From the Principal

Welcome to 2016

How quickly we leave a more restful and laid back time of Summer holidays to embrace the excitement, promise and possibility that goes with beginning a new school year. We know in particular, that for our school community, 2016 is a year full of promise and possibility. Forty-two bright eyed and eager Prep students began their formal education journey on Monday and they have done so seamlessly and confidently. They might not realise it yet, but they are joining a community of learners where their individual learning and growth as caring and responsible citizens will be nurtured and nudged by a whole lot of people; teachers and classmates, support staff, parents and their extended families, and the parish community.

We welcome new families to the St Augustine's community: the Abela, Barbuto, Camilleri, Hauke, Ivkovic, Johnstone, Logan, Millen, Rivelli, Suman, Bridges, Alciati, Alducci, Blavicki, Fraietta, Jurgelait, Lang, Malvaso, Sita, Tonkovic, and Peiris families. May your time at St Augustine's be happy and fulfilling.

Next week we begin the Liturgical season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 10th. The 40 days of Lent are an opportunity for us to develop a closer relationship with God through considered sacrifice and preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

Perhaps if we consider that 'life is not about me, but about us' during Lent, we can make time within our busy lives to care for the ill, abandoned, neglected or forgotten. That might put us in a position to hear God in ways that we have not heard Him in a long time. And it may be the beginning of that healing we seek during this Lenten season.

Please remember in your prayers, some of our community members who continue to face health challenges or are caring for those who are unwell.

Condolences to the Lewis family on the passing of Anna's father and to Loncar family on the passing of Lewis' grandfather. May they rest peacefully in the palm of God's hand.

Denise Kelly

Acting Principal

In this edition....

There is something for everyone in this first newsletter for the year. Our delightful cover photo shows the happy smiles of Jazelle, Emily, Chelsea and Sophie on the first day of Prep. On the From the Office and Noticeboard pages there is lots of information you need to set yourself up for an organised year; procedures for signing in and out of the school, fee payment details, adding the Tiqbiz information app to your phone, extra curricula opportunities and when your child has specialist lessons. On the Parent Partnership page you will find out about next week's Parent/Teacher 'get to know you' meetings and know that bookings open on Feb 5th as well as how to be a Parent Helper in classrooms.

The Religious Education page has important information if your child celebrates a Sacrament this year and includes a couple of invitations - to a parish Mass to farewell Ms Denise Mugavin and commission the 2016 staff, and to our opening
school Mass. Your child will want to make sure you visit the *Parent's Auxiliary* page where there's icypole information and the all important lunch order details (this procedure has changed from previous years).

Ms Jodie sets the scene for Wellbeing @ St Augustine's on the *Wellbeing* page and there is a great insight into our Prep's first week on *Around the Classes* page.

Print off the Term 1 calendar and update your February calendar by visiting the *Looking Ahead* page.

Finally make sure you hit the **subscribe** button so you get our newsletter link conveniently delivered to your inbox each fortnight.

Happy reading.