**NEWSLETTER NO: 12**

**Monday 14th May 2012**

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*** Supervision of students at St Joseph's School is from 8.40am until 3.20pm ***

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### SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
8.45am – 3.30pm

**PRINCIPAL**
Mr. John Faulkner

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**
Mr. Justin Colley

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICER**
Mrs. Sue Lucas

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

**MAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>NAPLAN School Advisory Board 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>District Cross Country</td>
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<td>20th</td>
<td>Boroodara Eistedfod</td>
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<td>21st</td>
<td>School Closure Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>Assembly 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>PFA meeting 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Term 2 fees and Excursion Levy due</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th</td>
<td>Working Bee</td>
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**Dear parents and friends,**

A mother's love determines how
We love ourselves
and others.
There is no sky we'll ever see
Not lit by that first love.
Striped of love,
the universe
Would drive us mad
with pain;
But we are born into a world
That greets our cries with joy.
How much I owe you
for the kiss
That told me who I was!
The greatest gift—a love of life—
Lay laughing in your eyes.
Because of you
my world still has
The soft grace of your smile;
And every wind
of fortune bears
The scent of your caress.

**Mother’s Day Stall**

Thanks to the Parent’s & Friends we had 180 smiling faces as they pondered over the perfect gift for their mum and grandma for Mother’s Day. Thank you to all the parents who worked so hard to give the children this opportunity.

**We hope that all Mothers had a happy Day!**

**NAPLAN testing**

This week, the Year 3 and 5 children will be involved in NAPLAN testing. Tuesday is Language Conventions & Writing; Wednesday is Reading & Thursday is Numeracy. Some children do become anxious during this testing time, so may need some encouragement and reassurance. Thank you for your support in this area.

**Enrolments for 2013**

Just a reminder if you have Prep for 2013, can you please pick up enrolment forms from the office so we can start to plan our 2013 groupings.

**School Fees**

It would be appreciated if all parents could ensure that they have paid Term 1 school fees and levies as soon as possible to enable St Joseph’s to meet our own financial responsibilities. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Chickens**

Three of our now very big baby chickens are Araucana males of the beautiful lavender variety. Araucanas lay blue shelled eggs. Please see me if you are interested in giving one or more a home. Otherwise we will recoup some of our costs and sell them at the chicken auctions. We are also in the market for a couple of bantam hens.

**Catholic Identity Surveys**

How are you going with them? I have had some feedback from a few parents. Please participate as the survey will help us understand what we think of St Joseph’s as a Catholic school and what we would like as the ideal Catholic school. Those who are not Catholic or who do not feel they currently practice their religion are still encouraged to participate. The surveys are anonymous but the collated data is very useful to us so please HELP! The surveys are done online. Information is available at the office.

**Fr Ashkar has an “0” birthday this Friday.**

At assembly next Tuesday we are planning a celebration for the children and parents. Come along and join us. You might like to bring a plate to share! Some of us think he is so young!!

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John
ALIVE IN OUR FAITH

This week’s Sunday gospel teaches us about God’s love. The words of Jesus cited in John 15 are: “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s will and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.”

Have you ever considered that our relationship with God can be a friendship rather than as God being a superior? Friendship implies equality, an openness and sharing of life and experience, a mutual concern and interest. Jesus is teaching us that we can be drawn into a deep intimacy and friendship with God through himself. Through his life and teachings, Jesus is the model of the love that we are called to have, one that serves other’s selflessly.

Love is the fundamental need of our human experience and we have all encountered it in our lives through people close to us. However it is difficult to imagine experiencing the love of God. There are many accounts of people experiencing the great joy of God’s love, both in the Bible and in modern writings. When they have, it is a gift to be cherished.

This brings to mind a personal experience of mine one Mother’s day. I was feeling a little ‘down’ and went to the garden, praying for God’s help. To my delight, I witnessed a rosebud opening fully in the morning sunshine, right in front of my eyes as I was gazing at the garden bed. It was like receiving a bunch of flowers! For me, this was a sign of God’s encouragement and love.

Wishing all mums a great week ahead,
Karen McQuade
Christian Life Leader

Weekend Mass Times
Saturday – 4.30pm
Sacred Heart Church, Warburton
Sunday – 9.00am
St. Thomas à Becket Church, Yarra Junction

LAST WEEKENDS READINGS

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
The Holy Spirit descends on Jews and Gentiles alike.

R. see v.2

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10
One without love does not know God.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 14:23

Gospel: Jn 15:9-17
Live on in Christ.

THIS WEEKENDS READINGS

The Ascension of the Lord

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11
Jesus is taken up into heaven.

6-9. R. v.6

Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23
Live a life worthy of your calling.
Eph 4:1-13
Eph 4:1-7. 11-13

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 28:19. 20

Gospel: Mk 16:15-20
Jesus commissions the eleven, ascends to heaven.
This week’s morning fitness roster:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Location if wet</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Echidnas</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Bellman</td>
<td>Pentathlon</td>
<td>SPA gym</td>
<td>Art room (Mon, Tues, Fri) or Church Meeting room (Wed, Thurs)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dingos</strong></td>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Basketball court</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
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<td>Mr Booth</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kookaburrras</strong></td>
<td>Skipping</td>
<td>Roundabout</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
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<td>Mrs Drago</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kangaroos</strong></td>
<td>Circuit Training</td>
<td>SPA gym (one</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs McQuade</td>
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<td>third)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wombats</strong></td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
<td>SPA Performing Arts</td>
<td>SPA Performing Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Vranken</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Koalas</strong></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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<td>Mr Colley</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bandicoots</strong></td>
<td>Obstacle Course</td>
<td>Meet on playground</td>
<td>South building shared area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Vanstan/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Bourke</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tassie Devils</strong></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>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Traynor/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not on this week</td>
<td>Commando Relays</td>
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**CHILDREN’S ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Congratulations to Phoebe Gibson who achieved a personal best of 2.47.04 over 500m Cross Country at Lilydale Lake.

WELL DONE!
SCHOOLS’ ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

On Wednesday 9th May, all the grade sixes went to the Upper Yarra RSL, (Returned Services League). We left at ten past ten and got there around ten fifteen. When we got off the bus, there were already other schools there. After a couple of minutes we listened with respect to the other schools tell their stories of soldiers who had been in the war. After, we were asked to put our wreath and our crosses on in the ground. Then our school sang the National Anthem. It was very surprising how many schools didn’t know the second verse. Later on in the day we went to a man or lady who was in the army to tell us some information. It was really interesting. It was a fun and interesting day. I would like to thank the teachers for such a good day.

Amy Bourke

On Wednesday the 9th of May 2012, the year sixes went to the Upper Yarra RSL, for an Anzac day service. We got there at about quarter past ten, and then we listened to some of the other schools. There were assortments of different presentations, including poems, like Flanders Fields. We also listened to a story about Simpson and his donkey. Simpson was a medic in WWI and he met a donkey whom he called Muffy. He then used Muffy for transportation while he risked his life and safety to save the wounded. Simpson and Muffy made their last trip when Simpson was shot, but Muffy just kept going to the medical place.
There were also presentations about different things too. There was even a presentation about the animals that served in the war. The animals included dogs, horses, oxen and camels. Thousands were killed and millions were wounded. There was a bugle player there playing the bugle and a bagpipe player also. Our school represented us by leading the other schools and guests in the national anthem. It was surprising how many schools didn’t know the second verse! After the ceremony, we were given a sausage from some of the members of the RSL and we were also given a can of soft drink. Once we had finished eating, we went around to the different service men and women and they talked about their time in the army. It was really interesting.

All in all it was a wonderful experience and I think all the year sixes enjoyed it. I would like to thank Mrs Bourke, Mrs Broderick and Mr Faulkner for taking us.

By Jasmine Hendriks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT AWARDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior B/V</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior C</td>
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Helping kids with homework

For many parents homework is that time of the day when they routinely harass, hassle and harangue their child to JUST DO YOUR HOMEWORK! Here are some ideas that may help.

Homework causes more headaches for parents than it does for children. Some parents worry because their children don’t seem to do enough work while others are concerned because they do too much.

But for many parents homework is that time of the day when they do not wish their children to JUST DO YOUR HOMEWORK!

Okay, what to do?

The first step is to know the homework policy of your children’s school and understand what is expected of you as a parent. Most schools have parent interviews and information sessions at the start of the year. Next, make sure you get a good handle on how your children’s teacher expects you to assist your child.

It is also useful to find out what your child’s teacher will do if your child doesn’t complete their homework. Homework is basically an agreement between a teacher and a child so it should be up to the teacher to ensure the homework is completed. That means the teacher becomes the ‘bad guy’ and puts some consequence in place if the homework is not completed. Your role as a parent is to support the school if a consequence is put in place, such as completing work in recess or whatever the school deems appropriate.

Here are practical homework tips:

1. Establish homework time and stick to it each day. If children tell you they don’t have any formal homework then they can read, revise or organise their work. My feedback tells me sticking to a routine even when no formal homework is set is extremely useful and helps avoid battles.

2. Put the onus back on your children to take responsibility for their work. Ask children at the start of a homework session to state how much homework they will do. At the end of the session check it to see if it matches with their intentions as well as yours. If you are more concerned about homework than them, your children are not the ones responsible for their homework.

3. Homework is as much a time management issue as anything else. Encourage children to work reasonably quickly and efficiently. Have a set time limit, which they should stick to. There is little point slogging away once they become frustrated or tired. Give them an egg-timer or use a clock and get them to work hard for small chunks of time. A little work each night is more productive than packing it into one weekly session.

4. Help children decide the best time to do homework and then encourage them to stick to these times. Maybe on some days homework is tackled after dinner for any number of reasons. If doing homework straight after school is important to you then consider feeding children ONLY after homework is completed. Food can be a huge motivator for some children. (As mentioned in point one, a homework routine is important but the timing can vary.)

5. Establish a good working environment for students. Make sure they have a quiet, well lit, well ventilated area away from distractions. A table or desk makes a good workspace, although don’t be surprised if they spread work all over the kitchen table. Some kids hate to be stuck away in their rooms and prefer to work at the kitchen table and can do so productively. Others are easily distracted and work in short bursts. Work out what is best for YOUR child.

6. Use the motivating factors of technology. The Internet and other forms of electronic learning are quick, convenient and give access to huge amounts of information. Nevertheless, children should still know how to access information from more traditional means such as books. Check with your child’s teacher as to their specific recommendations and preferences.

7. Encourage children to get organised. Help them think ahead to plan their homework around extracurricular activities. A weekly planner or diary will help older students get organised. Assisting children to become organised is perhaps the best way parents can help at home.

8. If you are helping with a particular task, keep your explanation simple and practical. If you become frustrated or upset and the atmosphere becomes tense – stop helping.

9. Be realistic – don’t expect to solve all homework difficulties. When in doubt send a note to your child’s teacher letting him or her know the problem. The teacher will appreciate this good communication.

10. Communicate any concerns. If you have concerns about how much or the difficulty of homework your child is set, contact the teacher and arrange a time to discuss your worries. Such discussion is the basis of a true partnership between you and your child’s teacher.

The place of homework is routinely questioned by education authorities (now is currently one of those times in Australia) but my gut reaction is that children will always have homework. The name may change and the activities may vary but it will always be homework.

Schools generally try to make sure homework is varied, interesting, engaging and purposeful for children and parents.

Parents also need to be patient with both children (if they struggle) and schools that are trying to find a balance between too little and too much.
Thank you to the helpers who set up and assisted with the Mother’s Day stall last week. We hope all the mums had a lovely day and enjoyed their gifts.

The Barbecue outside Woolworths, Yarra Junction on Saturday made a profit of $503. Once again, thank you to the helpers who transported the barbecue and drinks to the venue and who helped on the day. This is a fantastic way to raise money for the school without having to ask school families to constantly put in – so, please, when the next barbecue is due more helpers to cook and sell sausages and drinks would be very much appreciated.

Remember, the day is getting closer for the Shopping Tour. This will be a wonderful opportunity to shop for bargains without worrying about parking and to have a social day out.

Contact: Cathy Linder 0409 187 166

WOOLWORTHs
EARN & LEARN

is on again! Slightly different this year with stickers to put on to cards. A card is being sent home to each family – more are available at the office for family or friends or more for YOU! Or stickers can be handed in at the office.
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.

Remember to keep receipts to claim on your Education Tax Refund next year.

PAUL’S COLLECT – A – CAP
is still going. Please remember to save your specially marked caps and drop them in at the office.
Fair Trade Fiesta

TUESDAY 22 MAY 2012

12NOON TO 7PM

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE
362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE
Phone: (03) 9926 9300

ENTRY BY DONATION

*Food & Wine available after 5pm
Every purchase from the hand made fair trade products provides employment and income for women, their families and ultimately the community in some of the poorest areas of Peru, South America.

Items for Sale: Alpaca Scarves, Ponchos, Beanies, Babies & Children's Wear, Home Wares, Novelties & more...

Helping women help themselves