FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Thank you to all on a great start to our school year. We have had lots happening already as the children settle into their new classes. During start up week the children have been getting to know each other, their teacher and set up routines for 2016.

Gymnastics for Hire has already run gymnastics classes this week for all children.

Our Yr 5/6 spent the day last Friday with Luke from Unleashing Personal Potential exploring important aspects of Leadership. Students took part in games and challenges that called for them to identify individual strengths and weaknesses, and how to work in a team to balance these out to achieve success. They were also called on to reflect on what type of leader they are - prophet (ideas), planner (organisation) and people (inter-personal skills), and how we need these types of leaders to work together. It was a fantastic experience for all and we look forward to seeing their leadership in action throughout the year.

Also this week we commenced our Youth Leadership program to help develop the Yr 5/6 public speaking skills.

Our preps will meet up with their Year 5/6 buddies tomorrow and join the rest of the school for play and lunch from next Tuesday.
The Yr 3-6s are off to Bicentennial Park tomorrow. Today we celebrated our Opening of the Year Mass. It is important that we gather as a faith community on a regular basis and reflect on our faith through the celebrations of Liturgy. Each day we commence with some reflective meditation.

Next week we will hold our Yr 3/6 Swimming Carnival at Mentone Swimming Pool from 11.30 – 2.00pm, all supporters welcome. On Tuesday it is Shrove Tuesday and we have asked for volunteers to come along and cook pancakes for all the children. If you can spare an hour or two on Tuesday please return the slip from the form sent out.

On Tuesday night our Yr 34s will be having a Growing into the Middle School Information Night for parents from 5.30-6.30pm. Please indicate on the form going home if you need babysitting.

Next Wednesday the Yr 1-6 will attend Ash Wednesday Mass.

Next Friday 12th February we will have our first assembly for the year from 2.30pm (all welcome) and our opening of the year BBQ. Classrooms open from 5-6pm and a sausage in bread available – BYO chairs, salads, drinks etc. This is a chance to meet your child’s teacher, visit their classroom and meet up with other families.

**Bomb Threats**
The recent spate of bomb threats to schools has been disturbing. As a school we practised our evacuation drill today to make sure we are familiar with the process if and when it is required. The children’s safety is our number one priority.

**Uniform**
We are looking for one parent to help run the uniform shop for 2016 and beyond. We would like to thank Riny Davis and Heidi Columbani who have helped manage the Uniform Shop over the last couple of years. We have had a couple of volunteers to take over, but are looking for one more. Please let the office know.

**Monash Children’s Hospital Walk**
On Sunday 6th March at Jell’s Park in Wheelers Hill there is a walk to help raise money for the new children’s Hospital at Monash. Enjoy 1, 5 or 10 km walk with friends. Register at mchwalk.com.au

**Congratulations**
To Lenny Thomas. Over the holidays Lenny starred in the production of “Mary Poppins” held at the Frankston Arts Centre. Lenny was very impressive. So much so that I received a letter from a retired teacher:

“It was a wonderful production and we all thoroughly enjoyed the superb acting, singing and dancing skills of Lenny Thomas. I taught for 40 years at Haileybury College and Brighton Grammer School. During that time those schools made many theatrical productions and I saw many most competent young actors. Lenny would be the best school boy actor I have had the pleasure of watching. Please pass on my thanks to Lenny for his wonderful effort”.

**Working Bee**
On Friday 26th February 4.30-6.00pm. Please see the attached letter regarding our first working bee for 2016.

**Breakfast Club**
Breakfast Club has operated at St Joseph’s from the hall foyer for over 6 years from 8.20am – 8.35am. It has continued to operate thanks to the generosity of the school community by regular donations and through the help of volunteers during this time. If you have half an hour to spare on any morning it would be greatly appreciated as we need volunteers to help out. Thank you to the parents, grandparents and parishioners who have helped out.

We are asking for donations of juice, long life milk, vegemite and milo. Breakfast club will start next Monday.

**School Fees**
All statements have been sent out today, either home with your child or via email/mail, as nominated by you. If you do not receive it, please contact the office as soon as possible. The total fees for 2016 have been charged to your account and maybe paid by instalments either fortnightly, monthly or over 3 terms by direct direct or credit, Bpay, online banking, cash or cheque. If paying in 3 instalments as per the fee schedule the first instalment is due Thursday 25th February, with the total to be paid off by the end of Term 3.

Kind Regards

Mr Gavan O’Donnell
Principal.
It is not uncommon to see the members of a football team wearing a black armband; they do so as a symbolic mark of sorrow and respect to honour the passing of a person who has been a close associate of their club. Likewise, those who come to support the players are decked out in their tribal colours to show their willingness to be identified as club followers or supporters. They come to the game prepared to support their team not only by their attire but by living the game with their heroes and expressing their support both physically and emotionally; the “true believers” are those who can stick by their club not only during the good times but when times are rather bleak.

At this time of the year, as Lent approaches, Christians are presented with the opportunity to give expression to the type of supports that they are. Some supports celebrate only the happy times in Jesus’ life such as Easter and Christmas. As “true believers”, we should also watch and pray with Him on Holy Thursday, stand by Him on Good Friday and join with Him in prayer and fasting during the forty days of Lent.

We are all familiar with the saying that, “Beauty is only skin deep” and its hidden caution, that we should look more closely at the inner person, where we will find the core values of the person. Lent offers us the opportunity to get beneath the “skin of our life and get in touch with the core values of our relationship with God through Jesus, who came and lived our way of life. It is an opportunity to strip away the false images of God that we ourselves have created over the past year.

Lent is a time when we can choose to put ourselves to the test both physically and emotionally by some acts of fasting and abstinence, periods of sober reflection and self-examination and perhaps some spiritual redirection. It is a time to grow in closeness to Jesus who can bring wholeness and healing to our lives, as He did to those who asked Him for it, no matter how varied their circumstance.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and the chance to receive a cross of ashes on our forehead to symbolise our oneness with Christ and our own mortality. We leave the Church with the mark still on our foreheads so that we carry the sign of the cross out into the world. However, that is the only time in Lent when we are encouraged to be “external” in what we do.

Jesus told us not to babble on with our prayers as did the Pharisees of His time, but to pray sincerely to God in our hearts. He told us not to make a fuss when giving money or goods or to seek public acknowledgement but to give unseen, except by God. As for fasting: we are told not to make declarations about what we do, nor to look gloom about it, otherwise we are doing it simply for acclaim from others.

It’s a sobering thought to realise that if we “give up” things such as T.V watching, alcohol etc, we are “giving up” things that most people in the world would never have had at all. So what are the things that are really meaningful to us: our time, given fully to assist people in need; our pride, through an act of long overdue reconciliation with another person; some finance, earmarked for an unnecessary luxury item but now given to an aid organisation that provides basic food items to the dispossessed? So how will I, this coming Lent, renew my Christian commitment and express through my life, Christ’s message of love, care and forgiveness.

“Lord,
I belong to Your “tribe” of Christians.
Help me, this Lent,
to be more “tribal” in my fellowship with You.
Amen.”

Financial Assistance Information for Parents
CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of excursions, camps and sporting activities.
If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or you are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to excursions, camps or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.
The annual CSEF amount per student is $125 for primary school students.
HOW TO APPLY:
Contact the school office or download a form from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef or the school’s website

Book Launch
Joe Leach (Mandy’s husband) is launching his book series Myfanwy’s People, an adventure/fantasy series aimed at young teens on February 25th at 7.30 pm in the O’Hanlon Centre, Mitchell St., Mentone. Any families who wish to come would be very welcome.
If you are coming, please let Mandy know or email leachpublications@gmail.com by Feb 19 for catering purposes.
District Sports
Many of you have students who play AFL, soccer, basketball and netball at a very good standard and attempt to make the state teams for these sports. In the past we have run school trials to select the students who will represent St Joseph’s in the district trials. There is a new process this year.

There will no longer be any school or district trials. The process is now done online through SSV (School Sport Victoria) who organise the state teams. This decision was made by school sport Victoria and St Joseph’s had no say in this decision. SSV will decide which students from any school get to trial based on the online forms you fill in. St Joseph’s staff will no longer have any say in this process.

A few important facts to note-
A) You must enrol through the SSV website www.ssv.vic.edu.au
B) You must pay $25 to enrol
C) Myself or Ms Coletti and Mr O’Donnell need to sign to say that we think a student chosen has the ability to participate in the trials if they are selected by SSV (We have no say over who SSV will choose).
D) The last day for enrolling is the 16th of March

There is more detailed information on the SSV website using the link provided https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/TeamVic/Pages/onlineRegistrationInformation.aspx
For those of you who have children who are talented at other sports, such as golf and tennis, please see Mr Bayliss and he can give you further information as required (There is a full list of available sports on the SSV website)
I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mr Paul Bayliss

St Bede’s College, Mentone
Enrolment Applications for Year 7 in 2017  CLOSING DATE for Enrolments Year 7 in 2017
Please note that the closing date for St Bede’s College to receive Enrolment Applications for Year 7 in 2017 is: Friday 26 February 2016
To obtain a Year 7 Enrolment Application Form you can download and print the form from our website www.stbedes.catholic.edu.au

John Paul College OPEN DAY Thursday 11th February
Inviting Year 7 Enrolments for 2017 and 2018
4PM & 7PM TOURS
9784 0200
McMahons Rd Frankston, Ngargee Centre, Enter Gate 2
All families warmly welcomed  NO RSVP required

Marmont School Of Dance  FIRST CLASS FREE
Classes in ballet, Tap and Jazz.
All ages and abilities. Classes held at Chelsea Heights Community Centre.
For further information please contact Kerri on 0412 869 431

Chelsea Football Club (Soccer)
is a community and family based sporting club that supports Junior and Senior Players, both male and female.

Our club’s mission is to teach the technical and tactical aspects of soccer in a multi-cultural community based environment which promotes fun, friendship and respect through team sport participation for both genders.
Our new season starts in April and we are conducting Player Registration Days on Saturday 13th and Monday 15th February 2016. We are seeking to attract new and current players to our Club for season 2016.
Register now online: www.chelseafootballclub.com.au

Bonbeach YCW Football Club
Meet the coach/registration day 2016
Bonbeach Reserve No 5 Oval, scotch Parade, Bonbeach
Under 9 – Under 17
Sunday 14th February between 10am – 1pm
A sausage sizzle will be held.
For further details please contact Mark 0414 935 712
New members need to bring their birth certificate.
• Thursday 4th February  
9.15am Opening of the year Mass
• Friday 5th February  
Yr 3/4 Park excursion
• Monday 8th February  
Swimming Carnival Yrs 3-Yr 6
• Tuesday 9th February  
Gymnastics (2) P-Yr 2, Yr 5/6 Leadership (2), Shrove Tuesday
5.30pm-6.30pm Growing into the Middle School Information Night, 7pm PEB
• Wednesday 10th February  
Ash Wednesday Mass 9.15am, No Preps, Yr 5/6 Leadership (2), 7.30pm PPC
• Thursday 11th February  
Gymnastics (2) Yr 3-Yr 6, Reconciliation Night (1) 7pm
• Friday 12th February  
2.30pm Assembly Yr 5/6 perform, 5pm Welcome BBQ & classrooms open 5-6pm
• Tuesday 16th February  
Gymnastics (3) P-Yr 2, Yr 5/6 Leadership (3), 5.30pm-6.15pm Prep Parent Information Session
• Wednesday 17th February  
NO Preps, Gymnastics (3) Yr 3-Yr 6, Yr 5/6 Leadership (3), Yr 1/2B & 1/2DL Ripponlea Excursion
• Thursday 18th February  
Yr 5/6 Mass 9.15am
• Friday 19th February  
2.30pm Assembly Preps, Yr 5/6 Summer Sport Rd 1
• Monday 22nd February  
School Photos ALL STUDENTS TO WEAR CORRECT SCHOOL UNIFORM (BRING RUNNERS IF YOU HAVE SPORT)
• Tuesday 23rd February  
Gymnastics (4) P-Yr 2, Yr 5/6 Leadership (4), Family Conferences 3.30-8.00pm
• Wednesday 24th February  
NO Preps, Gymnastics (4) Yr 3-Yr 6, Yr 5/6 Leadership (4), Yr 1/2 D0 & Yr 1/2FG Ripponlea Excursion, Family Conferences 3.30-6.00pm
• Thursday 25th February  
Yr 3/4 Mass 9.15am, Reconciliation Night (2) 7pm
• Friday 26th February  
Yr 5/6 Summer Sport Rd 2, 2.30pm Assembly 3/4 performing, 4.30pm Working Bee
• Monday 29th February  
Yr 5/6 Mt Evelyn Camp
• Tuesday 1st March  
Yr 5/6 Mt Evelyn Camp
• Wednesday 2nd March  
Yr 5/6 Mt Evelyn Camp
• Thursday 3rd March  
Yr Prep-2 Mass 9.15am
• Friday 4th March  
2.30pm Assembly 1/2 performing
• Saturday 5th March  
6pm Year 5 Mass
• Friday 21st October  
Twilight Fete Put this date in your diary

2016 Term Dates
Term 1 28th January – Thursday 24th March (Good Friday 25th March)
Term 2 11th April – 24th June
Term 3 11th July – 16th September
Term 4 3rd October – 15th December