G'day parents and friends,

The Storm
Our best wishes are with all those that have been affected by the storm. Several families have had damaged houses, one family is living in a motel for the foreseeable future and many are still without power. If you, or someone you know of is in need of assistance, please let us know. If you are in need of emotional support, this is available through the Council on 1300 368 333.

Engagement
In the Education Today magazine that was sent home last week there were several fine articles. One I would especially like to highlight is on parent engagement. Below I quote Nicole Wiseman from the Victorian Catholic Parents Association, who commented on the role of parents. Here at St Joseph’s School we strive to develop good relationships with parents with whom this year we have endeavoured to take small steps to engage you more in the learning of your children. Successful learning outcomes for your children will better achieved if parents, children and the school are all working together.

"Like most parents, I am aware that I influence my children. Many a moment springs to mind, not all of them pleasant, when my children have echoed my words or behaviour. I have experienced the joy of helping my children learn to read, to tie a shoelace, to count to 100. And yet, as my children have progressed through school I have taken more of a back-seat role. Assuming education to be primarily the responsibility of teachers, I have slogged away at the ‘other stuff’ such as attempting to instil manners and responsibility for personal hygiene, learning to share, aiming for household chores to be completed without resorting to nagging or bribery.

So it was a revelation to learn of the body of evidence that demonstrates that parent engagement is one of the most important factors in education and developmental outcomes for children and young people. Schools that undertake effective parent engagement have seen large improvements in learning areas such as literacy and numeracy, and also children’s behaviour, including an increased enthusiasm for school. Engaging in children’s learning is not about replacing the role of the teacher, nor does it require parents to be expert in every subject matter. It can be as simple as having a conversation at the dinner table, or showing an interest in what happens in the classroom”.

Foundation 2017 Information Night 6.00pm Tuesday
Families of next year’s Foundation class are encouraged to attend on Tuesday evening. We will begin with a sausage sizzle followed by some short presentations by children, parents and teachers, and the opportunity to have questions answered. You are welcome.
Masses
The Senior classes celebrated Mass this week. Next week parents and friends are invited to join the Junior Mass on Wednesday 26 October at 9am.

Welcome
Last week we were joined by the Ball family in our community; parents Christine and Jason, Darcie (Middle T) and Tom (Jun B). I’m sure you will make them welcome.

Date reminders:
- Tomorrow, Friday 14th – Junior sleepover
- Friday 21st – Working Bee 3.00pm – 6.00pm
- Saturday 22nd – PFA Shopping tour
- Monday 31st – School Closure Day

Enrolments
Please encourage friends and neighbours to consider our great school. Parents are our best promoters! Applications are available from the office. If your children are not returning to St Joseph’s in 2017 please let us know as soon as possible.

God bless us all,
John

Scenes from Rainmaker
Celebrating Confirmation

The Confirmation ceremony held last Friday evening was very successful with many people attending. There was an atmosphere of celebration and happiness as evidenced by the conversations and smiles on many faces afterwards.

Monsignor Tony Ireland spoke well about the gifts of the Spirit that the candidates received. He compared the receiving of them to accepting a gold medal at the Paralympics. They are very precious. However, he stressed that the benefits of receiving them would not been seen unless they were used. Like an app that have on your computer, you need to tap into them. The fruits of the Spirit like peace, joy, love, patience, kindness etc, will then be seen in you, making you an amazing person through prayer, other people and the sacraments.

Thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the night. Our dedicated staff, attending to the children, assisting with the music, readings, and organisation did a wonderful job. Our choir was exceptional.

Karen McQuade
Christian Life Leader
**The Lightning Strike**
The lightning streaked across the sky,
The thunder roared
And I did cry
*By Grace Rankin*

**Thunder God**
Thunder roared
Lightning spiked
Wind howled
Branches cracked
Leaves swirled
Rain poured
Hail rattled
I ran
From the
Thunder God
*By Patrick Lambie*

**Blowing trees**
In the dark I saw lots of trees blowing.
Bang went the fence
The leaves were falling everywhere
What a catastrophe
*By Charlotte Lord*

**A Dark Night**
One dark and windy night,
I got a shocking fright.
I saw lightning and cracking thunder.
I was so scared that I went under.
When I came up I saw dust.
Everyone made a fuss.
But I was excited
and my senses were alighted.
*By Hannah Downward*

**The Lightning bang**
The Thunder went
CRACK!
The trees were falling
CRASH!
Doors banged
BANG!
Windows cracked
The lightning struck
ZOOM!
*By Jack Waldron*

**The Storm**
The trees scraped the road,
The night was windy.
Branches were making mess.
Wind howled through the magnificent trees
BANG! There goes another massive tree
I was scared
*By Skye O’Connor*

**The Storm**
Bang went the giant lightning,
Smash went the fancy window.
All the lights went black.
Ahhh! We screamed with all our might.
*By Elena Tarquinio*
The first Scholastic book club order form for this term has been sent home with the children. Any orders are due back to school by Friday 21st October. Now is a good time to start thinking about Christmas gifts, don’t forget a discreet delivery of your order can be arranged through pick up at the office if required (just make a note on order form).

“The fire of literacy is created by the emotional sparks between a child, a book, and the person reading. It isn’t achieved by the book alone, nor by the child alone, nor by the adult who’s reading aloud – it’s the relationship winding between all three, bringing them together in easy harmony.” Mem Fox
Next P&F
Meeting: Friday
21st October at
2.00pm

**Coming up:** Lapathon and Sausage Sizzle.

**Uniform Shop next open** – **Monday 7th of November from 3pm.**
Orders can be placed at any time using an order form available from the office.

*Please note that we can only accept cash or cheque at this time.*

**It’s time to spring clean!!!!** Clean out the cupboards and leave any second hand uniform at the office. Please ensure items are in reasonable and clean condition without holes, etc. **Big second hand uniform sale coming soon!!!!**

**Uniform Sale (Old style uniform items)** - All $10-
OLD style school dresses, short and long sleeve polo tops.

Very limited sizes available! These items can only be worn during the 2 year rollover period.

*Sizes available:* **** While stock lasts****
**Dresses** - 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16  **Short sleeve polo**- 5, 6, 10, 12 and 16.  **Long sleeve polos**- 10 and 14.

Please write child’s name, items ordered and size. Please note if you would prefer to collect from the office otherwise items will be sent home with your child.
An invitation...

Mount Lilydale Mercy College Old Collegians’ present...

2016 Gala Dinner!
Celebrating 120 Years!

Get a group of friends together and enjoy a fun packed evening with Live Entertainment, Hawker Style Food, Punt Road Wines, Napoleone Beers, Coldstream Ciders, Silent Auctions, A Photo Exhibition and much, much more!

Saturday, 15 October at 7pm
Centennial Hall, 120 Anderson Street, Lilydale
Tickets $80 per person (Includes food, drinks & entertainment!)
Ticket sales close Friday, 7 October
Please contact Mrs Patricia Olson on 9735 4022
or email: oc@mlmc.vic.edu.au

Celebrate the induction of the Old Collegian Nominees on to the Mercy Honour Roll. All funds raised go towards helping those in need within the community.

Bookings @ https://www.trybooking.com/MOSL