Dear Families

It is hard to believe that already half of Term 1 has slipped away. I am amazed at how busy we have been and what we have accomplished together already!

Our focus from the beginning of the year has been on working together, making and maintaining great friendships. As you would all know, this is a skill that we work on for our whole lives. Sometimes things go smoothly and sometimes the path is a bit rocky. Please encourage your children to seek help from our staff as soon as possible if they have any concerns. We will always encourage them to work out solutions independently if they can, or intervene if appropriate, as we try to develop understanding and empathy.

This week began with the announcement of our school leaders for 2016. Congratulations to Jamielee Henderson (school captain), Tristan Stewart (school vice-captain), Nicolas Martinez (Snowy house captain), Shona Brunt (Tambo house captain), and Cy Cameron (Brodribb house captain). We were very impressed with the preparation and presentation of their speeches. It is wonderful to be presented with some fabulous ideas to improve our school. These children will now work with me to develop a Student Leadership Agreement that will explain what is expected of our leaders and how we will be supportive of, and accountable to, each other in our roles. This group will meet with me regularly to reflect and evaluate our performance, and to make sure that we are all doing the very best that we can.

Ms Dunphy and I attended the Learning and Teaching conference in Sale on Tuesday where we found out about the goals for our diocese for the next three years. We will be working in this forum, and with our collective of St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance; St Mary’s, Bairnsdale and St Patrick’s, Stratford to improve learning outcomes for all of our students. It is quite exciting!

We congratulate Isabella Anderson on her team’s success at the Division Swimming Carnival at Bairnsdale on Wednesday. The girls won their race and now go on to swim again in Sale. We wish them well at this more difficult level. We are sure that you will do well.

We were very happy to receive many quality applications for the position of Education Support Officer that was advertised. Interviews have taken place and we are well on the way to making the appointment. Please keep your eye out to welcome another new member of staff very soon.

Next Monday all students will participate in a Beach Treasures program being run by Parks Victoria here at school. Each class will attend a 40 minute session.

On Monday, 7th March students from Year 4-6 will travel to Paynesville to participate in an Open Water Safety excursion. This is timely before they

Dates to Remember

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<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 29th Feb</td>
<td>9.00am Beach Treasures Program with Parks Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 3rd Mar</td>
<td>9.15-11.00am Play Group, Puppets and Play &amp; Beat Boppers</td>
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<td>Fri 4th Mar</td>
<td>2.45pm Assembly</td>
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go to Coonawarra for their camp on Wednesday 9\textsuperscript{th} March. Please make sure that all forms are completed and back to us by Monday 29\textsuperscript{th} February to enable us to complete our planning.

On Tuesday 15\textsuperscript{th} March we will be holding two session of the Family Life Program, the first for Year 1&2 students and their parents, the second for Year 3&4 students and their parents. The Year 5&6 session will be the following Tuesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} March. All students attending must be accompanied by a parent for these sessions which will be facilitated by Win Murphy from Melbourne. Please note the dates on your calendars and keep your eye out for the information letters that will come home early next week.

It is very important that parents and teachers get together to discuss children’s progress and for children to show their work, and explain their learning to mum and dad. It was my intention to have formal Collaborative Conferences this term. However, in view of the short term and the many extras that we have undertaken, I have decided to put these on hold until early next term. I am thrilled to see the number of parents who have a quick chat with teachers regularly so I don’t think that this delay will cause any delay in student progress. I would encourage any parents who have not yet met myself or their child’s teacher to call in or to call and make an appointment at a suitable time. We are very keen to work in partnership with you and value your insights and feedback.

Some parents have expressed their wish to form a parent group to support our school, both economically and socially, through fundraising activities. Could anyone who is interested in this please meet with me after assembly on Monday morning? We will try to organise our thoughts, identify the role of the group and set a plan to move forward. If you would like to be part of the group but can’t make this time, please send in a note indicating a better time for you. I will keep you all informed of the progression of this group.

May I finally remind all parents that the policy of the Catholic Education Office, to which we must adhere, is that everyone who comes into the school to help out, even if they are working with their own child, must have a Working with Children Card. Could everyone who is coming into the school please present their card to the office on their next visit so that a copy can be placed in our files? We are happy to help anyone who would like to assist in our school, and does not have a current Working with Children card, to obtain one. Please speak to Noel or Julie in the office, or to myself.

Enjoy your weekend everyone.

Kind regards,
Marie

**Weekly Awards**

**MacKillop:**
Mia Martin: For her great writing and letter formation.

**Josh Henderson:** For awesome SSP work and reading so well. (Mrs Nicholas)

**Colman:**
Sean Kunsek: For always having a ‘Give it a Go’ attitude. Fantastic!

**Xavier:**
Megan Achieng: For making such great progress in maths and developing a deeper understanding of place value.

**Sports Award:**
Lachlan Carey: For having an excellent attitude in PE!

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**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.

**Sport:** with Miss Pearson on Mondays.

**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 Maree Matthews on 0409 953 175

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**This Week’s Mass Times**

Sat 27\textsuperscript{th} St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance 6.00pm

Sun 28\textsuperscript{th} St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance 9.00am

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**Weekly Prayer**

“I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession”

(Generis 15:7)
PARISHES IN PARTNERSHIPS
This year the Parishes in Partnership Mass will be celebrated at Katie and Matt Zagami’s farm, 714 Wairewa Road, Wairewa on Sunday 28th February at 12noon with a BYO Picnic afterwards.
Hopefully many parishioners from the various parts of our parishes will be able to gather and make it a special celebration and welcome Fr Anthony.
Please bring a chair.
If anyone from the Orbost parish needs transport please contact Aileen Stevens.

Colman’s Parish Sacrament Program 2016
Families wishing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation or First Eucharist in 2016 please contact Sr. Madeleine White, Sacramental Coordinator Phone: 5154 1512

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.

Basketball Registrations
We are hoping that most people can register by the 29th of February.
Registration costs $65 per person.
Likely age groups are:-
Mixed U12s (Tuesday afternoons),
U14 Boys (Thursday afternoons),
U16 Girls (Monday afternoons) and
U18 Boys (Wednesday afternoons)

https://reg.sportingpulse.com/regoform.cgi?alID=5695&pKey=da7ebcc66bda36722ad5ced586710cc2&formID=54509

All enquiries: Andy Murray 0419 396 948

Around Our School
• Cooking pancakes for Shrove Tuesday on our new BBQ, kindly donated to the school by the Orbost Lions Club.

• Congratulations to the girls relay team at the Division Swimming Carnival on Wednesday. Great effort coming first, and now off to the next round in Sale.

2016 School Fees & Levies
School Fees: $115.00 per term/per family
School Levies: $100 per student
Swimming Levies: $75 per student for both programs (indoor and outdoor)

School Banking Details for Direct Payments:
Account Name: St Joseph’s Primary School, Orbost
Bank: NAB, Sale
BSB: 083-879
Account No: 69545 2766

Remember to include your surname and family code if possible – if you are unsure, just ask at the Office for assistance.

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