Dear Families, Staff, Students and the wider St. Joseph’s School Community

The idea of God who avenges wrongdoings was quite common among the Israelites; it was these stories that are often mentioned in the Old Testament. The Israelites believed calamities were punishment for sins!

The disciples of Jesus also shared this same mindset. In the New Testament when they saw a man blind from birth they asked Jesus: “Rabi, who sinned, the man or his parents, for him to have been blind.” (In 9:1 -12).

The very interesting thing about Jesus, when asked this question was that he cautioned the disciples and the people of his time against making hasty conclusions about suffering as automatic punishment of sins. Further today we know through science, and particularly genetics, teach us much about health, disease and how our bodies work.

What Jesus does do however is to encourage us to consider life from our spiritual human side. Jesus tries to remind us all that we are part of God’s family and that love and a sense of hope are what can sustain us, helping us to establish a healthy mind, body and spirit.

Jesus teaches us if we make mistakes that we need to recognising our mistake and seek forgiveness through prayer, reconciliation and acts to help restore relationships. If we engage with this process it may help us all lead to a sense of repentance and letting, go. It is this message we share with our students each day and particularly celebrate through reconciliation. Acknowledge your mistake, seek forgiveness and fix up that relationship you have broken.

Importantly from a behaviour management perspective in our school forgiveness is an important aspect. Importantly so is helping students see their mistake; recognise the harm they have caused and repair the relationship they have broken. Sometimes young children will need extra interventions as consequences of choices they have made. The interventions always need to have an educative, fairness and accountability aspect. This work helps students to grow in learning to self-regulate their own behaviour.

REMINDERS: School is a busy place so it is important that we all keep an eye on this newsletter. It has a calendar of events and much information. Any changes we need to make are also recorded in this document. It can also be accessed electronically or delivered to your phone via our school bag app. With this in mind I have listed several important opportunities that will help us meet new people, learn about classroom programs and support our school.

Parent Social Opportunities:

- **This Friday Evening Nibble & Drinks:** A wonderful attendance at our Parent Association meeting last week. The team have planned a casual drinks and nibbles for this Friday evening the 4th March at the Cally (newly renovated) from 7:30pm. This is a great opportunity to drop in with a friend or partner, have a chat and drink with families from our school. All welcome.

- **Foundation (Prep) Welcome:** All families with a child in Foundation this year at St. Joseph’s are invited to an opportunity to gather after school for a family provided picnic/snack. Our Community Co-ordinator (Mrs. Catherine Lee) has organised time for the Junior Oval to be available. This is a casual low key opportunity to gather as a Foundation community this Tuesday at 5:30 pm on our Junior School Oval.

Values: Wonder and Awe, Hope, Celebration, Community, Reconciliation, Love
Principal’s Message Continued

School Closure Day Last Friday:
A big thanks to all for your support of this day. Schools have four of these days each year. On these days we participate in training, staff development and policy work. On Friday we had sessions about our previous school review and strategic planning, oral language and literacy teaching, the new Victorian curriculum that needs to be implemented by the end of 2017, and new Victorian State Government “Child Safety” legislation. The great thing about Friday was that key staff working in our school delivered the various workshops. This was indeed a great sharing of knowledge and expertise and a wonderful example of shared leadership. I thank all staff for their great work on Friday.

Using a Chrome Book in the Senior School:
To support parent understanding and learning our Information Technology Co-ordinator (Pat Allen) is giving families of the Senior School an opportunity to work with their child and learn about the new computers. A note has also gone home to families in the Senior School.

Fair Newsletter Attached Today:
This is our big effort each year to raise funds for student resources and facilities (oval this year), provide a fun safe day for all our students, build community and promote our school to Warrnambool. Attached today is an open invitation to all for donations and ways to be involved. Our Fair Coordinator (Helen Sheedy) and team of organisers are well on their way but will need your help.

If this day is a success it stops the many other big fundraising events that schools do to raise funds, such as chocolate drives, numerous raffles and many other events. If we raise our Fair funds budget the other days we organise can focus on fun for students at very low costs (e.g. School Disco).

Regards
Michael Gray, Principal

Ride2School Day

Friday 4 March is Ride2School day. Students are encouraged to ditch the car and walk, cycle or catch a bus to school. It’s good for the Environment and even better for you. A great way to start the year! This ride is part of the Healthy Moves program run by the Warrnambool City Council.

Welcome to the LRC for 2016

Welcome to the LRC, our great Library Resource Centre—for 2016! Kath, Maureen Wendy and I have been very busy with new books coming in, and setting up displays and generally getting prepared for a wonderful year.

As usual big thanks to everyone who found and returned books over the holidays—keep returning as you find them!

Over the last week new resources have been added, especially new fiction texts. The students have been borrowing well and the Foundation children (Prep) are already becoming aware of ‘wanding’ in or out.

LRC Timetable for 2016

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<td>Wednesday D1 B1 B7 Mrs King</td>
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Middles and Juniors have a 90 minute lesson 1 a fortnight and Seniors have a 60 minute lesson every week.

Once again we are using some of our 5/6 students to help in the library. Applications for the position of Library Assistant have been sent in and there are 10 students starting their training this week. I’m sure they will be a valuable addition to our library this year.

Canteen Roster

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### St Joseph's Primary School Events Calendar

**Mon 29/2**
- Week 6 Commences 8am - 9am
- Pizza Day 1pm - 2pm

**Mon 7/3**
- Week 7 Commences 8am - 9am
- Pizza Day 1pm - 2pm

**Mon 29 Feb – Sun 6 Mar 2016 (Eastern Time - Melbourne, Sydney)**

**Tue 1/3**
- CWSSY Tennis
- Pizza Orders Close today 9am - 9pm

**Thu 3/3**
- Fit Little Athletics Clinics 11:30am - 3:30pm
- Parent Welcome 2016 Social Function @ Colly Hotel, Fairy Street. All Welcome. 7:30pm - 9pm

**Fri 4/3**
- Ride2School Day

**Mon 7 Mar – Fri 11 Mar 2016 (Eastern Time - Melbourne, Sydney)**

**Wed 2/3**
- Pizza Day

**Thu 9/3**
- Division Swimming

**Fri 11/3**
- School Assembly - Room D1 2:30pm - 5:15pm

**Year 5/6 Parent Student Chromebook Session 7pm - 9pm**

**Foundation (Prep) Family Gathering @ Junior Playground 9:30pm - 10pm**

**Year 5/6 Parent Student Chromebook Session 7pm - 9pm**
DENNINGTON DASH is back!

ST. JOHN’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
twilight family fun run/walk is back in 2016!

When Friday 4th March starting at 6pm
Where St. John's Primary School, Dennington.
Events 3km run/walk and 6km run.
Cost $10 Individual, $5 Child & $25 Family (2 kids & 2 adults)
BBQ from 6.30pm with spot prizes to be won!

From a sporting group?
The two sporting groups with the most participants will win a FREE group PT session with either Damian Thornton or Up & About Fitness!!

Venue: The Cally Hotel (Beer Garden)
Fairy Street, Warrnambool
Date: Friday 4th March, 2016
Time: 7:30pm onwards

St. Joseph’s Primary School
Parent Welcome to 2016 Social Function

Parents and Friends are meeting for a start of the new school year get together. An invitation is extended to all parents to attend on this evening. It provides a great opportunity to meet new families and catch up and re kindle old friendships.

Purchase drinks at bar prices.
Light Finger food provided.

Phone-Coordinator Michelle Edwards for enquiries on 0439 427 933