Hello Families and Friends

Welcome back to school for 2016 everyone! It is wonderful to join your fabulous school community again! I hope that you have all enjoyed restful holidays and are ready for a busy and fruitful year.

Special welcome to our new students, in particular the Preps: Alfred Bady-Campbell, Lachlan Carey, Chase Cullinan, Ava Martin, Mia Martin, Tiannah McDonald and Asha Milliken. Special welcome also to Grade 3 student, Alexander Cain. We are very happy to have you all coming to St Joseph’s and look forward to an exciting year that’s full of fun, challenges and explorations.

It was wonderful to see all of the children greeting each other and beginning or rekindling friendships before school this morning.

We also welcome new staff members Ms Jillian Dunphy, who will teach the Xavier class and Ms Jamee Royce, who will teach MacKillop with Mr Peter May, to our school. They bring a wonderful sense of joy and excitement with them and have already made inroads into building positive relationships with our students and their families. The children delighted us all with the way they came to line this morning and were ready for a quick start. Classes have been working well all morning. Noel and I really enjoyed our visit from the MacKillop class. We are feeling very brave after being sprinkled with fairy dust to help us along! I am sure that children from the MacKillop class will be able to explain this activity to you.

The School swimming program begins next Monday. Many thanks to Julie and Chen for organising this program. As you are all aware, we have been allocated an afternoon time this year which should make it a much more enjoyable experience for the children as the water should at least be a little warmer. If you are able to help with this program please let Julie or Noel know at the office by returning the note on the newsletter. If you are intending to take your child home directly from the pool on swimming days, please notify the office in writing, and have your child signed out through their class teacher at the pool on that day.

The St Joseph’s Breakfast Club is a unique feature of our school and provides a good start for many of our students. We really rely on parent support for the efficient running of this program. Please let us know if you are able to help out (8.30am – 9.10am) on any particular morning. We will set up a roster next week. Special thanks to the Orbost Bakery for continuing to support this program.

Many trades people have been busy in the holidays to ensure that our learning environment is clean and safe – and looks amazing! It is an absolute delight to walk in here each morning.

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<th>Dates to Remember</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Breakfast Program</strong> – offered daily before school – between 8.30 – 8.45am</td>
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<td><strong>Mon 1st Feb</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tues 2nd</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thurs 4th</strong></td>
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Thank you to Matt and Noel for coordinating this effort. It is greatly appreciated!

We sincerely thank the Orbost Opportunity Shop for their generous donation of $3000. These funds will support student excursions and resource purchases for our students.

Our first school mass for this year will be on Ash Wednesday, February 10th at 9.30am. Please set this time aside to join us if you possibly can. It is an opportunity to ask God’s blessing on our year and to mark the beginning of Lent as we commence our preparations for Easter.

Our Curriculum Evening will be on Tuesday 9th February at 6pm. I will send home a short note about this next week with the calendar for Term 1. Thank you all for your warm welcome back to St Joseph’s. I look forward to working with you all. Please call in and see me, or give me a call, if you have any concerns or queries.

Kind regards

Marie Dodson

This Week’s Mass Times
Sat 30th St Colman’s, Orbost 6.00pm
Sun 31st St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance 9.00am

Ash Wednesday Mass; February 10th
St Colman’s Church 9.30am.

Weekly Prayer
Grant me, O Lord my God,
a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you,
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,
and a hope of finally embracing you.
Amen

St Joseph’s Playgroup

Playgroup with Puppets & Play and Beat Boppers will resume next Thursday, 4th February.
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.

Respect - Reverence – Love and Compassion – Honesty – Generosity – Commitment – Faithfulness – Inclusion – Forgiveness