Dear Families

As we finish off our school year and draw ever closer to Christmas I would like to take the opportunity to say THANKS!

Firstly, to the students who have put in a good year’s work and deserve a well-earned holiday. I am amazed at what you have been able to achieve this year. Congratulations on all of your efforts. I can’t wait to see even more growth next year!

Secondly, to the parents and extended family members who partner with us so well to ensure that our students can make the most of their learning opportunities. I greatly value the open communication that we enjoy and appreciate your on-going support and encouragement. Thanks for staying positive and encouraging your children to ‘put their best foot forward’ in all areas of learning. Thanks also to those who have been able to help in so many concrete ways – lawn mowing, book covering, fund raising, decorating, driving, swimming – the list goes on! Please accept our grateful thanks.

Thirdly, to our wonderful parishioners for their unfailing support of everything that we do - from gardening to fund raising to celebrating with us. Our school is enriched by you all!

To Father Anthony, Father Michael and Sister Madeleine for being such wonderful role models of what it means to be a Catholic in today’s society and for helping us to understand how Jesus would like us to treat others.

Finally, to our wonderful staff for their diligent preparation, commitment to on-going learning and persistence in striving to provide the best possible learning outcomes for our students.

I truly believe that we have a fabulous school culture where we all seek to maintain positive relationships. I noted this again last Monday evening at our performance and family tea. What a great occasion! Sean’s injury was an unfortunate accident and we wish him a speedy recovery.

May you all receive the blessings of Christmas in full and enjoy safe and happy holidays. I look forward to seeing you again in 2017!

Best wishes,
Marie

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**Holiday Mass Times**

Christmas Eve – 24th December
St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance
7pm

Christmas Day – 25th December
St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance 9am

Christmas Day – 25th December
St Colman’s, Orbost 9am

New Years Eve – 31st December
St Colman’s, Orbost 5pm

New Years Day – 1st January, 2017
St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance 9am

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**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 30th January</td>
<td>Staff return for the 2017 school year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31st January</td>
<td>Mathematics assessments for all students as per schedule. Collection of school books/supplies. The Uniform shop will be open.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st February</td>
<td>Students begin school year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6th February</td>
<td>2.00pm Whole School Swimming, Orbost Outdoor Pool</td>
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Golden Honour Awards

MacKillop:
Lucas Shanahan: For taking advantage of learning opportunities to achieve his personal goals.

Colman:
Shyer Milliken: For showing excellent persistence over the term in her work tasks!

Xavier:
Isabella Anderson: For making progress in all areas of study and showing great enthusiasm & creativity in writing.

Sport
Markeisha Ingram: For being a consistent role model who implements the 5 Keys in PE!

Music
Sean Kunsek: For excellent progress in instrumental playing and helping others.

Summer Reading Club

Summer Reading Club is taking place at all East Gippsland Shire Library, Orbost these summer holidays. The theme for the 2016 Summer Reading Club is Heroes and Villains. Young readers will be encouraged to engage with a variety of traditional and non-traditional heroes and heroines as they explore the themes and conventions associated with super and everyday heroes, and their villainous counterpart.

Summer Reading Club activities will run from Thursday 1st December, 2016 until Tuesday 31st January, 2017.

Registration is FREE! When participants register at the library they will receive a reading log/registration form. Participants will record the books they read on the reading log and along the way they will receive small incentives including bookmarks, stickers, pencils and bouncy balls to encourage them to read over the summer. National prizes are also up for grabs for those who participate in the online activities through the Summer Reading Club website at www.summerreadingclub.org.au

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

Thank you to all those who have been in to finalise their accounts for this year – it is greatly appreciated.

Orbost Snowy Rovers Football Netball Club

Marlo Triathlon
Saturday 7th January, 2017

Marlo Hotel
Fun for all age groups
Kids Course-Commences at 2pm
U7-25m Swim, 1km Bike & 500m Run U12-75m Swim, 3km Bike & 600m Run Fun Tri Race-Commences at 3pm
200m Swim, 10km Bike and 2.5km Run
Main Race-Commences at 4pm
500 M Swim, 22km Bike and 5.5m Run

This Week’s Mass Times

Sat 17th St Colman’s, Orbost 5.00pm
Sun 18th St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance 9.00am

Prayer
Loving God, through the circumstances of life, you often call me beyond my dreams and hopes. When this happens to me, may I share in the faithfulness of Joseph that I might know you as God-with-us in all the dreams and plans you have for my life.

Summer Reading Club

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

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**Round Our School**

- **MacKillop Class – Water Safety Day**

The staff at St Joseph’s would like to wish everyone a very happy and joyous Christmas and best wishes for the holiday period – travel safely, and we look forward to seeing many of you again next year.


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- And visiting at Waratah Lodge

- Grade 6 Graduation Mass and final school day

Farewell to Nicolas, Cy, Jamielee, Shona and Tristan. We thank you for your contribution to our school and wish you all the best for your future.

From all staff and students at St Joseph’s.

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