Dear Families,

What a busy start to the year it has been! I am very happy to report that our students are working well and making the most of their opportunities. I am really enjoying getting to know them all – and it’s great to be meeting up with some of their families as well!

Thank you to everyone who has supported our amazing swimming program. The organisation and coordination of these lessons is quite a task. Thank you to Chen, Julie, Nicole and their helpers for making sure that the children’s groups were flexible so that they were all able to have fun and improve their swimming skills. The children’s confidence in the water has shown marked improvement with the almost daily lessons. We would not be able to run such a program without the many parent helpers. Very special thanks to the band of parents who assisted. Your help was indeed invaluable!

Breakfast Club has begun well. Many children enjoy having breakfast together and we all know that they all come into class with full tummies so they are ready for work. Thank you to the mums who are holding the fort each day. This is another service that we could not provide without your help.

Garden Club began yesterday morning. A few children were excused from class to help Marion Ward in the garden. They harvested some vegies, which apparently happens every week! What a fabulous life skill for our students to embrace! Time in the garden is a reward for good work or good behaviour so I hope that, over time, every child will have a turn.

Our Year 6 students have prepared their school captain speeches and are ready to present them to the school community. It seems that the best time to do this would be at an early assembly next Friday afternoon. We will start assembly at 2.20pm so that we can hear the speeches and the children can cast their votes. They will be tallied after school and successful candidates will be announced at assembly on Monday 22nd February at 9am. Good luck to all the candidates!

Next week will be Madelyn Baker’s last week with us. She has done wonderful work with the children as well as in the library. Her spark and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. Many thanks for your efforts Maddy! Good luck with your study!

The District Swimming Carnival will be held in Orbost next Wednesday. Congratulations to the children who qualified today and good luck for next week.

Year 4-6 students have a very busy time ahead. Their Coonawarra camp is fast approaching, and before that they are going to Paynesville to participate in an Open Water Safety Program. These excursions will be explained fully to parents at the camp meeting immediately after assembly on Friday. All Year 4-6 students need to have a parent at this meeting as forms will be explained and distributed, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Enjoy your weekend everyone

Kind regards
Marie

---

**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17th Feb</td>
<td>10.00am District Swimming Carnival, Orbost Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 18th Feb</td>
<td>9.15-11.00am Play Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 19th Feb</td>
<td>2.45pm Assembly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weekly Awards**

**MacKillop:**
Asha Milliken: For always displaying a positive attitude!

**Colman:**
Kaylee Cameron: For completing a detailed piece of writing on Shrove Tuesday. Well Done!

**Xavier:**
Tristan Stewart: For putting in so much effort in maths this week.

---

**Weekly Reminders:**

**Lunch orders:** are available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**Brain Food:** please send along a piece of fruit or raw vegetables cut up for your child to eat at their 10am break.

**St. Joseph’s Playgroup:** Thursday 9.15am to 11.30am

**Uniform Shop:** Maintained by Ms Marie Donchi – Orders can be placed at the office.

**Out of hours childcare/vacation care:**
For bookings phone Bev Cameron on 0409 953 175

---

**This Week’s Mass Times**

Sat 13th
St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance 6.00pm

Sun 14th
St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance 9.00am
St Colman’s, Orbost 11.00am

---

**Weekly Prayer**

We can all work quietly doing our best for God.
- Mary MacKillop 1883

---

**St. Joseph’s Playgroup**

Playgroup with Puppets & Play and Beat Boppers every Thursday during school term.
Please spread the word that all preschool aged children are welcome to come along, join in and enjoy the fun!
Sessions are run every Thursday during school term, 9.15am to 11.30am.

**All families are most welcome.**

A huge thank-you to all the parents and instructors who have helped out during swimming! Your assistance has been greatly appreciated, as without your help, our swimming program would not have been the massive hit it was!
Respect - Reverence – Love and Compassion – Honesty – Generosity – Commitment – Faithfulness – Inclusion – Forgiveness