity of the last week at school, Advent is a time of waiting, of preparation and of hope.

School Fees and Levies
Thank you to all those families who have paid their 2013 School Fees and Levies. It would be appreciated if all accounts could be settled before the holidays which commence this Friday, 6th December. All families experiencing difficulties are asked to make an appointment to see the Principal.

Final School Events
Significant school events are scheduled for the remainder of the school year. Please note the following dates in your diaries:

Wednesday 4 December
- 6:00pm – Year 7 Graduation and Awards Evening in the Church followed by Supper in the Good Samaritan Hall

Friday 6 December
- 9:30am – End of Year Mass
- 11:20am – Final Assembly in Good Samaritan Hall
- 12:00pm – Students Dismissed

Friday 20 December
- Parish Christmas Carols at Sts Peter & Paul’s School Good Samaritan Hall:
  - 5:30pm – Sausage Sizzle
  - 6:00pm – Carols Commence
The school community is invited to attend our end of year Eucharist celebration on Friday at **9.30am**. Please join us in the Church as we give thanks for the many blessings this year has bought us.

**Students will finish school at 12.00 noon on Friday. The 2014 school year will commence on Wednesday, 29**th** January.**

**Thank you**

As this term draws rapidly to a close, reflection on the year brings to mind countless snapshots of quality, relevant learning and teaching which have allowed students to grow in a welcoming, compassionate and accommodating environment. Sts Peter & Paul’s School is able to offer and achieve so much because the students are enthusiastic and willing to learn, staff members are interested and ensure that opportunities abound and parents enrich this school community by their generosity and care. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to an extremely rewarding 2013 school year.

Best wishes to you all for a peace filled Christmas and a Happy New Year. Wishing you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Peace and Best Wishes
Sr Ann-Maree Nicholls, sgs

**PRINCIPAL**

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## SACRAMENTS IN 2014

Please mark the following dates in your diary for next year.

**PENANCE**  
*Parents information sessions:*
- Thursday, 13 February 2014 at 7.30pm or
- Friday, 14 February 2014 at 9.30am  
*Celebration of Penance*
- 18, 19 and 20 March at 6pm

**CONFIRMATION/COMMUNION**  
*Parents information sessions:*
- Thursday, 27 February 2014 at 7.30pm or
- Friday, 28 February 2014 at 9.30am  
*Celebration of Sacraments at Sunday Mass*
- on the weekend of 26-27 April

**Please note:**

26-27 April is the Anzac Day long weekend. It is the weekend after the Easter holidays. It is the date of the Archbishop’s pastoral visit and is non-negotiable. Please reserve the date!

Thank you,
Father Tom

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## APRE News – Mr Brendan Schostakowski

**YEAR 7 GRADUATION**
The Year 7 students will celebrate their Graduation on Wednesday evening **4 December** with a Liturgy beginning at **6pm** in the Church. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers as they give thanks for the many ways they have grown – spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally - during their years at Sts Peter and Paul’s. The theme for this year’s graduation is “In Peace and Friendship”.

**END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS**
We will celebrate the end of our school year with a Mass of Thanksgiving this **Friday 6 December beginning at 9.30 am** in the Church. During this Mass we will have a ‘handing over’ of leadership from this year’s Year 7 leaders to our Year 6 and Year 5 leaders for 2014. You are welcome to join us for this Eucharistic celebration as we thank our God for the many blessings of this 2013 school year and say farewell to those who are leaving our Sts Peter and Paul’s community.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL**
A very special THANK YOU to everyone for your very generous giving to this appeal over the last few weeks. The following is a message from Brian Daley, coordinator of St Vincent de Paul for Sts Peter and Paul’s Parish.

To the staff, parents and students of Sts Peter & Paul’s School at Bulimba, can we say a huge thank you from our local St Vincent de Paul who will be distributing all the hampers and toys at Christmas again this year. Your wonderful contributions will ensure that those not so fortunate in our community will be able to enjoy those special ‘Christmas goodies’ which make this season so special.
We wish each of you God’s blessings at Christmas, and look forward to our continued association for the coming year.

Thanks so much from Vinnies at Sts Peter & Paul’s parish.

1 CORINTHIANS 13 – A CHRISTMAS VERSION

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir’s cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband/wife. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn’t envy another’s home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn’t yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn’t give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can’t.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Thank you to everyone for your support throughout the year. I wish you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas, and to those families who will be leaving our Sts Peter and Paul’s school community, best wishes for the future. God bless.

Wishing you God’s blessings for the coming week.

Brendan Schostakowski

APA News – Mr Damien Sullivan

End of Year Events

Concert: Last Thursday night was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended the fabulous school concert in our Good Samaritan Hall. Again this year it was a fantastic extravaganza – this time with a wonderful travelling the world theme to it, and what an exciting way to end the year. Thanks to Mrs Burchill, Mrs Foster, staff and of course students, whose talents are remarkable, for making this year’s concert better than ever. A special mention has to go to the Year 7 students who did an amazing job for their busy evening.

Splash: Last Friday saw the Years 3 and 4 students enjoy their end of year excursion at Splash.

Chandler: The Years 5 and 6 students also participated in a fun day swimming at their Dive in Disco at Chandler on Friday.

Wet n Wild: From all reports the Year 7 students and teachers had a great day yesterday.

Cleaning & Grounds

Thank you to our cleaners who have taken so much pride in keeping the school clean. Ian Stevenson, our groundsman, also must be thanked for the efforts he has shown in maintaining tidy and safe school grounds as well as Kevin O’Loghlen for the work he does around the school. To the students who have worked tirelessly gardening and taking pride in the school’s environment, thank you.

School Uniform

Towards the end of this term some students are becoming a little ‘slack’ with wearing the correct school uniform, particularly with shoes, socks and hair accessories. We ask that parents please ensure that their children are wearing the correct school socks, shoes and school coloured hair bands, etc. for coming to school. White sports shoes can only be worn on days when the class has sport or PE.

Thank you

As I write this last newsletter piece for the year, I am amazed at how quickly the year has gone by. I would like to express my sincere thanks to staff, students, and parents for your fantastic support for the Sts Peter & Paul’s community in 2013. Best wishes to those students and families who have finished their school years at Sts Peter and Paul’s. We have loved getting to know you and will miss you as you move into your new school lives. Finally, may I wish each and every one of you a happy and safe Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Thanks for your tremendous support in 2013

Damien Sullivan
**Medical Alert**

A few cases of Impetigo (School Sores) have been reported to the school, particularly from Prep.

School Sores is a contagious skin infection caused by the bacteria, Staphylococcus and Streptococcus. The infection is characterised by inflamed blisters that pop, weep and form crusts. Treatment options include antibiotic cream, ointment, syrup and tablets.

Qld Health considers that any child presenting with symptoms should be excluded from school until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been administered for at least 24 hours.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Child of the Week**

- 7G - Ellie Spencer
- 7B - Charlotte Jenkins
- 6G - Frankie Scotney
- 6B - Chloe Anderson-Wills
- 5G - Ella Haddrill
- 5B - Tarlyn Gardiner
- 4R - Laura McKay
- 4G - Millie Carlile
- 4B - Monique Cunningham
- 3R - Whole Class
- 3G - Whole Class
- 3B - Lucy Taylor
- 2R - Whole Class
- 2G - Whole Class
- 2B - Whole Class
- 1Y - Avery Wagner
- 1R - Alyssa Mehrten
- 1G - Ava Marenjak
- 1B - Jude McDonald
- PR - Whole Class
- PG - Whole Class
- PB - Whole Class

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**Library News**

The library is continuing its stocktake of all resources. As of today we still have 108 student books outstanding. Please return these as a matter of urgency.

We encourage all students to continue reading at least 15 minutes each day. The Summer Reading Program sponsored by The State Library of Queensland and The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) officially begins on 2 December. Our library website will have the link for your child to register. Click onto the Summer Reading Program website and put on your detective caps; get ready for a summer of mystery and investigations. This reading program will run from 2 December to 31 January. Happy Reading! [http://www.summerreadingclub.org.au/program-portal/](http://www.summerreadingclub.org.au/program-portal/)

Don’t forget to visit the Sts Peter and Paul’s Library website over the summer for links to online reading, great authors, student activities for cyber-safety and child-friendly search engines, as well as the link for Worldbookonline (stspp with a password of bulimba) which also features reading and game activities.

Happy Reading,

Mrs Ballentine, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Brooks and Mrs McEniery

Update on the new P&F Team for 2014: A huge thanks to those who so quickly stepped up in response to our notice last week about vacant positions. The updated team for 2014 comprises:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Terry Shaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Peter Willcox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Leonie Flynn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Caine Barends (thanks Caine!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Committee Coordinator</td>
<td>Chrissy and Brendan Quinn (thanks guys!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fete Conveners</td>
<td>Leonie Flynn, Rebecca Lawrence and Emma Rees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care and Concern Group</td>
<td>Still vacant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Wagon</td>
<td>Mechelle Fury and Sam de Lore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Committee</td>
<td>Brian Restall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Committee</td>
<td>Terry Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Wellbeing Committee</td>
<td>Katherine Cullerton (sorry to accidentally omit you last week Katherine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;F Storeroom Quartermaster</td>
<td>Adam Cairns (thanks Adam!)</td>
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We have one vacancy left to fill for 2014 (position description below). Expressions of interest for any position can be emailed to the P&F Secretary Leonie Flynn on lkflynn@bigpond.net.au:

**Care & Concern Group Coordinator:** Seeking someone to lead a team of committed and experienced volunteers to oversee the P&F social justice activities. These include the Grade 7 Student Care and Concern Group, Meals Register, Morning Tea and Parish Cake Stall team and other social justice activities from time to time. If you are interested in social justice issues and have any new ideas for how the P&F can expand its presence in this area, this is the role for you! Please contact our retiring coordinator Bron Wolski on 0414 355 356 or paulbron@optusnet.com.au if you would like to hear more about this position.

**Mark your diaries for the 2014 Fete!** Exciting news! The 2014 Fete will be held on Saturday 17 May 2014. Next year we will trial a Saturday instead of Sunday, and a later start and finish time. Both lunch and dinner will be available and everyone can enjoy themselves in the bar during the evening. More information to follow. The fete convenors for 2014 are Rebecca Lawrence, Leonie Flynn and Emma Rees.

**Aussie Farmers Direct:** Thank you to all school families who have registered to support our school when they do their online grocery shopping with Aussie Farmers Direct. The P&F received a cheque for $187 mid year from Aussie Farmers Direct, which represents a donation of 2% from every order you make. The next cheque is due early in 2014. If you already shop with Aussie Farmers Direct, please make sure that you nominate us to receive a donation when you shop.

**Sports News**

**Junior Swimming Carnival:**
Thank you to all Years 1, 2 and 3 students for sharing a great day of swimming at your Carnival Demonstration last week. Robert and Vicki from Lorimer Swim School were superbly impressed with your swimming skills and team spirit. We all enjoyed watching the demonstration of the 4 swimming strokes and the relays. The final results of the relays have been tallied and the Junior Swimming Trophy will be awarded tomorrow during Assembly. Congratulations to the following year group champions:

Year 1 – O’Brien
Year 2 – Concannon
Year 3 – O’Brien

**Overall 2013 Champions:** O’Brien on 315 points followed by Concannon (285), O’Keeffe (220) and Ryan (215).
Thank you to our parent helpers Lana Killian and Shaun Crow and all our wonderful Sts Peter & Paul’s staff for their support. A special thank you to the Year 7 House Captains who worked tirelessly with a smile all day - your spirit and team work was outstanding again.

**Year 7 Inter House Sports Champions 2013:**
For the duration of Term 4 all our Year 7 students have been competing for the House Champions of the Year award. After rounds against each other in Netball and OzTag the Champion House was undefeated and had only one tied round at the end of the series. Congratulations to O’Brien on their success.

Finally as the year comes to an end and we share more time together with family and friends this holiday season, remember to stay healthy and active with a little happiness every day. See you next year.

**Mrs Lyndall Conaghan**
PE and Sports Coordinator

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**School Banking News**

It's the last school banking of the year. A big thank you to all the school bankers who have supported the school’s fundraising through banking this year, you have made so much possible.

Trade in your 2013 Dollarmite Tokens

It's the last week to trade in your 2013 Tokens. A maximum of 9 tokens can only be carried forward to next year.

We look forward to a new banking year of exciting new banking rewards, have a great holiday and we'll see you in 2014.

Your banking co-ordinators,
Deb Waldron, Anita Tichelaar, Louise Fraser and Eleanor Horton.

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**Community Christmas Carols**

Come and join in the fun –

**When:** Friday, 20 December
**Time:** 6.00pm – 7.30pm
**Where:** Sts Peter & Paul’s Good Samaritan School Hall
**Bring:** A rug

Sausage Sizzle, Candles, Glow Sticks and Christmas Hamper Raffle Tickets are for sale on the night.

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**Community Christmas Carols Nativity Play**

The children’s nativity play will be part of the parish Christmas Carols again this year on Friday, 20 December. We are looking for children to join in and help make it a lot of fun. If your child/ren would like to participate there will be a practise at 3.10pm in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 3 December. For all enquiries please contact Amanda on 0423 321 694 or amandafajak@reveur.com.au
OSHC News

SEASON’S GREETINGS: OSHC would like to wish all families a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year!

VACATION CARE: We are celebrating the December holidays with “Winter Wonderland” activities in the first week and then enjoying “Christmas Downunder” in the second week. Highlights include an ice skating excursion, a candle making workshop, a trip to Settlement Cove and a Christmas pool party. We will be closed for two weeks over the Christmas/New Year period and will reopen on Monday 6 January 2014. In January we will be having our own trip around Australia! Special activities include a trip to the Ipswich Rail Museum and a trip to Australia Zoo! Vacation Care bookings must be made on the Booking Form and are due 7 days in advance. Invoices have been sent to families who have Vacation Care bookings.

TEN PIN BOWLING: We will be going Ten Pin Bowling on the last day of school! OSHC will open from 12:00pm on Friday 6 December and there is no additional cost for the bowling excursion. Permission notes available now from OSHC. Please contact OSHC with any questions.

ACTIVITIES: This week we are cooking tasty chicken souvlaki, san choi bow, Christmas tree cupcakes and honey joys. We are also starting our Christmas craft activities this week at OSHC!

OSHC CHAMPIONS: OSHC Champions this week are Marc Sylla, Marlee Quigley, Liam Terry, Milan Wellington and Eilish Fergusson. Well done!

Claire Ravenswood
OSHC Coordinator

The Iona Passion Play - AUDITIONS

Easter 2014 – back in Brisbane
Experience Easter as part of the cast or crew of The Iona Passion Play. All are welcome – you can involve the whole family!
Numerous speaking, non-speaking and support roles available.

Sunday December 1 @ 2pm and Sunday January 19 @ 1pm
If interested please contact Veronica on 3333 1993 or info@ipp.org.au

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation, 6pm in the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Dec</td>
<td>2013 School Year ends 12 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Dec</td>
<td>Friday 6pm Parish Christmas Carols</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Jan</td>
<td>2014 School Year commences 8.40am</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>SAVE THE DATE – Sts Peter &amp; Paul’s School Fete</td>
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</table>
Community Christmas Carols

6pm Friday
20th December

at
Sts Peter and Paul’s Good Samaritan School Hall
Alexandra St, Balmoral
Sausage Sizzle, Candles, Glow Sticks
Christmas Hamper Raffle

BYO chairs and rugs
Please NO pointy high heels

Generously Sponsored by the Lord Mayor’s Suburban Initiative Fund ...with the gracious support of Shayne Sutton our Councillor for Morningside
Swimming – What’s Happening

Lorrimer Swim School is based at the Barry McCart Aquatic Centre in Oaklands Parade, East Brisbane

The Centre is a state of the art facility, specifically designed to cater for a range of aquatic activities. Lorrimer Swim School offers Learn to Swim, Stroke Development and squad programmes for all ages, from water awareness through to elite swimmers all year round. Swimmers are able to access a range of Learn to Swim, squads and development programmes dependent on their aquatic ability and interest in swimming.

Junior and Intermediate Swim Clinics

Swim Clinics will be held on 10th & 11th December

These clinics provide valuable stroke correction and skills development for squad swimmers and are highly recommended for all squad swimmers.

All swimmers are videoed during the clinic and provided with insights on how to improve their strokes.

This targets swimmers 7 to 13 year age group who are able to swim all four strokes well, dive properly and must be able to swim 200m continuously to be able to participate.

A great way to work on starts, turns and finishes.

Squad Swimming

An extensive range of squad programmes are in place for swimmers from an intermediate through to an elite level and for those who swim for fitness and enjoyment.

The squad schedule provides swimmers with a number of options to balance their swim training with sporting, academic and cultural activities.

Adult Squads

Swim squads for adults also operate from the Aquatic Centre.

These squads are available for swimmers of all levels. Sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Learn to Swim

Stroke Development

One Week Intensives

Lorrimer Swim School offer learn to swim one week intensives in the holidays. Children of all abilities are catered for beginners from 3 years right through to stroke development. By attending classes on consecutive days your child has an opportunity to rapidly develop through consistent repetition.

An intensive programme allows instructors to advance and evolve your child’s swimming skills and confidence in a short space of time.

Programmes for 2013/2014 are available:

- 16 – 20 December
- 13 - 17 January
- 20 - 24 January

Bookings can be made in November by contacting Vicki to have your child’s swimming assessed.

Contact Us:- For more information about the Swimming Programmes in operation at the Aquatic Centre or Lorrimer Swim School please contact:

mark.lorrimer@churchie.com.au Squad Programs & Adults
Vicki.Lorrimer@churchie.com.au Learn to Swim, Stroke Development & Clinic’s