If there is one thing we know about St Augustine’s it’s that we are a very welcoming community. These past two weeks we have welcomed our returning children and families, 34 new families and 31 new preps. During all this I was delighted to see older children assisting in welcoming the preps, all children on the lookout for lonely or confused children in the playground, parents taking new families under their wing and staff members with open arms and encouraging smiles. So from me, welcome one and all to St Augustine’s and a year full of endless possibilities!!

We welcome our new families as you start your journey at St Augustine’s: the Dinh family, Michailides, Coslovich, Antic, Cipriano, Cucanic, Infantino, Lejcak, Maplesden, Mardijono-Ly, Pantano, Reaiche, Sandner, Stavrou-Mitris, Curran, Goodison, Tomic, Trimboli and Wenas families. This may have been the first time you have stepped back into a primary school since your own days at school. Let me reassure you that you will indeed find many things to be different! Please ask questions and put your hand up to be involved in the school. It’s a great time to forge new friendships, find support and become a part of a wonderful learning community.

Welcome back to our St Augustine’s staff. We have a few changes with one new staff member - Joanne Crawford in Yr 1-2. Welcome Joanne. A list of staff members and their roles can be found under the ‘Noticeboard’ tab.

The new year brings with it fresh beginnings and endless possibilities. The students have spent the first few days of the year expressing their hopes and predictions for the year ahead. They have devised classroom expectations, explored new friendships and strengthened existing friendships. All of this has led to a positive and calm start to the year. I look forward to the creativity, imagination and deep learning that all children embark on this year.

St Augustine’s has a rich and proud history extending to our 150 year old church! Our uniform distinctly sets us apart and identifies us as St Augustine’s School Keilor. I urge you to stand proud and make sure your child wears the uniform correctly. Please pay attention to hair up for long hair, sleeper and stud earrings only, nail polish removed during the week and the correct footwear and socks. Brown shoes can often be a challenge to source. One of our dads, Frank Barresi, has found a stock of leather, brown shoes from a store on the other side of town. He has kindly offered his time on Wednesday 15th February from 2.30-4.30 to bring this stock to school and sell it at heavily discounted prices. The shoes are top quality and brown!!

The welcomes continue as we warmly greet Fr Peter Hoang to our parish. Fr Peter is currently on leave but will join us soon to meet us and become an integral part of St Augustine’s school

We continue to work on our Safe Schools Policy and remind parents to apply for Working With Children checks and to sign in at the front office if you are working in the classrooms. We will continue to explore the Child Safe Standards and parent partnerships in future newsletters.

My wish for everyone at St Augustine’s is a year full of learning, laughter, curiosity, imagination and wondering. Working together, anything is possible!
Condolences

We offer our prayers and condolences to the Wilmott family (Abbey 3/4R and Emily 1/2TC) on the passing of their dear Pop, Stuart Wilmott just before Christmas. May he be at peace with Our Lord.

In this edition...

Our front cover photo captures the delightful smiles of Mateo, Lucas and Jonah as they begin their school journey in prep at St Augustine’s. You can see some more snaps of Prep adventures on the *Learning Matters page*. While there, ensure you read the details for booking a Parent Teacher Learning Conversation scheduled for Wednesday February 15th.

Important dates for our Sacrament celebrations can be found on the *Religious Education page* as well as an invitation to our beginning school mass on Thursday February 23rd.

The *Notice board page* is full of organisational information including uniform do's and don'ts, parking expectations, supervision start and end times both before and after school and parking expectations. There is important information and dates for secondary school enrolments on this page as well.

Ms Jodie begins the year describing our school rules and consequences on the *Student Well being Page*. She always publishes information or articles of interest including parenting tips and ideas to help you raise happy, confident and resilient children.

Be sure to visit the *Parents Auxiliary page* to sign up for the icy pole roster, to help out at the up coming Bunnings BBQ and to download the lunch orders list for the year.

The first of our fortnightly newsletters for the year is jam packed with invitations and information so grab a cool drink, find a quiet place and enjoy the read!