FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

The Life Education Van arrives next Thursday 12th May. From Thursday 12th-19th May all classes will attend a Life Education van session. We will also have a parent session at 2.30pm in the van on Thursday 12th May. Just meet at the van on Woodbine Grass at 2.30pm. All parents welcome.

Next Tuesday 10th May we have our parent night on the Wonder of Living series from 7pm to 8.30pm. Please see the flyer in the newsletter. We are also opening bookings for the parent/child night being held on Tuesday 17th May and Tuesday 31st May. Please see the flyer and enrol online. Places are limited for each of the parent/child sessions.

This Sunday is a special day for all mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers etc. It is a time to reflect on what our mothers mean/meant to us all. Let us remember them and mark the day in some special way. Today the children have purchased some gifts to bring home to mum. May it be a special day for all the mothers.
Here is a special poem to ponder.

**Before I was a Mum**

Before I was a Mum -
I slept as late as I wanted and never worried about how late I got into bed. I brushed my hair and my teeth everyday.

Before I was a Mum -
I cleaned my house each day. I never tripped over toys or forgot words to a lullaby. I didn't worry whether or not my plants were poisonous. I never thought about immunizations.

Before I was a Mum -
I had never been puked on - Pooped on - Spit on - Chewed on, or Peed on. I had complete control of my mind and My thoughts. I slept all night.

Before I was a Mum -
I never held down a screaming child so that doctors could do tests...or give shots. I never looked into teary eyes and cried. I never got gloriously happy over a simple grin. I never sat up late hours at night watching a baby sleep.

Before I was a Mum -
I never held a sleeping baby just because I didn't want to put it down. I never felt my heart break into a million pieces when I couldn't stop the hurt. I never knew that something so small could affect my life so much. I never knew that I could love someone so much. I never knew I would love being a Mum.

Before I was a Mum -
I didn't know the feeling of having my heart outside my body. I didn't know how special it could feel to feed a hungry baby. I didn't know that bond between a mother and her child. I didn't know that something so small could make me feel so important.

Before I was a Mum -
I had never gotten up in the middle of the night every 10 minutes to make sure all was okay. I had never known The warmth, The joy, The love, The heartache, The wonderment or the satisfaction of being a Mum. I didn't know I was capable of feeling so much before I was a Mum.

**Cross Country Trials Yrs 3-6**

Tomorrow we have our Cross Country Trials for years 3-6 from 9-11 at Bicentennial Park. Any parent helpers who have not completed the care monkey form that they could help please let us know asap.

**Masterclass Tomorrow**

We have had a huge response to the masterclass tomorrow from 12pm. It should be a great couple of hours where mums can sit back, relax, have a laugh and take some advice and tips home to the kitchen! We are fully booked and request that no toddlers come along due to a cooking demonstration with hot ovens etc and space is tight. Please come via the office to the discovery centre and let the fun begin!

**Naplan**

Just a reminder that years 3 & 5 will be completing the Naplan assessments next week on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th May. Information was sent home earlier this week regarding Naplan procedures etc.

**Kidsmatter**


Don’t forget to check out the Kidsmatter website for some great articles and tips.

**Year 7 Catholic Secondary School Enrolment 2018 (Year 5 2016)**

Please be aware that the enrolment for Catholic Secondary Schools for 2018 and beyond will change. This year the year 5’s will need to enrol at either the end of term 3 or beginning of term 4 for Yr 7, 2018. Exact dates and timeline has yet to be released. As soon as we know you will be informed. So year 5 parents wanting to send their child to a Catholic Secondary School in 2018 will need start making some decisions. Any further questions please feel free to contact me.

**St Bede’s College**

A reminder for parents that this Friday 6 May is the due date to accept and pay for their Year 7, 2017 offer. St Bede’s College would like families to accept or decline as there is a waiting list.

Thanks for your support in the enrolment process.
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!
St Joseph’s School has entered a competition to win a $5000 grand prize and other great prizes including a $1000 voucher from Gardenworld to assist us in bringing our garden project to life.

This opportunity is presented by ‘The Back to Earth Initiative’. Our proposed project is titled ‘Worm Farming and Composting’. The project we have in mind involves establishing worm farm systems and composting systems to complement our three composting bay system. We want the students to learn about the process of worm farming and composting and utilise the output from these systems to benefit the growing of vegetables, herbs and plants within our sustainable garden and general gardens throughout the school. We hope to use the money to purchase the materials, send staff/parents to training and have guest speakers/presenters come out to work with our students during lunchtime workshops.

The project that gets the most votes, wins the grand prize so we encourage you to vote for our school project and ask family and friends to do the same. To cast your vote, simply follow the link below and fill in a few details. Then go to your email to confirm your vote. [http://competitions.backtoearth.vic.gov.au/entries/worm-farming-and-composting/](http://competitions.backtoearth.vic.gov.au/entries/worm-farming-and-composting/)

Peace and Best Wishes
Gavan O’Donnell

Entertainment Book

We have an entertainment book in the school office for families to look at before deciding if they would like to purchase one. The cost is $65 and the book is full of great bargains.

Local Census jobs available now

Make a difference in your community and join Australia’s largest logistical peacetime operation – the 2016 Census of Population and Housing.

Census night is August 9, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics is right now looking for dedicated, enthusiastic self-starters to fill up to 6,900 Field Officer positions across Victoria. If you’re community minded and comfortable using a mobile or tablet device, the ABS wants to hear from you.

Field Officers play a critical role by visiting households and ensuring everyone makes the Census count. They’ll also earn around $21 an hour and enjoy flexible, part-time work hours for up to 3 months. To do the job you’ll need to be a good communicator, reasonably fit, licensed to drive and able to travel and work independently.

To apply or find more information, visit [www.abs.gov.au/careers](http://www.abs.gov.au/careers)

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**Wonder of Living Family Enrichment Program**

Open Doors will be presenting a parent only information evening, plus two parent and child evenings titled “A New Baby” for Year 3-6 families and “Puberty Plus” Year 5/6 families to be held at St Joseph's School.

**Parent Information Night**

Tuesday 10th May

@ 7pm – 8:30pm

Booking: [http://goo.gl/forms/npihrOAodm](http://goo.gl/forms/npihrOAodm)

**A New Baby**

Tuesday 17th May

@ 6:30pm - 7:30pm

**Puberty Plus**

Tuesday 31st May

@ 6.30pm – 7.45pm
The **Wonder of Living Family Enrichment Program** will be holding two follow up parent/child sessions from our parent only night held on Tuesday 10th May.

**Night 1 – Tuesday 17th May 6.30-7.30pm** at St Joseph’s for **Years 3-6** titled “A New Baby”  
(Topics covered: Development birth of a baby)

**Night 2 – Tuesday 31st May 6.30-7.15pm** at St Joseph’s for **Years 5&6** titled “Puberty Plus”  
(Topics covered: Physical and emotional changes in Puberty; explanation of sexual intercourse and conception including some information about menstrual cycle; healthy choices; support networks; resilience)

**Wonder of Living** is an Australian-made DVD series for primary and early secondary. The series offers **value-based** sexuality and relationships education and is recommended by the Melbourne Catholic Education Office. The program will be presented by Open Doors, an ecumenical Christian organisation based in Ringwood (contact details below). Open Doors has an excellent reputation for its sensitive, engaging presentation of this program in schools.

The purpose of the **Parent/Child Sessions** is to encourage good communication amongst families about these important topics. It has been said that the media, who loves your children the least, tells them the most about sex, while you who love your children the most, often tell them the least. **Open Doors is committed to empowering parents as the primary educators of their children in the area of sexuality education.**

**Some Parent Feedback from past presentations**

- “top-notch, perfectly pitched, facts are clearly presented, fast moving but informative.”
- “wonderful, informative, nurturing, honest and appropriate session thank you!”
- “perfect amount of information - not too much, not too little.”

**So book online! Limited spaces so book for one or both of the sessions via the link below**

http://goo.gl/forms/cNATQ9vCFF

**Open Doors also has great parent resources for you to use at home:**

- **Conversations With Your Child** – about sex, puberty and growing up. A parent education DVD to use with your child at home based on the Wonder of Living series.
- **Resilient Kids** – interactive CD-ROM program teaching the skills of bouncing back. An anti-depression initiative

To contact Open Doors or for more information -

E: info@opendoors.com.au  PH: 03 9870 7044;

**Term Dates**
Term 2  11th April – 24th June  
Term 3  11th July – 16th September  
Term 4  3rd October – 15th December

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Thursday 5th May**  
  School Tour 9.30am, Mother’s Day stall
- **Friday 6th May**  
  Enrolments close, Mother’s Day Masterclass 12.00-2.30pm in the discovery centre, Yr 3-6 Cross Country 9-11am, 2.30pm Assembly Yr 1/2 performing
- **Saturday 7th May**  
  8am Working Bee, 6pm Prep Mass
- **Sunday 8th May**  
  Mother’s Day
- **Tuesday 10th May**  
  NAPLAN Yr 3 & Yr 5, Prep Grandparent Mass 9.15am  
  7pm Wonder of Living session for parents at St Joseph’s
- **Wednesday 11th May**  
  NAPLAN Yr 3 & Yr 5, 7.30pm PPC
- **Thursday 12th May**  
  Life Ed Van begins and parent session 2.30pm, NAPLAN Yr 3 & Yr 5, 3rd session First Holy Communion 7pm
- **Friday 13th May**  
  Yr 5/6 Winter sport rd 1, 2.30pm Assembly Preps performing
- **Saturday 14th May**  
  6pm Mass for First Holy Communion candidates
- **Sunday 15th May**  
  9.30am or 11am Mass for First Holy Communion candidates
- **Tuesday 17th May**  
  9.15am Mass Yr 1/2 Grandparents Mass  
  6.30pm Wonder of Living Series “A new baby” Parents & Children Yrs 3-6
- **Friday 20th May**  
  Yr 4-6 District Cross Country, Walk to school safely day, 2.30pm Assembly 3/4s  
  Little Devils Circus #1
- **Wednesday 25th May**  
  Little Devils Circus #1, National no sorry day, Fee payments due
- **Thursday 26th May**  
  Winter lightening prem, Sacrament of First Holy Communion 4.30pm & 6pm  
  Sacrament of First Holy Communion 4.30pm & 6pm
- **Saturday 28th May**  
  7pm Fete meeting
- **Monday 30th May**  
  6.30pm Wonder of Living Series “Puberty Plus” for Parents and Children Yrs 5/6
- **Wednesday 1st June**  
  Little Devils Circus #2
- **Thursday 2nd June**  
  Little Devils Circus #2
- **Friday 3rd June**  
  School Mass at 9.15am Sacred Heart, Yr 5/6 winter sport rd 2, NO assembly
- **Tuesday 7th June**  
  Yr 3/4 Mass at 9.15am
- **Wednesday 8th June**  
  Little Devils Circus #3
- **Thursday 9th June**  
  Little Devils Circus #3
- **Friday 10th June**  
  Yr 5/6 winter sport rd 3, NO assembly  
  Queen’s Birthday Holiday
- **Monday 13th June**  
  Yr 1/2 Excursion Royal Botanic Gardens
- **Wednesday 15th June**  
  Reports go home, Little Devils Circus #4
- **Thursday 16th June**  
  Little Devils Circus #4
- **Friday 17th June**  
  Yr 5/6 winter sport rd 4, NO assembly
- **Monday 20th June**  
  Fete meeting 7pm
- **Tuesday 21st June**  
  Yr 3/4 Incursion Mark Wilson, Family Conferences
- **Wednesday 22nd June**  
  Little Devils #5, Family Conferences
- **Thursday 23rd June**  
  Little Devils #5
- **Friday 24th June**  
  School Mass 9.15am John the Baptist, Term 2 finishes at 1pm