# St Paul's Drouin Campus Update

## **New Beginnings**

I am thrilled to report that preparations are progressing well, and excitement is building as we continue to prepare for the development of the new Drouin Campus of St Paul's. I have commenced in the Head of School role with much enthusiasm and feel privileged to be part of the team overseeing the development of our new campus, a responsibility that I see as both challenging and exciting.

Being a father of three boys (I should say young men now!) and being an educator for over 25 years, I am well aware of the level of uncertainty that can present when parents are trying to select an educational setting for their children. In the first instance, there are many questions to explore; how do I know which school is the right fit for my child? What do I need to know? What questions do I need to ask? Do I just go with what others recommend? In my situation, it came down to a school that 'felt right' for my boys, and my wife and I were able to tell this within the first few minutes of setting foot on the grounds (and we visited a lot of schools!). Did we feel a sense of belonging? Were we made to feel welcomed and was our child going to be safe and happy? Whilst this 'feeling' can be difficult to describe, in simple terms, it was our 'gut feel' that we would be comfortable leaving our child in the care of the staff who were willing to work with us, in partnership, to educate our children.

I always say to families that I show around St Paul's for the first time, you 'will know' if a school is the right one for your family. I also encourage them to 'see a school in action' when forming a decision. You need to see the students in classrooms or in the yard to see how they are interacting with each other and their teachers. So how do you do this when a school is just beginning, like our Drouin Campus? I invite you to attend our Information Evening being held at the Drouin Golf Club on Tuesday 22 August commencing at 7:00pm. You will have the opportunity to hear from our Principal, Mr Cameron Herbert, Director of Early Learning Centre, Ms Richelle Harris, and myself as we share more about selecting the 'right school' for your child and update you further on our Drouin Campus.

Rowan van Raay Head of School - Drouin Campus

#### Information Evening 7pm, Tuesday 22 August

Drouin Golf Club, McGlone Road, Drouin Register now at stpaulsags.vic.edu.au



#### Learning by playing

Commencing in Term 1, 2024 we will be offering our Little Lorikeets Program in Drouin.

Led by qualified early childhood educators, Little Lorikeets is a weekly facilitated playgroup that offers an enriching and safe learning experience for children to explore the foundations of literacy and numeracy.

Utilising a range of stimulating play activities, along with outdoor areas for inspiration and learning, your child can experience wonder and excitement in every session.

Beyond the curriculum, children are introduced to some of the specialist areas that will be on offer at our primary school. Children will extend their early learning through play, music, storytime and craft, all designed to support their growth and development across all learning domains.

The Little Lorikeets of 2024 will be a special group, forming a strong community of future foundation families that will witness our new Drouin Campus become a reality. We look forward to getting to know each of you as together we make history by establishing a new educational centre that will benefit the Drouin community.

Open to children who are not yet attending school, you can learn more and apply for Little Lorikeets via our website.

#### **Little Lorikeets 2024**

Tuesdays from 9:30am to 11:00am During term time.

### All in one place...

Did you know that you will also be able to access before and after school care at our new campus?

Children will be able to enrol in an independent service that will offer before and after school care, as well as a school holiday program.

Operating independently from St Paul's, the service will cater for children from Early Learning through to Year 6.

Utilising our spacious classrooms and playgrounds, children will enjoy a seamless transition from school to care. With familiar surroundings and a natural extension of existing friendships, children can enjoy the best of both worlds.



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#### Come visit us...

**Drouin Shopping Centre, Friday 11 August** Visit us at the Drouin Woolworths Shopping Centre between 9am and 2pm, chat with our staff and learn more about enrolling.