Dear Parents and Friends,

Principals’ Conference
Just in case you didn’t know, Mr Faulkner will not be here for most of the week as he has gone to a Principals’ Conference on contemporary learning. It’s an exciting time for St Joseph’s – Yarra Junction as we stand on the edge of technology revolution in our classrooms. John will return on Friday and in the meantime I am here in his place.

Jump Rope for Heart – Jump Off Day
You may have noticed your child coming home with pamphlets collecting donations for our Jump Off Day. Proceeds go to The Heart Foundation. Parents are invited to attend these days to jump, swing a rope or watch their children demonstrate their skipping skills. Preps and Juniors will be on Thursday 16th August (2 – 3pm) and Middles and Seniors on Friday 17th (2 – 3pm).

St Joseph’s Mini-Olympics
As part of our learning about BELONGING (through Baptism, Confirmation and the 2012 Olympic Games), we will be undertaking a ‘mini-Olympics’ event in Week 6 on Wednesday 22nd August between 1 and 3pm. In place of countries will be our ‘Friendship Groups’ and to that end, over two Wednesday afternoons they are preparing flags, mascots, creeds, posters and letters of invitation to you – the parents. Friendship Groups will compete against each other in a variety of fun sports and once again we strongly encourage you to attend – if at all possible.

Hooptime
Due to the problems at the Yarra Centre, Hooptime has now been re-scheduled for Week 7. The Middles will go on Tuesday 28th August and the Seniors on Friday 31st August. These dates have been confirmed by Mrs Traynor. It will be necessary to send out new permission forms and these must be returned ASAP. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

The Pied Piper
Preparations for our 2012 Production, The Pied Piper, are well underway. Mrs Broderick is in her element – rehearsing students in their roles. For your information, the production is in Week 9, on Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th September. Information on tickets will become available shortly.

Family Maths Night
On behalf of John and Mrs Bourke, I’d like to thank the many families that were able to come to the Maths Trivia Night. Enjoy the pictures over the page.

Have a great week, everyone!

Assistant Principal
WINNERS
This week we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption on Wednesday 15th August. On this day we remember Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who was taken, body and soul, into heaven to share in the glory of her Son's Resurrection.

When Mary died, the Catholic Church believes that by some mystery, God the Father and Jesus did not let the body of the mother of God be spoilt. They granted her a special favour as her reward for her love of God and her years of faithful prayers and suffering.

Now Mary is in heaven. She is queen of heaven and earth. She is the Mother of Jesus' Church and queen of apostles. She is a role model for us today, living a life of love and trust in God.

Every time Mary asks Jesus to give us graces, he listens to her request. As we celebrate the feast day of Mary, we can ask our Blessed Mother Mary to guide, protect and care for us.

Karen McQuade
Christian Life Leader
This week’s morning fitness roster:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Location if wet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Echidnas</td>
<td>Pentathlon</td>
<td>SPA gym</td>
<td>Art room (Mon, Tues, Fri) or Church Meeting room (Wed, Thurs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Bellman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dingos</td>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Basketball court</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Booth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kookaburras</td>
<td>Skipping</td>
<td>Roundabout</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Drago</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroos</td>
<td>Circuit Training</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs McQuade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wombats</td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
<td>SPA Performing Arts</td>
<td>SPA Performing Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Vranken</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Koalas</td>
<td>Boundary Run</td>
<td>Meet outside office. Run around cross country track and oval</td>
<td>Join in with aerobics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Colley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bandicoots</td>
<td>Obstacle Course</td>
<td>Meet on playground</td>
<td>South building shared area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Vanstan/ Miss Bourke</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tassie Devils</td>
<td>Power Walk</td>
<td>Meet in undercover area. Walk around school paths</td>
<td>Meet in undercover area. Walk around passages/stairs in main building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Traynor/ Mrs Brown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Bella O'Donnell, Ronan Taylor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior B</td>
<td>Joel Lunson, Ella Meerkotter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior V</td>
<td>Lily Woods, Will Kerr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle B</td>
<td>Tori Sharp, Liam Linder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle M</td>
<td>Tom Reardon, Shamus Trainor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior B/V</td>
<td>Camryn Holland, Noah Andueza, Josh Mazurak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior C</td>
<td>Charlie Wells, Samantha Edwards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Performances:

Tuesday September 11th - a matinee & an evening performance.
Thursday September 13th - an evening performance

If for any reason your child is unable to attend any of these performances, please notify the class teacher as soon as possible.

Costumes:

Preps & Juniors are the children of Hamelin.
The girls are asked to wear a dress; aprons and head scarves will be organised for them.
The boys are to wear a shirt and shorts. If they have a vest and cap, these can be added.

Middles are the Rats! They need to be in ‘rat’ colours, so black, brown, grey or fawn.
They will need a skivvy or t-shirt (preferably long sleeved) and leggings, track pants or other plain pants of the same colour.
Don’t forget, the items Ms Lunson has asked them to bring - lightly tinted, dark rimmed sunglasses & gloves. They need these as soon as possible so they can work on this part of their costume in their art lesson.

Remember, the OP shop is a great source of costumes.

Helpers:

If you would like to help with costumes, contact Sally Jones (0415 314 699) or Minna Nyhuis (0439 614 456).
If you would like to help in the Art Room, pop in and see Marg Lunson on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

Thank you,

Margaret Broderick

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To Mr Faulkner,
This is my poem:

I called my brother
in for my mother
he had to eat his dinner
or he would get thinner

by TOM (Clements)
Talk to your kids about difficult real-life issues

Some conversations are hard to have with kids, but a measure of effective parenting is how we talk about real-life issues

Sometimes news items occur that require sensitive handling by parents. The recent stabbing and subsequent death of a twelve year old student at a Queensland secondary school, is one such incident that requires a considered parental approach.

Most people I’ve spoken with are dumb-founded that such a shocking thing could happen in an Australian school. But the fact that a boy so young could be killed by a knife in the supposed safe haven of the schoolyard, suggests that something is sadly amiss in our community.

This incident raises questions about how we handle conflict in our community. While physical conflict and young males have always been close bed fellows, the use of weapons in a dispute is a dangerous and disproportionate response.

According to law enforcement agencies the number of assaults involving weapons including knives, bottles and other objects, has escalated over the last decade so the nature of violence is changing and more dangerous than in the past.

So as a parent how do you respond to such an event?

Don’t dodge talking about it. Using common sense and taking kids’ ages into account this incident should be talked about over the kitchen table. Get a feel for what your kids know about it, and then determine how they feel and what they think. I suspect in some cases, this could open up a can of worms concerning how children treat each other at school and how disputes are solved in the playground, away from adult supervision. Such windows into the world of young people are rare and to be valued, so don’t shy away from difficult conversations.

On a broader scale, it would be useful to reinforce with kids how we as human beings in a civilised society resolve our disputes and also how we handle our emotions. Young people live in a time of extremes where everything is either awful or awesome. There are few shades of grey in their lives these days.

They’re also growing up in a time when technology enables instant communication, which anyone who’s sent an email off in anger would know, that this is not necessarily a good thing.
There is a roster at the school office for volunteers to fill in if you can help on 25th August at the sausage sizzle in Yarra Junction.

Lots of helpers are needed!
ANGLICARE NEWS

FADS (Family Alcohol and Drug Service) is a program provided by Anglicare Victoria.

It is a free service providing counselling and family therapy for:
- Families where a parent has a substance use problem and the children are 18 years or younger.
- Families where a member 25 years of age or younger has a substance use problem.

The service offers counselling, information and education for all family members, opportunities to develop strategies, address the difficulties and to build up family relationships.

This service will now be available at the Family Centre at Yarra Junction.

For more information or a referral to the service, contact Anglicare’s Information and Referral Service at Yarra Junction on: 5967 1769 OR the Bayswater office on: 9721 3688.

Mums Day Out – organised by Eastern Health and Connections
- enjoy a day of pampering and meeting other new mum’s.
- 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Riberry Group Room. UYCH- Yarra Junction. 9:30-3:20pm
- morning tea and lunch provided as well as a free massage.
- This day gives you the opportunity to speak to a midwife, physiotherapist, dietician and a social worker.
**Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA**

**Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:**

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013 and added to the EMA. As a result, parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, schools will no longer receive EMA payments on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

**Eligibility:**

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

The EMA application form must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2013.

**Payment Amounts - 2013:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

You can receive the EMA by direct deposit into your nominated bank account or by individual cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.
**Yarra Valley Uniforms**

**ORGANIC COTTON**

**CHILDREN’S UNDERWEAR**

**NOW AVAILABLE**

The Uniform Shop is open on **Tuesdays** after school.

Donna’s contact number is: 0427 516 375.

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**Woolworths stickers and Coles vouchers are finished!**

Please bring them in to the school by **Thursday 16th August**.

*Thank you to the families who have been sending in Paul’s milk bottle caps. We have just raised $136.10 for the school. Pauls will give **20c** for every Cap we send in in September so keep collecting!!!!!!!*

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**40 HOUR FAMINE**

Matilda Cottier is very keen on participating in the 40 hour famine and has decided to give up all electrical comforts, bed and blankets for the 40 hours as she is too young to give up food.

**$40 can help feed a family of 5 for one month.**

Matilda is registered on the website:-

User name tilso

Matilda Cottier if you would like to support Matilda and donate there.

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**UPPER YARRA RSL SUB BRANCH INC**

**SCHOOLS BENEFITS PROGRAM**

Present this coupon when dining in our Bistro to earn rewards for your school.

Bookings recommended. Ph. 5967 1771

School ___________ Date ___________ Total Spent $ _______ Init ________