Dear Families,

Our Preps for 2017 gathered on Monday as they prepare to start school next year. They were very excited and had a great time.

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. A time of preparation for Christmas. Each year we invite all parents and children to come along and sing some carols in the Church at 5.00pm and then followed by a BBQ in the school garden. Come along for a sing and a sausage. The dress theme is Christmas.
Hampers
This week each class was given a family to make a hamper for this Christmas. There are needy families in our community. A list is given to you by St Vincent de Paul each year. Each class has a list of their family make up to collect non-perishable items for. Please place a gift/item in the basket located in your child's class room. Your generosity and support is very grateful.

Canteen
The last day for hot lunches is tomorrow for everyone (Prep – Yr 6). The canteen will operate for snacks only next week due to Prep – Yr 4 swimming starting. The canteen will be open all day for snacks due to classes going swimming at different times.

Please remember children are exercising more so please pack extra healthy snacks for your child.

Prep to Year Four Swimming in Relation to the Child Safety Standards
In light of the new Child Safety Standards and in upholding St Joseph's culture of child safety, we would like to inform volunteers that during our Prep to Year 4 swimming program, you are NOT allowed in the change rooms while the students are changing, unless authorised by the supervising teacher. As always, only volunteers with a current 'Working With Children' card displayed can be authorised to assist by the supervising teacher.

Thank you for your assistance and continued support.

Working Bee
The last Working Bee for 2016 is tomorrow, Friday 25th November. Don't forget to sign in.

School Fees
All 2016 fees were due last term. We would appreciate it if families could attend to this urgently if you have not already done so. Child levies for next year are due today 24th November.

Breakfast club
Thank you to all the parents and parishioners for volunteering in the breakfast club. A roster for Term 4 has been developed and all spots are filled. There has been some confusion around the breakfast club opening times - please note that we serve breakfast daily from 8.10-8.30am. The breakfast club is not open on the first day of each term. We are thinking ahead to next year and looking for volunteers to help in Term 1, 2017. Please let the office know if you are available. Volunteers are rostered on daily from 8-9am which includes setting up and cleaning up, and must have a current 'Working with Children's Check. We ask all volunteers to wear their card in the St Joseph's lanyard, whilst on duty.

We are also asking for donations of margarine.
Thanks for your support.

St Bede’s College Important Information  Please see attached flyer
The Catholic Education Office has revised the timeline dates for Colleges to process students into Year 7 Secondary Catholic Colleges. Students will be offered positions into Catholic Colleges for their Year 7 year in early Term 4 while in Grade 5.

With this in mind, St Bede’s College will have an OPEN MORNING on Wednesday 1 March 2017. This OPEN MORNING is primarily for Year 5 2017 students from our feeder priority parishes.

Families will need to go to the College website EARLY FEBRUARY 2017 and under the OPEN MORNING icon you will be able to book a tour time. Tours will run regularly from 9am – 10.45 am.

Chelsea Community Christmas Lunch.
This year St Joeys is hosting a Christmas lunch (on Christmas Day) to those on their own & those who can not afford a Christmas meal. We are working with Chelsea Community Church of Christ, the Chelsea Uniting Church and St Vinnies.

Part of the idea behind this event is bringing people together, including families with children, to reach out to others. Many people are helping by volunteering their time leading up to and on the day, which is wonderful! We are also needing donations and sponsors. We are expecting approximately 160-180 guests on the day. One meal will cost us $15, if you would like to sponsor a meal or a table, or offer your time leading up to or on the day, please get in contact with Vanessa Heredia via chelseacommunityxmaslunch@gmail.com.
The most familiar and celebrated New Year’s Day is on the 1st January. However, it is not the sole New Year’s Day in the year as 1st July brings in the new Financial Year and the fourth Sunday before Christmas, heralds the start of the New Church Year for Christians. This fourth Sunday is also the commencement of the Season of Advent, the season during which we await the arrival of Christ on Christmas Day.

Although the colour for the season of Advent is purple, it does not signify the same penitential spirit as for Lent. Rather, purple was the most expensive of the dyes used to colour clothing in ancient times and so was reserved for royalty – to welcome the Advent of Christ the King.

Sometimes, we Christians are so involved with the busy preparations for the Christmas celebrations, we forget that the main purpose in Advent is to prepare ourselves in heart, mind and deed to welcome Jesus, who comes to us in different ways:

- He came to us in humanity at Bethlehem about 2000 years ago.
- He comes to us in the Eucharist and in the readings of scripture: he speaks to us in our consciences.
- He comes to us in the person of the needy, the suffering and the dispossessed.

We should be ready to welcome Him whenever he comes, however He comes.

In her autobiography, The Story of the Soul, St Therese of Lisieux wrote that Christ was most present to her not “…during my hours of prayer but rather in the midst of my daily occupations”.

Many of us close ourselves off from the world, seeking shelter in safe homes and easy living. There’s nothing wrong with safety but Christ, through the example of His life and now for us in the Gospels, instructs us never to neglect other people, especially the poor. When we reach out to our ‘neighbour’ we are reaching out to Christ.

As we move through Advent, our excitement builds for the Christmas holiday break. Amidst the gift buying and holiday preparations, we need to be mindful of the gift that God gives to us every day in Jesus. It’s the gift of life, the gift that keeps giving.

During the First Advent, Mary and Joseph were extremely busy. Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire and that meant that Joseph had to travel from his town of Nazareth in Galilee, to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph was a descendant of David and so went to register with Mary.

During that journey, Joseph and Mary had no safe home nor any easy living, for Mary was in the late stages of pregnancy and travel would have been uncomfortable and dangerous in their occupied land. No doubt Mary would have been confident that God’s Spirit would be with them both, for in her prayer of praise spoken to her cousin, Elizabeth, she says: “…my soul is glad because God, my saviour, has remembered me…”.

Likewise, as we enter the season of Advent, we can be certain that while we are doing our waiting, the words of St Therese of Lisieux will be true for us as well – “that Christ was present…. In the midst of my daily occupations”.

“Lord, in the rush of day to day things, we often leave You out of our life’s activities. Enliven your Spirit within us this Advent, so that we may engage You to be part of each day’s doings. Amen.”

Peace and Best Wishes

Gavan O'Donnell
Principal.
Congratulations to Lachlan Smith:
The Southern Metropolitan Region Relay Championships were held over the weekend at Caulfield LAC. I ran in 3 events on the day with my Seaford Centre. My highlight was a bronze medal with our Under 14 boys team in the 4 x 200m final. I ran the second leg of the relay. My teams also placed 6th in the 12/13 Multi age medley and 5th in the Under 14 4 x 100m. It’s great fun running with my mates. 
Lachlan Smith

St Joseph’s Christmas Carols

Come and celebrate Advent and Christmas with St Joseph’s School!

Sunday 27th November
@ 5pm
St Joseph’s Church
followed by a BBQ in the school garden
Water Safety Day 2016

Join us for Minky's Water Safety Fun Day and Oakleigh Recreation Centre's Open Day, a special event that promises to provide entertainment for the whole family with important water safety messaging for the start of summer!

**Venue:** Oakleigh Recreation Centre

**Address:** Park Rd, Oakleigh VIC

**Time:** 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm

**Date:** Saturday 3rd December 2016

Leisure Centre's are welcome to come along with Mascots, Please email Reyna Johanson at events@aquaticsandrecreation.org.au to let us know if you will be attending with your mascot!
Term Dates 2017
Term 1 Wed 1st February – Friday 31st March
Term 2 Tues 18th April – Friday 30th June
Term 3 Mon 17th July – Friday 22nd September
Term 4 Mon 9th October – Wed 20th December

IMPORTANT DATES

- Thursday 24th November
  Prepaid levies due today
- Friday 25th November
  2.30pm assembly Yr 1/2, working bee 4.30-6.30pm
- Sunday 27th November
  5pm Christmas Paraliturg in the Church followed by a BBQ
- Monday 28th Nov – Wed 7th Dec
  Prep – Yr 4 Swimming
- Tuesday 29th November
  9.15am Mass Yr 5/6, 7pm PEB
- Monday 5th Dec – Thurs 8th Dec
  Yr 5/6 Lifesaving
- Wednesday 7th December
  Reports & class lists go home
- Friday 9th December
  9.15am End of year Mass, 10.15am Parent helpers morning tea
  2.30pm Graduation assembly
- Saturday 10th December
  Cribs blessed after each Mass over the weekend
- Sunday 11th December
  Cribs blessed after each Mass over the weekend
- Tuesday 13th December
  Meet your teacher 2017 9-10am
- Wednesday 14th December
  Yr 6 Graduation excursion, 6pm Graduation Mass and celebration
- Thursday 15th December
  End of year 1pm

**Wednesday 1st February 2017**
All Students return Yr 1 – 6 full day, Preps 8.45am – 1.00pm

- Thursday 2nd February
  Preps 8.45am – 1.00pm
- Friday 3rd February
  Preps 8.45am – 1.00pm
- Tuesday 7th February
  Gym4Hire Commences Yr 5/6 students
- Wednesday 8th February
  NO Preps and NO Yr 1/2 Students, Gym4Hire Yr 3/4 students
- Thursday 9th February
  Reconciliation Session 1 begins at 7pm in the Library Year 3 Parents (TBC)
- Friday 10th February
  Opening Year Mass @ 9.15am
- Monday 13th February
  Yr 3-6 Swimming Carnival
- Tuesday 14th February
  9.15am Mass Yr 5/6, Gym4Hire Yr 1/2 & Yr 3/4,
  Parent Education Board 7pm
- Wednesday 15th February
  Gym4Hire Yr 5/6, NO Preps
- Thursday 16th February
  Gym4Hire Preps and Yr 1/2
- Friday 17th February
  Welcome BBQ 5.00-8.00pm
- Monday 20th February
  School photos
- Tuesday 21st February
  Gym4Hire Yr 5/6, 9.15am Yr 3/4 Mass
- Wednesday 22nd February
  NO Preps, Gym4Hire Yr 1/2 & Yr 3/4
- Thursday 23rd February
  Gym4Hire Preps and Yr 1/2, Reconciliation Session 2 @ 7pm in Library (TBC)
- Friday 24th February
  District Swimming
- Tuesday 28th February
  Gym4Hire Yr 5/6, Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday 1st March
  9.15am Mass Ash Wednesday, NO Preps, Gym4Hire Yr 1/2 & Yr 3/4
- Thursday 2nd March
  Gym4Hire Preps and Yr 1/2
- Friday 3rd March
  Working Bee 4.30pm