A GREAT PERFORMANCE BY OUR PREPS AT THE ASSEMBLY.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Tomorrow from 4.30-6.00pm come along and help our school out with the first working bee of the year and help our school to continue to look good. If you attend any working bee, please ensure you sign in on the day to enable us to credit your fee account.

We are very lucky to have the grounds of the Uniting Church behind the grass area to park. They have been very accommodating. However, some parents have been parking in the drive way at the front and blocking people from entering or leaving the Church. Please be respectful of the grounds and where you park as we do not want to lose this arrangement.
We have quite a number of children arriving late. Please make sure your child is on time as the start of the day sets up the day ahead and instructions are not repeated. We also have late phone calls to get messages to children about after school arrangements. Please get this message to us as early as possible as it gets quite hectic at the end of the day. Please make arrangements before school where possible.

Yr 5/6 Camp
Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the Yr 5/6 students are off to Mt Evelyn Adventure Camp for their annual school camp. The children will have a great time challenging themselves. We wish them a safe and happy time. I will also be attending camp and while I am away please see Tori Finck, Louise Drummond, Donna Connolly or Rochelle Morey in my absence.

FETE Meeting
THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2016 7PM IN THE LIBRARY
The Fete will be held on Friday 21st October. Come along to our initial Fete meeting to discuss what needs to happen. How can you help? Man a stall, get donations, organise flyers etc. All welcome. Some rides have already been booked and ready to go.

Prep 2017
If you have a child starting school next year please see Angela or Robyn in the office to put your name down on our mailing list so we can send paperwork home in the next couple of weeks. Thank you.

Literacy Helpers Training/Refresher
On Tuesday 15th March and Wednesday 16th March from 2-3pm in the Library a training session will be held for parent helpers. If you would like to help in the Prep – Yr 2 classes during the Literacy block feel free to come along. Complete the form sent home via caremonkey by Friday 11th March.

Stepping Up Into Yr 1/2
Look out on caremonkey for an information night flyer on Tuesday 8th March from 5.30-6.30pm in the library. Please respond via caremonkey.

Parish Education Board AGM
The AGM is on Tuesday 8th March in the school library from 6.30-7.30pm. Please see the attached flyer.

Boonwurrung Family School Partnerships
St Joseph’s is part of the FSP with John Paul College and a number of Catholic Primary Schools helping families. Next week we will be launching a number of Parent Information nights to help all parents. Along with this we will be having Parent/Child nights and activities around wellbeing. Look out next week for dates and times and make a time to come along. There are free events for parents sponsored by the school.

Facebook
The parents of St Joseph’s have a parent facebook page to help parents regarding activities and school information. It is not meant for school educational issues. As always if you have any issues or queries please make sure you see your child’s teacher or relevant person. Facebook is not the place for these discussions.

There is a story of a gentleman named Fulton Oursler, a former editor of Readers Digest who, when diagnosed with an incurable disease, decided he wasn’t ready to die. So he rented a room at a hotel, assembled a large number of comedy films, shut himself off from the rest of the world and simply relaxed and laughed. His health gradually improved. The humour Foundation is a national charity founded in 1997 to promote health benefits of humour. It promotes Clown Doctors to dispense doses of fun and laughter. So what is it about humour that is so good for us?

Humour is a universal language, it breaks down barriers and has no known negative side affects. It lifts our spirits, is an antidote for stress and helps to avoid burnout. It gives us a difficult perspective and, as the saying goes, “If you can laugh at it, you can survive it”.

Children enter life with an inherent capacity to laugh, smile, play and generally make fun and light of life. Their sense of humour is then cultivated by how they experience their social environment especially their family. If parents can live with a humorous perspective to their lives and encourage and teach their children to do the same, their children will manage life’s challenges with far less stress.

An interesting study, conducted by St Thomas Hospital in London, has found that your sense of humour has nothing to do with your genes and everything to do with your upbringing – it depends on the way you were raised. It would then appear to be the case that humour is an essential tool in being a parent. It ranks alongside common sense and that ‘gut feeling’ we all experience from time to time.
Even though laughter is necessary to release the pressure of uncertainty and stress, and a simple way to relax, it does not mean that we have to become instant comedians, though it does help to look on the lighter side of life. Victor Borge, who was a most versatile comedian, offers an alternative when he says that, “The shortest distance between two people is a smile”; the following verse urges us to be one of the two people:

“Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu. When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too. I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin; when he smiled, I realised I’d passed it on to him! I thought about that smile and then realised its worth, a single smile, just like mine, could travel around the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin, don’t leave it undetected. Let’s start an epidemic quick and get the world infected!” -Russel Conwell

The above sentiment has been expressed in this slightly difficult manner:

“Count, if you will, the number of smiles your smile has drawn from others today. The number will represent how many times you have promoted contentment, joy, satisfaction, encouragement, confidence in the heart of others. These good dispositions always give birth to unselfish and noble deeds. The influence of your smile is spreading, though you do not always see the wonders it is working” -author unknown.

So the challenge is with us parents to keep ourselves and our children smiling and, on occasion, laughing, in spite of a world around us that might appear to be becoming more serious and solemn.

“The most completely lost of all days
is the one in which we haven’t laughed”.

Lord, teach me to smile,
so that the joy of Your presence within me,
may be shared with others.
Amen”

Athletics Carnival
A caremonkey form went home today for your child. Please fill this in by Wednesday 9th March.

Choir
Congratulations to the Grade 3/4 and 5/6 boys and girls who have given up some of their lunch times to come and try out our school choirs for 2016. We have spent the last four weeks having people coming along to give it a go and see if they like it. The 3/4 rehearsals have been very popular and it has been lovely to see some students continuing on into the 5/6 Choir. For some members, this is the 3rd or 4th year of singing with us. The amazing talent at St Joe’s is something to be celebrated and we look forward to sharing some of our work with our school later in the year.

Our trial period finishes up this week and the commitment period of our practice sessions begin next week. A reminder that the Grade 3/4 Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday during the first half of lunch time. The Grade 5/6 Choir rehearsals are held during Thursday lunchtimes.

Thanks to those dedicated and hardworking students. You should be proud of your efforts.

Keep singing! From Miss Ryan

Pinafores
On Tuesday a pinafore order form went home with girls in Prep-Yr 2. If any student in Yr 3-6 would like to order a pinafore please send the order form with money to the office. We order these pinafores in bulk so we must have all orders in by Friday 4th March.

Library helpers needed
The library would love some help with shelving Mon-Thurs at 3pm and on Friday morning from 8:45-10am. No regular commitment is needed, just come when you can. We would also love some new book coversers. If you can take home some books and some contact and cover the books, please let Mandy or the office know.

Thanks, Anne and Mandy

News from Chelsea Heights Community Centre
Still time to enrol for our De-cluttering workshop on Monday 29 February 7pm to 9pm and the 4 week Positive Mind, Positive Future Course starting Thursday 25th February 7pm to 9pm. Both these activities will give you strategies to simplify and bring more calm to your life.
On Saturday 5th March graphic designer James Hawkins will be running a four hour Photoshop workshop, don’t miss this one, places will be limited.

Get fit on Thursday mornings with a calorie burning, Latin inspired Zumba dance workout— your first class will be free! On Wednesday afternoons 1pm to 3pm the line dancing class welcomes beginners to advanced dancers. Your children will enjoy the fun Wednesday and Thursday childcare sessions and parents will enjoy the four hours of time.

Ring 9772 3391 to book, for more details or our Term brochure, and please visit our website for a full program at www.chelseaeheightscommunitycentre.com.au or just drop on by.

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club has run with the help of volunteers for over 6 years. It has served a great service for the children of St Joseph’s. It would be a shame to see it close. We need your help. We have a number of parishioners helping but need school families to help out. Can you spare half an hour once a week from 8.15am – 8.45am? Special thanks to our parents who have organised to pick up the bread.

We are asking for donations of juice, long life milk, vegemite and milo. Thanks for your support.

**Tuesday Morning Coffee**

Do you want to catch up with other families and let toddlers play together on Tuesday mornings in the staffroom. Come along after dropping your child/ren off.

**Uniform NEW DAY WILL NOW BE THURSDAY MORNINGS**

The uniform shop will be moving from Wednesday morning to Thursday morning, still at the same time 9-10am from next week.

We will be sending out Pinafore order forms next week for Prep – Year 2 to be ordered shortly. If any family from other year levels would like to order a winter pinafore please see the office, all orders must be submitted by 9th March.

**Monash Children’s Hospital Walk**

On Sunday 6th March at Jell’s Park in Wheeler’s 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

**School Fees**

All statements have been sent out 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 may be paid by instalments either fortnightly, monthly or over 3 terms by direct debit 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.

**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 for the school’s website

**Child First Family Solutions**

CFFS is a free and voluntary service providing support and advice directly to families, professionals and the general community. They support families with children up to 17 years of age, pregnant women, community members and professionals seeking advice for those who reside in the towns of Bayside, Frankston, Glen Eira, Kingston, Port Phillip, Stonington and the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

CFFS support families who may need assistance or support with the day to day challenges of parenting children up to 17 years of age, if you are a member of the community who is concerned about a family in need, a professional seeking advice about supporting a family you are working with or an adolescent feeling isolated and not heard by your parents.
CFFS can also help by referring you to other services you may need:
Ante Natal Services, Adolescent Support Services, Disability Services, Drug and Alcohol Services, Early Childhood Services, Early Parenting Services, Family Care Planning, Family Violence Services, In Home Parenting Support, Kinship Carer Supports, Maternal and Child Health Services, Mental Health Services, Parenting Groups, Playgroups, Social Support Groups, Volunteer & Mentor Support.
To access Child First Family Solutions simply call 1300 721 383.

**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

**Kilbreda College**
Year 7 2017 Enrolment Application Closing Date
Applications are welcomed for Year 7, 2017, with applications closing on Friday 26th February 2016.
For further information or to book a tour please contact the College on 9581 7766 or email Melissa.dwyer@kilbreda.vic.edu.au

**John Paul College**
Inviting Year 7 Enrolments for 2017 and 2018
9784 0200
McMahons Rd Frankston, Ngargee Centre, Enter Gate 2
All families warmly welcomed

**OLSH College**
Year 7 2017 Enrolment to be in by Friday 26th Feb.
Please go to our website mli@olsh.vic.edu.au for more information
**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Thursday 25th February**  
  Yr 3/4 Mass 9.15am, Reconciliation Night (2) 7pm
- **Friday 26th February**  
  Yr 5/6 Summer Sport Rd 2 vs Cornish College, 2.30pm Assembly 3/4 performing,  
  4.30pm Working Bee
- **Saturday 27th February**  
  Mass for Reconciliation families 6pm
- **Sunday 28th February**  
  Mass for Reconciliation families 9.30am & 11am
- **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, 7pm FETE meeting in the Library
- **Friday 4th March**  
  Yr 5/6 Summer Sport Rd 3 vs Seaford, 2.30pm Assembly 1/2 performing
- **Saturday 5th March**  
  6pm Year 5 Mass
- **Monday 7th March**  
  District Swimming at The Pines 9.00am -2.00pm
- **Tuesday 8th March**  
  Year 1/2 Parent Information Night 5.30pm-6.30pm, Gymnastics (5) P-Yr 2, Yr 5/6 Leadership (5),  
  7.00pm Parent Education Board AGM

- **Wednesday 9th March**  
  Gymnastics (5) Yr 3-Yr 6, Yr 5/6 Leadership (5),
- **Thursday 10th March**  
  Reconciliation Night (3) 7pm
- **Friday 11th March**  
  Yr 5/6 Lightning Premiership
- **Saturday 12th March**  
  Mass for Reconciliation families 6pm
- **Sunday 13th March**  
  Mass for Reconciliation families 9.30am or 11.00am
- **Monday 14th March**  
  Labour Day Holiday
- **Tuesday 15th March**  
  Yr 5/6 Leadership (6), Reconciliation Yrs 4-6
- **Wednesday 16th March**  
  Yr 5/6 Leadership (6), MJR Yr 5/6,  
  Sacrament of Reconciliation 10am, 5pm & 6pm
- **Thursday 17th March**  
  Whole school athletics day Edithvale Track
- **Friday 18th March**  
  National No Bully Day, St Joseph’s Feast Day 9.15am Mass, 
  Yr 5/6 Summer Sport Rd 4 – BYE, 2.30pm Leadership Assembly
- **Saturday 19th March**  
  St Joseph’s Feast Day
- **Tuesday 22nd March**  
  Yr 5/6 Leadership (7), Yr 5/6 Leadership Graduation Night 5/6B & 5/6W
- **Wednesday 23rd March**  
  Yr 3/4 Botanical Gardens Excursion, Yr 5/6 Leadership (7), 
  Yr 5/6 Leadership Graduation Night 5/6BS & 5/6AL
- **Thursday 24th March**  
  Holy Thursday End of term 1pm finish
- **Friday 25th March**  
  Good Friday
- **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