Dear Families,

Last weekend we had 4 wonderful celebrations of children making their First Holy Communion. Special thanks to Tori Finck, all the teachers and parents for preparing the children for this special day.

Tomorrow we celebrate Mass for the annual Sacred Heart Feast (Poorman’s Mass). We have in the past collected non-perishable items, blankets etc and money to help St Vincent de Paul supply those families in need, particularly during winter. The response from the school community has been fantastic in the past and greatly appreciated. We once again ask you to help out by bringing along items for St Vincent de Paul and placing them at the front of your child’s classroom by next Thursday please.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Robyn Shankie this week as she mourns the passing of her father. May he rest in peace. Amen.

There will be a school closure on Friday 5th August as all staff are attending a Professional Development day.
We had a fantastic turn up to our Puberty Plus presentation for parents and children in Yr 5/6 Tuesday night. The school has a number of resources to help all parents in the education of our children around the topic of sexuality. Please feel free to borrow from the library. A list is included further in the newsletter.

Did you ever stop to think about the fact that all material things are diminished by sharing? For example, the more people that are to share a loaf of bread the less there is for each person. On the other hand, knowledge is actually increased by sharing. Teachers and parents multiply knowledge when they share it with children. One piece of knowledge that the world could well do to share is knowledge about the Christian virtue of gentleness.

Han Suyin, the renowned Chinese writer, tells us that, “There is nothing stronger in the world that gentleness.” This is because gentleness is true strength. It is treating other people with care, respect and consideration; it is being sensitive. The Book of Proverbs tells us, “A gentle tongue is a tree of life.” It promotes life in other people, because it does not hurt or pass judgement or put-down, but offers compassion and understanding.

A quick look around our society will reveal people publicly yapping loudly on mobiles, an unhealthy level of abusive and foul language, increasing levels of road rage and a frightening level of domestic violence. The antidote for these behaviours is gentleness as it brings calmness, quietness and humility. However, no-one is humble anymore; in fact people are falsely told that to be humble means that they don’t have self-esteem. Absolute rubbish! Being humble means that you don’t force your presence upon others but that you do respect the presence of others and act in a manner that is refined, kindly and expressive of good manners.

George Washington had a number of “self rules”, the first of which stated that, “Every action done in company ought to be done with some sign of respect to those who are present.” The choice to treat ourselves and others with respect is in our hands and it is through our hands, our actions and the manner of our speaking, that we express the virtue of gentleness. St Paul in his letters to the people of Philippi encourages those people to, “Let your gentleness be known to everyone.”

Margot Prior, Professor of Psychology at Melbourne University, has pointed out that when it comes to manners and respect for others, children can’t just be told: “Parents have to be like that themselves. Manners are learned by watching what the parent does. If the behaviour isn’t passed on through parent modelling, it becomes so much harder for the child as the child grows older. Children need boundaries and they sometimes need to be told what behaviour is okay.”

Once again, it is St Paul in his letters to the Christian community in Philippi, who reminds us to, “Show a gentle attitude towards everyone.” If we are gentle, we reveal the strength of our character precisely in our ability to remain calm and unruffled in very trying situations. When others observe such self-control, they admire our character, they trust us, they confide in us and are open to our suggestions. Gentle people have great influence, precisely, because they are gentle – and kind and gracious.

While gentleness may not be in Vogue, in today’s world it is certainly due for a return. Perhaps, whoever said, “Today I will walk on the gentle side of the street”, has put up a choice that is well worth considering.

“God, our Father,
We thank You for the gift of gentleness.
We know that it has companion gifts
of love, joy, peace, patience, goodness and faithfulness,
all gifts of the Spirit
Your Son promised to send us.

We ask that these gifts be alive in us
and observable to our children.
So they become part of their lives.
Amen”

Premier’s Reading Challenge
If your child would like to participate in this year’s Premiers Reading Challenge please get your child to collect a consent form from the school office or download the attached form. Please google Premier’s Reading Challenge, Victoria for more information.

Rules for school and student Challengers
• The rules and the way the Challenge operates have not changed this year.
• Students must register as a Challenger and keep a record of their reading on the Challenge website.
• Students must be in a Year level from Prep to Year 10. They can be learning at a school or learning at home.
• Students must read a set number of books during the Challenge.
• Students’ online books must be verified as read by a coordinator in at school.
• All information must be completed online before the closing date of the challenge.

Prep – Year 2 30 books from the Challenge book list.
Year 3 – Year 6 15 books from the Challenge book list.
What aspects of family engagement in education make the most difference?

Part 1: Positive environment for homework

The evidence around parent involvement in homework is very mixed, with some studies showing that it can have negative impacts on children’s motivation, self-efficacy and academic achievement. More recent studies, however, have demonstrated that there are particular aspects of parental engagement that support children’s learning and development and others that have a detrimental impact (which explains the mixed evidence).

The types of parental engagement in homework that appear to lead to improved outcomes for children are:

- Ensuring children have an appropriate space for homework;
- Having rules around homework that are consistent with the expectations of the school (and invitations from the school that enable parents to ask questions, provide feedback and negotiate the parameters of homework);
- Positive interactions between parents and children around homework (negative interactions having a detrimental impact on children’s motivation, confidence and sense of self-efficacy); and
- Supporting children’s development as autonomous and independent learners, enabling them to take responsibility for homework completion and their learning. Stay tuned to your school newsletter and other communication forums for part 2. In the meantime please follow the Boon Wurrung Family School Partnership Cluster Facebook page for articles on parenting, education, health and anything that will support us to support our young people. Here you will also find information on supports and events within your local community and hear a little bit about the other cluster schools.

Peace and Best Wishes
Gavan O’Donnell.

Au Revoir
Gavan and his wife Liana are taking some long service leave to travel. We wish them both a fabulous and safe journey. We will see Gavan back at school in Term 3, week 3.

While he is away Clyde Siebel and Anne Lazarro will be Co-Principals. If you need to speak to someone in his absence please see either of them. As always Gavan encourages you to make your child’s class teacher first port of call.
Our Year 6 students and Ms Ayers went to the Marine Coastal Ambassadors Day at Rickett’s Point in Beaumaris last week. Although it was cold the children had a wonderful day learning and exploring the environment.

Yesterday our students went to the Kingston Division Cross Country at Cornish College, Bangholme. Their effort was fantastic. Well done to Alannah, Clare, Mikayla, Chloe, Kiara, Jasper, Isaac, Lachlan, Noah and Mika.
BIRTH and SEXUALITY    Books to borrow from the Library.

The Amazing True story of How babies are Made    By Fiona Kataukas
Where Did I come From?    By Peter Mayle
What’s Inside Your Tummy, Mummy?    By Abby Cocovini
Hello Baby    By Jenny Overend
Mummy Laid an Egg!    By Babette Cole
Where Babies Come From    By Susan M. Green

PUBERTY

100% Me    DK books
Let’s Talk about Sex    By Robie E. Harris
Secret Girl’s Business    By Fay Angelo
Secret Boy’s Business    By Fay Angelo
Girl’s Body Book    By Kelli Dunham
Boy’s Body Book    By Kelli Dunham
Puberty Boy    By Geoff Price
Puberty Girl    By Shushann Movvessian
What’s happening to me? (Boys)    Usborne

DVD    Conversations with your child about sex, puberty and growing up DVD or Purchase your own copy from Open Doors www.opendoors.com.au $38.50
DVD    So Things Are Changing Choicez Media    (Girls and boys versions with parent books)

Netball
Bonbeach YCW Netball Club are looking for girls born in 2005 and 2006 to play in under 11’s competition starting in July for season 2. If interested or to get more details please contact President Danielle 0403533746 bycwnetball@gmail.com or Candice Donald 0400950332
Sky Rail and health impacts on children and school communities

You may be aware the Victorian Government intends to construct extended sections of elevated rail (Sky Rail) along the Frankston Line corridor, but unlike every other major public or private project in recent years, the Government is not undertaking an Environmental Effects Statement.

People whose children attend schools near Sky Rail have raised this significant issue.

In seeking the support of your school community or children’s facility, I wish to draw to your attention the following concerns about health and other issues:

- The State Government has not released any studies regarding the impact of sound and the visual impact on health and the community. It refuses to conduct an Environmental Effects Statement;

- The State Government’s proposal involves the elevation of diesel trains above 15 metres. Diesel exhaust fumes, a World Health Organisation declared carcinogen, are heavier than air will fall and spread further from its point of origin if the elevated rail (Sky Rail) is used;

- Noise will travel further because the buffers of land and vegetation would not exist particularly compared with lowering tracks;

- Significant health impacts on families, communities and institutions like schools, kinders and child care centres have not been considered by the Government or Level Crossing Removal Authority;

- Level crossing removals must bring the community together, not divide it. Cut and cover would provide linkages and open space;

- Overshadowing and loss of privacy is a major concern for both residential and commercial properties.

- Short and long term financial impacts on property values (residential and commercial) will be large;

- Sky Rail is likely to be a magnet for rubbish dumping and graffiti, generating safety issues and costs;

- Sky Rail’s 9-15m height will set a precedent for higher buildings along the rail corridor;

- Design of level crossing removals must not be decided on economics alone, but must involve long-term thinking – not just quick-fix solutions for political gain; and

- For the Frankston line, Sky Rail will forever change the coastal amenity we enjoy. Melbourne is the world’s most liveable city and Melbournians say they want skylines not Sky Rail.

The benchmark for level crossing removals is Springvale Level Crossing. It did not generate the concerns Sky Rail does. We all want level crossings removed, but there are viable and practical alternatives to the Government’s Sky Rail proposal. We must convince them to re-evaluate.

Should you wish to voice your concern, please write to Premier Daniel Andrews, the Minister for Education, all local State and Federal MPs, local councillors and to ensure the views of your community are known, please consider signing and distributing the petition left at the school office. I also encourage you to add your voice to others who oppose this Sky Rail proposal, or to download extra petitions, please visit communitiesagainstskyrail.com
Term Dates
Term 2 11th April – 24th June
Term 3 11th July – 16th September
Term 4 3rd October – 15th December

IMPORTANT DATES

• 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

• Monday 13th June
  Queen’s Birthday Holiday

• Tuesday 14th 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

• Monday 11th July
  Term 3 commences

• Wednesday 13th July
  Little Devils Circus #6

• Thursday 14th July
  Little Devils Circus #6

• Friday 15th July
  2.30pm Assembly year 5/6 performing

• Tuesday 19th July
  Prep – Yr 2 9.15am Mass

• Wednesday 20th July
  Little Devils Circus #7

• Thursday 21st July
  Little Devils Circus #7

• Friday 22nd July
  Yr 5/6 winter sport rd 5, NO assembly

• Saturday 23rd July
  Yr 1/2 6pm Mass

• Wednesday 27th July
  Little Devils Circus #8

• Thursday 28th July
  Little Devils Circus #8, Confirmation session 1 begins 7pm

• Friday 29th July
  Yr 5/6 winter sport rd 6, 2.30pm Assembly year 1/2 performing

• Saturday 30th July
  Working bee 8-10am, Mass for Confirmation candidates 6pm

• Sunday 31st July
  Mass for Confirmation candidates 9.30am or 11am

• Friday 5th August
  SCHOOL CLOSURE