Dear Parents

Welcome to a new year of education for your child. Hang on! Should our College be welcoming families or should families be welcoming the school: “Those who are in charge of schools must never forget that the parents have been appointed by God himself as the first and principle educators of their children ......” Pope John Paul II.

A school and its teachers can only build on the teaching a child receives at home. The home should not reinforce the school; it should be the other way around. Education is about valuing and nurturing every young person’s uniqueness and assisting them to fulfil their capabilities as students and later as adults. Parents and schools have a joint interest to ensure that our school provides an environment that is conducive to successful learning and personal achievement. If education is valued in the home and seen as life-enhancing, then children will view their schooling as being positive for them and worth investing their energies in. Parents and teachers working in collaboration can present education as a happy and fulfilling experience for children.

Research, anywhere in the world, confirms that when parents are partners in their children’s education, their children improve their achievement levels. So, keep in touch with the school. Don’t leave it always to the College to let you know how your child is achieving. Stay aware of what your child is learning, what their assignments are and how they perform in them. Arrange a visit to our College to talk with your child’s teacher or schedule a phone call. Good communication between home and school is vital to create and sustain a climate that is conducive to productive learning.

Parents, you are the source of your child’s affirmation. Children will believe what the people they love and trust believe, including how they feel about school and their ability to learn. So, after praise and encouragement, encourage perseverance.

A warm, supportive home atmosphere will influence your child’s confidence and motivation to become a successful learner.

A couple of years ago, a university study asked a randomly selected number of parents to respond to the question, “What does it mean to be a parent?” Here are two extracts:

“Responsibility for teaching about love and caring for others; responsibility for keeping them safe and secure so their personalities can develop in a healthy way.”

“It’s the most important job you’ll ever have to do in your life. The social ramifications of parenting are so important, because the responsibility is yours to bring happy, well-adjusted people into adulthood .... and the joy and despair are often only seconds apart.”

It can be helpful, on occasion, to think about our role as parents, for it is truly a privilege to have given life to a child and have accepted the responsibility, great though it is, of
nurturing and providing for that child through those developmental years. Fortunately, you have teachers who are professionals and who will serve to help you succeed.

Your child will enter this school, move through its various grades and eventually leave; but your child will still be part of your family and still be your responsibility. So welcome to the commencement of another College year when home and school come together to bring success to a new phase of development for your child.

“God, our Father, may Your guiding Spirit be strong within our hearts and minds throughout this school year, Amen.”

Peace and Best Wishes.
Richard Milne
Acting Assistant Principal
Religious Education