

11 November 2020

Dear Parents and School Families of St Gabriel's,

My warmest greetings to you all! It is a delight to hear the happy sound of children playing in the school grounds after so many weeks of silence.

I congratulate you all on the way in which you have come through this challenging time. I congratulate all our teachers and school staff in what has been a new learning experience for us all.

If there are two things that 2020 has taught us is that we never know what is around the corner and secondly we need to be resilient and seize the opportunity.

Mr Mark Miatello, our Principal, has accepted the offer to become Principal of a very new school in the Craigieburn area. This will come as a surprise to you all but Mark has long expressed his hope that one day he would have the chance to, as it were, 'start a school from scratch'. Mark will take up his new position from the beginning of Term 1, 2021. I informed the school staff this morning.

I support Mark in this new direction in his professional life. He has been between 'a rock and a hard place' in making this decision. His evident love of you all and St Gabriel's School and Parish has made his decision difficult. Like us all we hesitate to step away from the familiar, and we have some doubts as to whether we can live up to the expectation of others. I have assured Mark that the position would not have been offered if the relevant authorities doubted his ability.

We know at first hand just how capable and dynamic he is. We will benefit greatly from the school-building project that Mark has guided through the planning and design stages and which we eagerly await. In building his new school 'from scratch' Mark will not have to work around the buildings he has inherited!

I expect that Mrs Clare Ryan will be the Acting Principal of St Gabriel's for Term One at least in 2021, as the selection process for a new Principal progresses

I am enormously grateful to Mark for his years at St Gabriel's, for his friendship and personal support. Holy Cross School's gain is our loss, but the bigger picture of Catholic Education benefits. I am certain that we will have a chance to express our gratitude to Mark before the end of this school-year.

Please be assured of my prayers and best wishes for you all.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,



Fr Shane HECTOR,  
PARISH PRIEST.

10 November 2020

Dear Parents and Families of St Stephen's Primary School,

Greetings and best wishes! It is great to have the children back at school, as slowly but surely we are getting back to normal.

Mr Richard Keele, Principal of St Stephen of Hungary Parish School is retiring at the end of 2020. Many of you will remember that Richard negotiated a 'Transition to Retirement Contract' at the end of 2019. This meant that for 2020 Richard would share the Principalship with Mrs Rosetta Rametta as he moved to full retirement.

Richard accepted the role of Principal after the long tenure of Mrs Christine Paterson. Part of his brief was to build upon the work of Christine and continue to raise the profile of the school and increase enrolments. He stepped up to the challenge, to use football jargon! And each year enrolments for Prep increase. In 2020 he has faced the difficult challenge of 'remote learning' as a consequence of the Covid-19 restrictions and the necessary sanitation and hygiene protocols which must be followed now that the children have returned on-site. Both Richard and the school staff have maintained their professionalism and their humour during this difficult time. Moreover we have had to postpone the yearly highlights of our Religious Education: First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. With all the necessary preparation for the change of governance to the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) which will occur on 1 January 2021, both Richard and the School Staff have been busy completing all the legal documents and information for Catholic Education Melbourne.

I am most grateful for Richard's selfless and dedicated service to our school and for his cheerfulness and friendship. He has made many improvements to the look of the school and to the day to day education of your children. Everywhere we can see his attention to detail. He has given our children and our parish a sense of pride in our school.

I wish Richard every happiness in retirement and I know he cannot wait for border restrictions to be lifted so that he can reunite with his family.

In First Term 2021 Mrs Rosetta Rametta will assume the full-time role of Acting Principal while the selection process for a new Principal is completed.

I assure you that our school has never been better, and the future is bright. Please take the opportunity to thank Richard for his important contribution to your child's education and growth!

And wish him well for the future,

Yours Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Shane Hooctor,  
PARISH PRIEST.