*** Supervision of students at St Joseph's School is from 8.35am until 3.20pm ***

G'day parents and friends:

Orienteering
Today we were informed that the Maroondah dam would not be fully open in time for us to have the interschool event this year. So it is unfortunately CANCELLED.

Parent Engagement
Yesterday we held a Community Conversation with Foundation 2017 Parents. Some of the comments offered for choosing SJS were: The "Family” feel, Our friendliness, Felt included, Programs to support variety of children’s needs, Middle-sized school, Open space and environment, Faith background, Existing children are happy and excited about learning, Nervous child felt comfortable, Family and friend recommendations. Further information they requested concerned our Emergency fire plan, asthma management, pick up and drop off, but expressed confidence in their choice school.

Building Reputation
Yesterday the staff, Leadership Team and the School Board hosted 2 other schools for a presentation and workshop on how to build the reputation of the school. The best and most effective vehicle for building reputation is parents - how you speak confidently about your child’s experience of school.

Late to school
Every day we have children who arrive after school has begun. Some days 20 - 30 children are late! Often it is just a few moments during which messages are given to the children about changes to the day. Sometimes it is after the children are in class receiving explanations or important teaching is occurring. Sometimes these delays are unavoidable. Often it seems not! As an incentive, next week we are rewarding the class that has the best weekly attendance with icy poles and additional play!

Changes of dates
18 November: Disco 5:30 - 7pm, following dance classes during the day by STOMP. The whole thing is a prize won by your happy principal!
Thursday 24 November: Orienteering Excursion Yr 3-6 CANCELLED
Tuesday 6 December: Orientation “Step up” day - Foundation: 12:30 - 3pm, Yr 1-6:1:20 -3pm (was 7/12, changed to match other kinders and schools)

Masses
Middle T class celebrated Mass this week. Next week parents and friends are invited to join Foundation on Wednesday 16 November at 9am.

God bless us all,
John
Persevering through difficult times

Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.” Luke 21:5-19

In this week’s gospel, Jesus is calling out the devastating things that have always happened and continue to happen now. Jesus is not necessarily predicting a bleak future, but rather the need to persevere in times of struggle. There’s a strange comfort in knowing that God is with us - in good times and bad, even when it’s not obvious.

Someone, somewhere, right now is feeling like it is the end of their world. Maybe it’s the loss of a loved one, an addiction they are fighting, a natural disaster, or just the struggle to fit in. You might not be able to change their circumstances, but you can be sensitive to their needs. Other people sometimes silently carry around their hurts and wounds. Keep that in mind this week as you practice compassion (mercy) toward others.

Karen McQuade
Christian Life leader

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday – 7.00pm
Sacred Heart Church, Warburton

Sunday – 8.30am
St. Thomas à Becket Church, Yarra Junction

LAST WEEKEND’S READINGS
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14
Seven brothers and their mother are tortured, but remain faithful.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 16:1. 5-6. 8. 15. R. v.15

Second Reading: 2 Thes 2:16 – 3:5
The Lord will strengthen you in faith.

Gospel Acclamation
Rv 1:5. 6

Gospel: Lk 20:27-38
The Sadducees try to put Jesus in conflict with Moses.
Lk 20:27. 34-38

THIS WEEKEND’S READINGS
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Mal 3:19-20
Evildoers will be destroyed; those who fear God will be saved.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:5-9. R. see v.9

Second Reading: 2 Thes 3:7-12
Work hard and earn your keep.

Gospel Acclamation
Lk 21:28

Gospel: Lk 21:5-19
Patiently endure the trials you are sure to face for Jesus.
Like adults, children make a range of decisions every day!

Young children regularly choose how they will behave, which toys or games they would like to play with, which books they would like to have read to them, or which television shows they would like to watch.

As they get older, children make bigger decisions that often involve their family, their friends and their schoolwork.

The kinds of decisions children make affect their mental health and wellbeing, their relationships and their success.

Learning to make good decisions helps children become more independent and responsible.

How children's decision-making skills develop

Children learn good decision-making skills gradually and are strongly influenced by the expectations and values they learn from those around them.

This occurs through observing others (particularly their parents and carers), hearing about and discussing values, and having opportunities to make decisions and experience the consequences.

The key skills children need to develop for decision making are:

- identifying when a decision needs to be made
- thinking of possible options
- evaluating the options, and choosing strategies for making the decision and reviewing how it works.

Learning to consider the situation carefully and weigh up the options before coming to a decision helps children make better decisions.

It also helps them to understand and take into account others' views when making decisions that affect them.

Here's five ways to help develop children develop good decision-making skills

Parents and carers can help children learn how to make good decisions by effectively guiding and supporting them as they practise.

1. Allow children to practise making choices

Giving children opportunities to make choices helps to build their sense of responsibility, as well as their decision-making skills. It is important that the choice really is theirs, so provide options that you will be happy with no matter which they choose. Showing interest in their choice helps to reinforce that you see their decisions as important.
Five tips to help children develop decision-making skills

2. Talk about everyday decisions

Involving children in your own decision-making. For example, you might say, "I'm trying to decide whether to take up a sport or get fit or go to a dance class. Which do you think I should do?" Talk through the advantages and disadvantages of each suggestion so your child can learn how to thoughtfully evaluate different options.

3. Support children to use decision-making steps

As children develop their skills for thinking through decisions, teach them these steps of decision-making and show them how to use them effectively:

- identify the decision to be made
- think of options
- evaluate the options and choose the best one
- put your choice into action and check how it works.

4. Ask questions that promote thoughtful decisions

Asking open-ended questions that prompt children to think through their reasons for choosing a particular option helps them learn how to evaluate options and think through consequences. Some good questions include, "What do you like about that?", "What makes this the best option?", "How would this work?"

5. Encourage children to set achievable goals

Setting their own goals to work towards encourages children to plan and think ahead. It helps them understand the link between making decisions and taking action.

It is important that the goals set are achievable and motivating for the child. In addition, the steps needed to reach goals need to be definite, clear and small enough for the child to manage. Providing praise and acknowledgment for small steps of progress supports children to meet their goals.

Appropriate goals for children to choose include developing a new skill (e.g., learning to play chess, learning to swim), improving performance in school work or in an area of particular interest (e.g., learning to play a particular piece of music, master a difficult skill in sport), or earning pocket money to save for something special.

For more information

About good decision-making
Helping young kids to choose wisely
Helping older children to choose wisely
**Scholastic Book Club**

Order forms for the last book club of the year have been handed out to the children. Please return any orders by **Friday 25th November**. Remember if you would like a discreet delivery, please make a note on the order form and you will be able to pick up from the school office.

**Thank you** for all your orders throughout the year, the library has benefitted greatly from books received through the book club’s 25% of all proceeds donation to the school.

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**YARRA WATERWAYS GROUP MEETING**

A Community Meeting has been organised on Wednesday 23 November at 7.00pm at the Yarra Junction Primary School.

The focus of this meeting is to provide our Community with an update of the State Government planned closure and planting wide areas of bushland along the Yarra River, the Little Yarra River and their tributaries. This will put our families, homes and communities at heightened risk of bush fire destruction. A staff member of DELWP will be in attendance.

Come and support a **SAFER FUTURE FOR OUR VALLEY**

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**Christmas**

**Catch Up Dance**

**Saturday 3rd December 2016**

7.30pm-11.30pm

**Live band H6B will rock the night**

St. Joseph’s Sports & Performance Centre
40 Milners Road, Yarra Junction

**Entry $15pp**

Book your table (8-10) and pay on the night

All Welcome

BYO food and beverage

Tea, Coffee and biscuits supplied

Get creative

Bring along a Christmas Centre Piece for your table

The best one judged will win a fantastic prize plus

Door Prizes and Raffles galore

Organised by the Upper Yarra Parish Social Group

**Bookings:** Kate 0423 902 903
Open to Primary kids in grades 4-6 in 2016 (and 9 year olds in grade 3). Those entering Year 7 in 2017 are also eligible. This is for those who’ve never been to a Kids of Gold camp before, but includes a few who have been before to help everyone feel at home and fit in.

Activities are fun: from low ropes, initiative activities, wall climbing, games, drama and challenging interactive sessions.

Starting in Feb 2003, this camp has continued for one reason– because it works! It builds kids to be much more confident and increases their self-esteem.

Google kids of gold to see who we are, what we do and to download a form for the Feb 17 camp. The form and website have more on how the camp started and where it is situated in the beautiful Yarra Valley.

Fri 10th – Sun 12th Feb 2017
$65 Full Fee *

Held at Lyrebird Park
Beenak Rd, Yellingbo
Melways 307 K10

*Cost of $65 is subsidised by sponsors such as Bendigo Bank, Bunnings and Yarra Ranges Council.

Contact Kids Of Gold
0412 478 253 (Deb) or 0418 170 027 (Jenny) or 9737 9475 (Gary)