G’day parents and friends,

As another big year draws to a close it gives us time to pause and reflect on the remarkable achievements of our school community in 2016. Across the school many students have made excellent academic and personal progress. I wish to offer everyone thanks for their support of the school over the past 12 months. I also wish to offer my sincere thanks to the school staff for the unwavering dedication and commitment they have shown to our students.

Christmas (Christ Mass) is an opportunity to celebrate the Incarnation - the coming of God as human. The importance is not in the birth of a child, but in what we learn from the man. My prayers and wishes for all of you are that over the holidays and throughout next year is that you experience the grace of God in the giving and the receiving. May God bless us all.

Farewell

We farewell many families as their youngest children complete Year Six: the Durant, Finette, Foley, Grotaers, Hirschfeld, Huynh, King/Walsh, Lunson, McLean, Meerkotter, Peels, Pitman, Robin, Scoble, Sheehan, Swankie and Zekas families. We thank these families for all they have contributed to the school over their years here and we wish you all well in the future.

Beginning of the Year Testing

Please note that parents/guardians of students in Years 1-6 2017 are requested to access School Interviews to book individual testing times for your children for either Tuesday 31 January, or Wednesday 1 February. The teachers are only identified by level to enable more time options. Sessions are about an hour each. Bookings are open from Tuesday 13th December. Log-in details are under Dates to Remember. As usual during the testing days the new Foundation children will be at school for half days. Everyone will be at school for the whole day on Thursday 2 February.

Accounts

Thank you to those who have been attending to the completion of your payments for 2016.

Dates

15 Dec 6pm, Thursday: Graduation Mass to which all are welcome, then dinner for the graduates’ families
16 Dec 11:30 am, Friday: End of Year Mass. All welcome.
31 January, Tuesday, and Wednesday 1 February Foundation student half days, and testing Yrs 1-6
2 February, Thursday: the entire school is present ready for learning!
We are almost through Advent. Christmas time is less than two weeks away. It is very easy to be caught up in the commercialism of Christmas. Santa Claus is everywhere and secular expectations at this time of year are many. Our faith lives can easily be moved to the background as we try to do everything we need to with work, school and shopping and visiting friends and relatives. Make a special effort this week to remember that it is still Advent. We are preparing our hearts and minds for Jesus to come into the world, and to come more fully into our hearts. Create extra prayer time, attend an Advent prayer service or parish reconciliation service, and make time to talk with someone about this sacred time.

Trying to find just the right balance in life can be tricky. Even when we are conscious of not allowing ourselves to become overcommitted, the ebb and flow of life sometimes makes for busy stretches of time when we lose that sense of balance. This is why it’s all the more important to nurture a deep interior life, to create good habits that help us through tough times when we’re just not “feeling it”. Going to bed on time, eating well, exercising, praying, and allowing unstructured time in our day—all those things cultivate joy deep inside to help us through the dry stretches. Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas. Enjoy your break!

Karen McQuade
Christian Life leader
from our school library to all those who have contributed in many ways over the year, from assisting in the library, covering books or donating books for our children to enjoy.

**Thank you also for remembering to return the children’s borrowed books, the overdue lists have been greatly reduced over the past couple of weeks.**

Over the holidays, please think of the library if you are having a clean out. Next year we will be focusing on Non-Fiction books and replacing some that are now outdated. If you have any books about Space, Animals, Science Experiments, Arts n Crafts or any variety of Non-Fiction that are no longer being used at home, please consider donating these to our library next year.

**Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and hope Santa brings all the children lots of books to read on the holidays.**

The members of our parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference would like to thank all those generous members of the St. Joseph’s school Community who have once again helped us to stock the Christmas Toyshop with wonderful gifts for local families in need.

Together with LinC Church Services, and your help, we will once again be able to bring joy to many children on Christmas Day.
SUMMER SERIES OF LIVE MUSIC

SUNDAY JAN 22

HIGHLY STRUNG live on stage. Performing an exciting blend of contemporary, celtic and world music.

BABAJI’S KITCHEN - bringing you the sumptuous flavours of Indian street food

IN THE BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS OF BULONG ESTATE WINERY FROM 12PM

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Zebras Junction
Early Education
4 Station St Yarra Junction
Phone 59672898

If you have trouble finding vocational care for your school child/ren, Zebra Junction are offering limited vocational care these holidays starting 9th January to 27th January.

$5 a day permit weekly booking or $60 for casual

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Zebras Junction
Early Education
4 Station St Yarra Junction
Phone 59672898

Enrol Now
6 weeks to 6 years
Drop off & pick up
All Saints Pre School
Fees
$92.00 per day
4 days $348.00  5 days $410.00
Short day Fee
$57.00 HOURS 9:00 to 3:30
CCB & CCR APPLY