Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back everyone for the 2017 school year. We have had a lovely, calm start to the school year and are managing with the crazy changing weather pretty well! Along with our existing families, I would also like to warmly welcome the 28 new families whose children began at St Matthew’s last week: Agostino (Jayden—Kinder), Andrews (Alexander—Kinder), Burns (Marie—Kinder), Cartwright (Samuel—Kinder), Conn (Lucy—Kinder), Courtney (Willow—Kinder), Durbridge (Clare—Year 3, Angus—Year 4), Fletcher (Millicent—Kinder), Howard (Finley—Kinder), Howarth (Kobe—Year 2, Oliver—Kinder), Hutchison (Aaron—Kinder), Jepsen (Cecilia—Kinder), Kelsey (Lewis—Kinder), Loiterton (William—Year 3), Manwaring (Gary—Kinder), Marks (Nicholas—Kinder), McLaughlin (Rhys—Year 5, Finn—Year 4, Neve—Kinder), Mitchell (Jack—Year 6, Kate—Year 4, Thomas—Year 2), Murray (Angus—Kinder), Owens (Bailey—Year 3), Pozzi (Audrey—Kinder), Rushby (Cooper—Kinder), Ryan (Isaac—Kinder), Taylor (Mikko—Kinder), White (Isobel—Year 4), White (Katie—Year 5), Willson (Isaac—Kinder) and Zochling (Audrey—Kinder, Austin—Year 1). A very warm welcome to you all!

Staffing

It is with sadness I let you know our wonderful Front Office Manager (Administration) Mrs Sharon Goldsworthy will be finishing up in her role later this term. Sharon will be returning home to Tasmania with her family as her husband undertakes a new and exciting role with the Tasmanian Government. I know you will join me in wishing Sharon every blessing as she begins the next part of her life’s adventure. We will all have the opportunity to farewell Sharon at a school gathering later in the term.

Swimming Carnival

Our swimming carnival on Tuesday for Years 1—6 was a wonderful success. In spite of some early doubts in the morning, the weather turned out to be perfect. The cloud cover was a blessing and the cooler temperature was a relief after some of our recent extreme heat days. Helpers once again came out in droves, children and teachers were in good spirits and the day was a wonderful sporting and social event for the children. Every child had the opportunity to participate at a level with which they felt comfortable, and we saw some outstanding swimming stars emerge! An hour and a half of free play on the slides and in the pools at the conclusion of the carnival was enjoyed greatly by all the children.

Days like the swimming carnival only happen with your support. Thank you, most sincerely, to the many parents and grandparents who volunteered their time to help us on the day. Your efforts at time keeping, running, recording, writing and your good humour really contributed to the success of the day. Thank you also to the staff who organised and ran the day so seamlessly and calmly—Mrs Rachel Powell and Mrs Belinda Eaton—and to all staff who stepped up to take on different roles during the day. Splendid work—it was the best ever! Ribbons for the carnival will be presented at assembly tomorrow morning, Friday 10 February at 8.50 am.

Cool shoes tomorrow

Due to tomorrow’s weather prediction of extreme high heat, St Matthew’s children are being encouraged to wear thongs, sandals or other cool footwear to school instead of school shoes and socks. We will keep the children in air-conditioned rooms all day and will encourage constant water drinking from either drink bottles (maybe frozen tonight?) or from the inside bubblers. We will have inside collection from 2.50 pm (as we do in the event of wet weather—we are calling this ‘sweat weather’!).

Information

We endeavour at every moment to ensure our methods of communication are thorough and inclusive. We use the school website, email, SkoolBag and Twitter to disseminate information. Our newsletter is always uploaded to the website and pushed out on SkoolBag at generally the same time as it is emailed. Notes are also uploaded at the same time they are given out to children. Please let us know if you have any issues with receiving or finding information.

I ask our God of all love to be with you and your families in the coming weeks.

Brenda Foley
Principal
Welcome
Welcome back to the new 2017 academic year. Welcome, too, to our new students who have joined the school community.

Here's Céad Mile Fáilte to friend and to rover
That's a greeting that's Irish as Irish can be
It means you are welcome
A thousand times over
Wherever you come from.
Whosever you be

Chickens
Thank you to the Boniwell Family (Michael, 1B and Isabella, 2B) for looking after our chickens during the Christmas break. Thank you to Ms Kerrie Buckler and 4B who are rostered on to look after the chickens this year.

Out feathered friends are finding the heat tough going, like the rest of us! Thank you to Ms Melissa Tuite for looking after them during our current heat wave.

Learning Support
During the ‘Meet the Teacher’ meetings next week, personalised goals for students with PPs (Personalised Plans) and Aboriginal PLPs (Personalised Learning Plans) will be discussed with class teachers. Over the following week, a copy of these plans will be sent home for you to keep. If there are no changes to be made, we ask that you sign the note confirming receipt of the plan and return the bottom, tear off slip to your child’s class teacher.

Thank you
I have loved joining St Matthew’s Primary, Page. The last few weeks have been such a joy. I was lucky enough to meet with staff and students late last year. I spent the last week in January with the friendly, professional and welcoming staff. I have met many parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters and have enjoyed getting to know the families within our school community.

Thank you to Fr Michael for our opening Mass and for popping in to say hello.

I have been impressed by the beautiful manners, conversational skills and settled learning routines of the students from day one onwards. I am grateful to our seniors in Year Five and Year Six as they continue to undertake activities around the school. Their sportsmanship, assistance and team spirit during our recent swimming carnival was invaluable. Thank you for helping me on the two occasions I got lost!

It has been a wonderful start to the 2017 academic school year, and I sincerely thank you all for the overwhelming welcome I have been lucky enough to receive from those in this wonderful school community.

Therese Nolan
Assistant Principal (Acting)
Therese.Nolan@cg.catholic.edu.au

The 2017 St Matthew’s Family Calendar was sent home yesterday.
Please note the dates were correct when we printed the calendar but are subject to change.
We recommend parents/carers check the school website closer to dates as this is regularly updated.

http://stmattsps.act.edu.au/communication/calendar.html
The St Matthew’s Community Council welcomes back all students and families, old and new, to what will hopefully be a productive and enjoyable 2017 AD—also known as 01 WT (With Trump) #thatreallyhappened

There have been some changes to the Council’s line up for 2017….

· Kate Hayne - Chair
· Kerryn Prasad – Deputy Chair
· Liz Voysey - Treasurer
· James Montero – Committees Coordinator
· Wes Campbell – Secretariat / Comms
· Brenda Foley—Principal
· Therese Nolan—Staff rep
· Claire Campbell— Staff rep
· Fr Michael Mullen—Parish Priest

The Council is pleased to welcome James Montero (father of Claudia in 1B), who replaces Rebecca Parton as our new Committees Coordinator. A big thank you to Rebecca Parton for all your hard work in the role—and it is great to have James on board. Whilst on the topic of committees and coordinators, we still have a number of roles that need filling for 2017 (see below). If you are interested in getting involved please email the Community Council mailbox: council.stmatts@cg.catholic.edu.au

Committee Coordinators

· Fundraising - Natasha Greagg
  o Discos - Organiser and Volunteers needed
  o Mother’s Day Stall - Organiser and Volunteers found!
  o Bingo Night - Organiser needed
· Student Services - Belinda Fowley
  o Book Club - Nicole Mitchell
  o Book Fair - Natasha Greagg
  o Student Banking - Stephanie Burns / Rebecca Parton
· Environment Committee - Committee Coordinators needed

Community Council Start of Year Soirée
It is back by popular demand, the Community Council Start of Year Soirée is on at the school on Friday, 24 February at 3.20 pm (see page 4). The soirée is a great opportunity to come and meet other families and the teachers. A free sausage sizzle will be provided as well as a jumping castle. All are welcome!

If you have any comments, questions or feedback for the Community Council, please email our mailbox: council.stmatts@cg.catholic.edu.au

Have a great 2017!
Your Community Council
The Community Council will provide a free sausage sizzle for everyone. Bring along some drinks, a picnic blanket and some chairs for an afternoon of socialising and fun.

Come along to meet and chat with all the people in the extended St Matthew’s family on Friday 24 February from 3.20 pm—5.00 pm. Stay for as little or as long as you like!

This will be a great opportunity for the kids to have a play, for you to meet the teachers and other parents in an informal setting and to keep building our wonderfully inclusive and supportive community.

Location:
Kinder and Year 1 Playground
Good News

School Focus 2017
Our school focus for this year is “Be still and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10. The words – Be Still – in the English dictionary can mean not moving and being quiet. From a biblical perspective, these two words take on much greater meaning. The verse from Psalm 46:10 tells us how God is defending God’s city and people. The Hebrew definition of ‘still’ is to stop striving, to let go and surrender. The scripture begins and ends with God being seen as our refuge.

With all the busyness of our lives today we can take comfort in letting go and resting in God to provide help, strength and safety. When we realise that we are truly incapable of controlling life, we can surrender our will to God’s will. It may be a matter of finally saying we trust God. This will open the door so that we may experience the fullness of all God wants and has for us. After all, God is our Creator and has a perfect plan for us when we let God orchestrate it.

For the past two weeks we have been inviting the students to be still not only in body but in mind also, especially during Christian Meditation, to listen to God and to open their hearts to God. It is a way of simplicity, silence and stillness. It can be practised by anyone from wherever you are on your life’s journey. In Christianity this tradition became marginalised and even forgotten or suspect. But in recent times a great recovery of the contemplative dimension of Christian faith has been happening. Central to this now is the rediscovery of a practice of meditation in the Christian tradition that comes to us from the early Christian monks – the Desert Fathers and Mothers and allows us to put into practice the teaching of Jesus on prayer in a radical and simple way. Click this link for information about Christian Meditation: http://www.cominghome.org.au/

Prayer Wall
At St Matthew’s as we believe prayer is an integral part of our daily lives. Our Prayer Wall reflects the importance of providing space and time for students to experience a variety of opportunities to engage with prayer in different ways. A prayer space is a context where hopefully students will find they can pray any prayers (or none) and find acceptance, affirmation, kindness and reassurance. Some instructions and materials can be found on the table at the Prayer Wall. We welcome all our community to come and share their prayers on our Prayer Wall.

KidsMatter
The students and teachers at St Matthew’s have been on a journey together as we have implemented the KidsMatter framework over the past year. KidsMatter is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of Australian children. KidsMatter provides the methods, tools and support to help schools work with students, parents and the wider community, to nurture happy, balanced kids.

As part of our Health program we have introduced KidsMatter Groups where the students are involved in learning about specific social and emotional learning skills. As we are a Catholic school we ensure that we do this from a Catholic perspective and as such see Jesus as the ultimate role model and guide for how we care, treat and love one another.

This term the students will be learning about the following Social Emotional Learning: Identifying Emotions & Recognising Strengths. See the link below for more information: http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families

Sylvia Campbell

Religious Education Coordinator
sylvia.campbell@cg.catholic.edu.au
Staff List 2017

**Leadership Team**

- **Principal**: Ms Brenda Foley
- **Assistant Principal**: Mrs Therese Nolan
- **RE Coordinator**: Mrs Sylvia Campbell
- **Curriculum Coordinator**: Mrs Rachel Powell

**Class Teachers**

- **Kinder Blue**: Mrs Louise Egli
- **Kinder Maroon**: Miss Louisa Vance
- **Year 1 Blue**: Ms Claire Campbell
- **Year 1 Maroon**: Miss Claire Egan-Richards
- **Year 2 Blue**: Mrs Sylvia Campbell (Mon-Tues)
  - Mrs Marnie Mills (Wed-Fri)
- **Year 2 Maroon**: Miss Domenica Laria
- **Year 3 Blue**: Mrs Alison Ewyk
- **Year 3 Maroon**: Mrs Michelle Johnson
- **Year 4 Blue**: Miss Kerrie Buckler
- **Year 4 Maroon**: Mrs Fiona Debenham
- **Year 5 Blue**: Ms Tegan Bew
- **Year 5 Maroon**: Mrs Karen Evans
- **Year 6 Blue**: Mrs Rachel Powell
  - Ms Melissa Tuite (Fridays)
- **Year 6 Maroon**: Mr Jeremy Stevens

**Library**

- Mr Kel Hathaway

**Creative Arts**

- Mrs Veronica Ellis (Tues—Thurs)

**Japanese**

- Mrs Anne Hodgkin (Mon—Tues)

**Learning Support Team**

- **Classroom Support Teacher**: Mrs Therese Nolan
  - Ms Melissa Tuite
- **Literacy Support**: Mrs Sylvia Campbell
- **Classroom Assistants**: Mrs Donna Apps
  - Mrs Janice Colley
  - Mrs Kerry Tozer

**Office Managers**

- **Finance**: Mrs Belinda Eaton
- **Administration**: Mrs Sharon Goldsworthy

**Out of School Hours Care**

- Phone 02 6254 9815
Happy birthday wishes to
Anabelle McKee, Finn McLaughlin, Sharon Brady,
Lucy Conn, Shona O’Sullivan, Joel Connor,
Audrey Zochling, Eason Cooper, Rhys Hanley,
Sophie Kelly, Alexandra Beake, William Fraser,
Jack Mitchell, Dylan Fletcher, Liam Sawade,
Ava Hurley, Maxwell Berry, Oliver Howarth,
Ethan Sawade, Abbey Reynolds, Mrs Hoda Farhadi,
Mrs Janice Colley and Mrs Donna Apps who
celebrated birthdays in January
and to
Ewan Hunter, Amy Sephora, Willow Courtney,
Maxwell Cockram, Alexie Kindavong,
Sammy McNamara, Liam Miner,
Charlotte Cowley, Sofia Lopes Reis,
Grace Glasson and Chloe Holgate
who celebrated birthdays recently.

Volunteers needed for our Canteen
Thursdays and/or Fridays
10 am - 12 pm or 12 pm—2 pm
Come in once in a while or as often as you like!
Find a friend and volunteer together.
We can make anything work on a roster!
Please contact office.stmatts@catholic.edu.au
with your details

Annual Doorknock
St Vincent de Paul Society is conducting a doorknock for
financial support throughout Canberra during February.
The St Matthew’s Vinnies team invites you to doorknock in our parish area.
This would take you about two hours and can be done on a
weekend or any evening. If you are willing to help,
please email your contact details to either
Paul Coghlan at prcoghlan@netspeed.com.au or
Frank Wilkinson at frankwilkinson@bigpond.com

School Fees
For those families paying their school fees using
the one off payment per term, please note that this
payment is due by Friday March 3 Week 5.

Many thanks

Qkr! Reminder
Parents can update each child’s Student Profile
on Qkr! by changing the child’s year level to
reflect their 2017 class. This will ensure the
children have lunch orders delivered to the
correct classroom and all payments can be
correctly processed for each child.

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop will now open on
Thursday afternoons from 2.45 pm.

BELSOUTH
Online registrations are now open
BELSOUTH cater for all ages from 5 yrs to adults
- Get Fit
- Have Fun
- Make Friends
Go online and register today at
belsouthfootball.club
This year St Matthew’s will be implementing Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) across the whole school. Twice a term all students will participate in KidsMatter Groups where they will learn how to manage feelings, friendships and to solve problems. They will participate in a variety of exciting activities. The process of Social and Emotional Learning will take place over the next two years to ensure all competences are covered.
### Class communiqué for families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinder Blue</th>
<th>Kinder Maroon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Rep:</strong> TBA</td>
<td><strong>Parent Rep:</strong> Hayley Wilson and Carla Lopes Reis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Facebook group:</strong> Reminders/Events/announcements</td>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> Facebook group: Reminders/Events/announcements</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Rep:</strong> Lizz Boniwell</td>
<td><strong>Parent Rep:</strong> POSITION VACANT – Volunteers needed.</td>
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<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
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<td>Facebook group: ‘<em>St Matthews Primary school - class of 2022</em>’</td>
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<th>2 Maroon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Rep:</strong> Quyen Pindral</td>
<td><strong>Parent Rep:</strong> Nijole Sazbo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> 0400400055/quyen.matt@gmail.com</td>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> 0421459435/nijole.szabo@hotmail.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook group: <em>St Matthews Class of 2021</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Rep:</strong> Stephanie Vizzari</td>
<td><strong>Parent Rep:</strong> Jen Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> 0412963124 / <a href="mailto:svizzari@ruralfunds.com.au">svizzari@ruralfunds.com.au</a></td>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> 0407235622/jenrb123@gmail.com</td>
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<td>Facebook group: <em>St Matts - Graduating Class of 2020</em></td>
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<td><strong>Parent Rep:</strong> Alison Dyer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> 0432534375/Dyer.alison@hotmail.com</td>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
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<td>Facebook group: <em>St Matthew’s year 6 – 2019</em></td>
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<td><strong>Parent Rep:</strong> Margie Sciaccia</td>
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<td><strong>Contact:</strong> 0435492060/car.mar@live.com.au</td>
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<td>Facebook group: St Matthews Primary School – Class of 2017’</td>
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<td>Reminders/Events/announcements</td>
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Hi Boys, Girls & Parents,

Welcome back to another exciting year of School Banking.

This year’s theme is: FUTURISTIC ADVENTURE

The major prize for this year is a chance to win a Family trip to Tokyo Disneyland.

2017 REWARD ITEMS

TERM 1 – Cyber Handball & Colour Change Markers
TERM 2 – 3D Chalk Set & Tablet Case
TERM 3 – Smiley Emoji Key Ring & Volt Handball
TERM 4 – Pencil + Tech Case & Epic Earphones

UPDATING YOUR CLASS ON BANK BOOKS

When banking on Friday, could you please check that you have the correct class name on the front of your banking book so it doesn’t go missing, this would be greatly appreciated.

ATTENTION PARENTS: COMMONWEALTH BANK VISITING

Should you wish to open a Youth Saver account for your child, please bring your drivers licence with you on the 16 February (next Thursday afternoon) at the pick up area from 2.30 pm where Susan and I can assist you with opening an account.

For existing bankers, please come by and see the REWARD ITEMS for 2017 and check your token number for this year.

Look forward to seeing you there and welcome new banking students.

Banking Co-ordinators
Stephanie Burns & Rebecca Foster

The Dollarmites are bringing the future to your school.

Since 1981, Commonwealth’s School Banking program has been offering engaging ways for Australian children to learn the value of saving and develop lifelong money skills.

For our 2017 theme, a futuristic adventure is in store. Students will join the new look Dollarmites as Future Savers, making their way towards the Savings House City – a fantastic playground in the clouds of a hi-tech metropolis.

Encouraging savings habits with great rewards

School Banking will continue to reward children who demonstrate regular savings behaviour, and this year we’re introducing an exciting new range of reward items. Two are released every term, and available in Term 1 are the Cyber Handball and Colour Change Markers. Your child can redeem one of these reward items, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.

Visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to download and print this year’s Rewards Card. On our website you’ll also find a fun activity sheet and a Savings Tracker your child can use to keep track of their School Banking deposits throughout the year.

Dedicated savers get a chance to win a trip to Tokyo Disneyland

The Future Savers Grand Prize competition will take one lucky student on a family trip to Tokyo, Japan. Up to two adults and three children will get tickets to explore Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea, including the futuristic Tomorrowland attractions. This prize includes:

• Return economy flight from the winner’s nearest capital city to Tokyo, Japan
• Five nights’ accommodation at the Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel
• Three-day Magic Pass to Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea
• A$10,000 spending money

To enter, your child simply has to make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3, 2017. This will automatically enter them into the competition for a chance to win.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking