Dear Parents, Friends & Students of the St Denis School community

Welcome
I am delighted to be entrusted with the responsibility of leading the school community this year, together with the Assistant Principals Leanne Fanetti and Cordelia Nicholas. I hope that everyone had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends over the school holidays and like me are looking forward to the challenges and celebrations that the school year brings.

I especially welcome those staff and students who are new to St Denis and trust that your association with our school will be life giving. I have certainly felt very welcomed into the community over the past couple of weeks. Please say hello and introduce yourself if you see me wandering around the school.

As we begin a new journey together, I pray that all who are part of the St Denis School community find a welcome space to grow and be.

School Holiday Projects
School holidays are an opportunity to complete maintenance projects which are not possible during the school term. The Year 3 - 6 classroom block had the roof, ceiling and electrics replaced. They are now great safe work spaces for the teachers and children. Thanks to the teaching staff for their patience and understanding in supporting this project.

Work was completed in the Kindy & Pre Primary playground; creating more nature friendly spaces for the children to explore. Thank you to Ken, Mr & Mrs Drake, Ms Nicholas, Maurice Ferialdi, Kim & Dave McAullay who helped to bring this project to fruition.

Grassed areas of the oval were replaced; thanks to Rob Firns for his work there.

Swimming
Swimming lessons began on Monday; well done to the parents and students for being prepared for swimming on the first day of school. From all reports, lessons ran smoothly and there was only one pair of goggles and a piece of clothing in ‘lost property’ at the end of day one.

Drive Through
It is great see lots of cars with the family name on the dash, this makes it a much easier job for staff, particularly those of us who are new to the school and don’t know the families or recognise the cars. In order to avoid congestion around the entrance gate, children will sit on the grassed area outside the Science room in Year/family groups to be given direction from teachers on duty to walk to their cars.

Medical Action Plans
These were sent home yesterday. We ask that you return these as soon as possible. Thank you
Parent Information Evenings
Parent Information Evenings are an important means of communicating what is happening in your child’s class. I encourage all families to attend where possible. These are scheduled for Monday 15 February.

6:00 - 6:30 - PP, Yr 1, & 2 (meet in the respective classrooms)
6:30 - 7:00 - PP - Yr 6 (meet in the hall)
7:00 - 7:30 - Yrs 3, 4, 5 & 6 (meet in the respective classrooms)

Appointments
Anyone wishing to see me please make an appointment through either Lea or Hazel, our school secretaries. I am generally available from 7:30am and am happy to meet to discuss any concerns you may have.

Ash Wednesday
A Liturgy of the Word will be held in the school hall on Wednesday 10 February, 2:15pm to mark the beginning of Lent. Please join us if you are able.

Kind regards

Kerry Hewitson
Principal
Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the start of the 2016 school year. The year promises to be full of possibilities in all our 163 vibrant, faith-filled learning communities each of which are centred on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis has declared 2016 the ‘Year of Mercy’. This challenges us all to be ‘merciful like the father’ in our daily lives. Imagine the transformative effect our school communities could have on society, if we were to take up Francis’ challenge, in our families and those we work with, as well as those who find themselves alienated, lonely and despised in society.

Your school community will be creating a range of opportunities for students and families to honour and celebrate this special year and I encourage you to get involved.

If you are new to our system I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family. You are joining Catholic education at an exciting time. We are in a period of significant growth and we have once again demonstrated sustained system-wide improvement in last year’s WACE results.

In the last three years we have opened seven new schools and colleges and 2016 marks the opening of Salvado Catholic College for the first time. I wish the students, parents and caregivers involved in the College’s foundation year all the very best.

All Catholic schools rely on the contribution of the parish, staff, students and parents working in partnership to sustain their vibrancy, educational excellence, and faith life. With your support and involvement in your child’s learning, the efforts of more than 11,000 dedicated school staff and principals can ensure that our Catholic schools help students across the state reach their God-given potential.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Tim McDonald