G’day parents and friends,

Recently I have found two websites that support parents as co-educators. Both offer information, ideas and helpful hints for parents. This one is a blog with all sorts of interesting suggestions. Browse through the archive section! It even had suggested costumes for book week. We didn’t have dress up this year but be forewarned – we will next year!  
http://www.creatingalearningenvironment.com/

Learning Potential is a government site on which you register (I have) and it will vary the information according to your needs. You can browse for things for all ages.  

Bush Dance This Friday 11 September 6:30 - 9pm

As a celebration of the learning that all the children have as part of the Performing Arts and PE programs we have, and to use these skills we have been lucky enough to book Five and a Zack to play music for us. All families are invited to come to see your children dance and then to join them in a rollicking good time. We had one a few years ago that was great fun! Bring friends and family. Food: Bring dinner if you wish, and any other food and refreshments. All BYO.

Time: 6:30pm with class dancing starting at 7pm
Cost: Come along for a donation at the door!

We know there are some netball finals and presentations on the same night but hope that families will still be able to come even if a bit late! Please return the attendance slip to assist with planning.

New Book Sale

Our book bazaar in which students and parents will have opportunities to browse and purchase will be in the parish meeting room on Thursday and Friday 2-4 pm. In the past some parents have surreptitiously bought books for birthdays and Christmas. The school receives part of the turnover. Don’t feel compelled to purchase, but we wish to encourage reading and these books are at a reduced price. The children will bring home a wish list to show you.

Camp Program foundation Sleepover

We had a most successful experience. It was well planned with all the sleepwalkers, talkers and snorers at Mrs W’s end, the night toiletters in the middle with Mrs Reed and all the sound sleepers at my end! All were asleep by 9:30pm and still asleep at 6am! Breakfast was pretty good, consisting of cereal, juice, toast, eggs and pancakes!

God bless us all,
John
Following Jesus
In this week’s gospel, Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do the people say that I am?” He then tells them, “Those who want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

There is no Christianity without a cross. We take up the cross when we choose sacrifice we could avoid in order to help others. Living as a Christian means choosing little sacrifices on a daily basis. Taking up the cross means giving up your life each day in little ways. You take up your cross when you help someone without having to be asked. You take up your cross when you reach out to the unpopular kid in the yard. You take up your cross when you sacrifice time with friends for time at the soup kitchen or homeless shelter.

Who Jesus is for us becomes the real question of the Gospel. Who we are willing to let him be in our lives becomes the central matter of our faith.

Are there areas of your life in which faith has led you to action?
Are there areas in which action has led you to faith?
Give Jesus a name in your life.
Is he Lord, saviour, king, friend, teacher, healer or something else?
(Extract from Weekly Parables for Catholic schools, GPBS)

Karen McQuade
Christian Life Leader
Encouraging good behaviour: 15 tips

Try these tips to encourage the behaviour you want in your child.

You can read this article in a selection of languages other than English.

1. **Children do as you do.** Your child watches you to get clues on how to behave in the world. You’re her role model, so use your own behaviour to guide her. What you do is often much more important than what you say. If you want your child to say ‘please’, say it yourself. If you don’t want your child to raise her voice, speak quietly and gently yourself.

2. **Show your child how you feel.** Tell him honestly how his behaviour affects you. This will help him see his own feelings in yours, like a mirror. This is called *empathy*. By the age of three, children can show real empathy. So you might say, ‘I’m getting upset because there is so much noise I can’t talk on the phone’. When you start the sentence with ‘I’, it gives your child the chance to see things from your perspective.

3. **Catch her being ‘good’.** This simply means that when your child is behaving in a way you like, you can give her some positive feedback. For example, ‘Wow, you are playing so nicely. I really like the way you are keeping all the blocks on the table’. This works better than waiting for the blocks to come crashing to the floor before you take notice and bark, ‘Hey, stop that’. This positive feedback is sometimes called *descriptive praise*. Try to say six positive comments (praise and encouragement) for every negative comment (criticisms and reprimands). The 6:1 ratio keeps things in balance. Remember that if children have a choice only between no attention or negative attention, they will seek out negative attention.

4. **Get down to your child’s level.** Kneeling or squatting down next to children is a very powerful tool for communicating positively with them. Getting close allows you to tune in to what they might be feeling or thinking. It also helps them focus on what you are saying or asking for. If you are close to your child and have his attention, there is no need to make him look at you.

5. **‘I hear you.’** Active listening is another tool for helping young children cope with their emotions. They tend to get frustrated a lot, especially if they can’t express themselves well enough verbally. When you repeat back to them what you think they might be feeling, it helps to relieve some of their tension. It also makes them feel respected and comforted. It can diffuse many potential *temper tantrums*.

6. **Keep promises.** Stick to agreements. When you follow through on your promises, good or bad, your child learns to trust and respect you. So when you promise to go for a walk after she picks up her toys, make sure you have your walking shoes handy. When you say you will leave the library if she doesn’t stop running around, be prepared to leave straight away. No need to make a fuss about it – the more matter of fact, the better. This helps your child feel more secure, because it creates a consistent and predictable environment.

7. **Reduce temptation.** Your glasses look like so much fun to play with – it’s hard for children to remember not to touch. Reduce the chance for innocent but costly exploration by keeping that stuff out of sight.

8. **Choose your battles.** Before you get involved in anything your child is doing – especially to say ‘no’ or ‘stop’ – ask yourself if it really matters. By keeping instructions, requests and negative feedback to a minimum, you create less opportunity for conflict and bad feelings. Rules are important, but use them only when it’s really important.
A big THANK YOU to all who supported the 2nd hand book sale!

It was wonderful to see how excited the children were about coming to look at the books and choosing some to buy. The library has benefitted doubly, as some money was made to buy more new books, but we have also added quite a few books to our collection that were donated and are already out in circulation being read by the children.

What a great result from our St Joseph’s community who love to read.
St. Josephs is having a Book Fair this week in the church meeting room.

The children have been taken through by their class teachers and filled out a wish list to say which books they are interested in & the cost. This is an indication only & may help guide some parents who are looking to buy birthday or even Christmas presents early.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the children were given the opportunity to purchase books if they had brought in some money to do so.

The Book Fair will also be open to parents & any interested friends to buy books on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th from 2–4pm.

There will be some book voucher door prizes for those who come to the Fair, so see you there!

2015 Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by September 14.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or ‘experience’ 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 6 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement in Term 4 signed by the Victorian Premier and can choose to have their name included on the online Honour Roll.

Please Note: The Challenge is closing this coming Monday 14th Sept, so remember to add all your final books online over the weekend !!

BUSH DANCE

The ________________________ family is coming.

[ ] Adults  [ ] Children
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Hot dog lunch day - Friday 18th September
Shopping Tour - Saturday 17th October

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN PROGRAM HAS CONCLUDED

Please send in any stickers (or docket dated after 27 August if you shopped at Yarra Junction and they had run out of stickers).

As the final date to have stickers sent in to Woolworths is during the holidays it is necessary to have them all sent in to school by the end of term.

Thank you so much for your enthusiastic support!!!!!!!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

Would you like to receive your fee statement via email?

If you want to cut down on paper and would like either of these options, please email:

office@sjyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Put in the subject line your family name and either newsletter, statement or both.

I can then acknowledge receipt of the email and begin sending you newsletters or statements in this eco-friendly way.

Thanks,
Sue
Cooking Club

A group of juniors participated in cooking club last week to make a surprise for their dads. Even though it was a messy job, the chocolate truffles were delicious and all the junior students dad’s got to taste the results of their efforts.
This week another group of students made mini pizzas for their classmates. It was lots of fun!