Our vision states: we value life-long learning and have high expectations of possible achievements.

*** Supervision of students at St Joseph’s School is from 8.35am until 3.20pm ***

G’day parents and friends,

Caio Tutti,

In primo luogo vorrei ringraziare tutti per i contributi per rendere termine di due così tanto successo e per il sostegno che ha dato a Marty McKenna, mentre nella sede “caldo’.

Desidero congratularmi con l’onorevole McKenna per la sua leadership. Il personale di cui al come agevolmente la scuola in funzione, i bambini di cui quanto egli è molto più divertente di me, ei genitori sono stati pieni di lode!

(Mr McKenna said I might come back speaking Italian or French! Firstly I wish to thank everyone for the contributions to making term two so successful and for the support you gave to Marty McKenna whilst in the “hot’ seat.

I wish to congratulate Mr McKenna for his leadership. Staff referred to how smoothly the school operated, children referred to how he is much funnier than me, and parents have been full of praise!)

I had an interesting and worthwhile time on sabbatical studying in Dublin what could be called practical theology, and then a two week cruise in the Mediterranean with my wife Jill and friends, and then with Jill wandering around north Italy in the warm sunshine! Bellagio on Lake Como was our favourite place! Glorious!

Meetings

The feedback from meetings this week with parents, students and teachers has been very positive. Learning is most successful when teachers and parents are “on the same page”, so if you have not met as yet please contact your class teachers soon to ensure good communication. Always, if you have concerns or questions, contact your class teachers.

School Closure Day

Schools are permitted to have 4 closure days each year for professional learning. Last term we worked with local schools enhancing staff capacity to use educational technology. On Friday 21 August we have a day at Alexandra with 4 other Catholic schools on religious education.
Vinnies
This week we received a card from the local St Vinnies group that operates in our parish regarding the response of food and clothing at the end of last term to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

    Many thanks to the children and their families of St Joseph’s School for the wonderful response to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Your gifts of food and clothing will be very helpful to those who do not have enough to feed their families and keep them warm.

    Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated by those you are helping and members of Saint Vincent de Paul Conference.

    God Bless you all,  From Margaret Marshall and St Vincent de Paul Appeal

Enrolments
As we begin preparation for 2016 (yes already!!) could you please inform the office if your children are not attending our school next year. Also, if you have not enrolled your Foundation child please do so NOW! As always, if you can recommend St Joseph’s to friends or neighbours for their children please do!

This week we welcomed the Lindner family, Jonah in Junior V/M and his parents Lindy and Tex.

Yarra Valley Community School Fire Tracks Program
Some students from this school are coming every Wednesday afternoon from this week to clear some of the bush from along some of our running tracks and our boundaries on both sides of the pipeline. These 15-18 year olds will be supervised and will not interact with our students. You may see them about as they come and go. We look forward to building this local relationship and the benefits it will bring to us all.

Circus
Each class began their weekly lessons in circus skills. This was a positive experience for all. Please talk to your children about HOW they learn and to reflect on the experience of learning these unfamiliar skills over the term. There will be a presentation “concert” on Tuesday 1 September at 2:30pm.

As they say in Ireland:
Is féidir leis an éirí an bóthar leat agus an bháisteach ag titim go bog ar do réimsí!
(May the road rise to meet you and may rain fall gently on your fields!)

God bless us all,
John
ALIVE IN OUR FAITH

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Often God's people were scattered and neglected because their religious leader - their 'shepherds' – followed their own way rather than God's. When Jesus came, he put everything else aside to care first for God's people.

There is no limit to God's great love for us. We can trust that God will provide for us, and we can help by being God's presence in the world by the care that we show for others.

Personal reflection

God will provide for our needs, but we are called to help in God's work by looking out for the needs of others. God will work through us, because God lives in us.

Does shepherding mean more than exclusively 'positive strokes'? What are all the various ways that people shepherd me? Am I open to being shepherded? Am I a good shepherd? Do I first think of my sheep before I think of myself?

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday – 4.30pm
Sacred Heart Church, Warburton

Sunday – 9.00am
St. Thomas à Becket Church, Yarra Junction

Parish Priest: Rev Eugene Ashkar
Parish Phone: 9736 2850
Parish Fax: 9736 3285
PO Box 317
Mt Evelyn 3796
Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

LAST WEEKENDS
READINGS

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Am 7:12-15
Amaziah questions Amos.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Second Reading: Eph 1:3-14
God chose us in Christ.
Eph 1:3-10

Gospel Acclamation
See Eph 1:17-18

Gospel: Mk 6:7-13
Jesus sends the Twelve out in pairs.

THIS WEEKENDS
READINGS

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jer 23:1-6
The Lord will appoint new shepherds.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 22. R. v.2

Second Reading: Eph 2:13-18
Christ removes the barriers between peoples.

Gospel Acclamation
Jn 10:27

Gospel: Mk 6:30-34
Jesus pities the crowd, sheep without a shepherd.
Welcome back to Term 3. We are planning to highlight the various social and emotional skills we are teaching and connecting them through all of our daily learning.

What is social and emotional learning?

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and.....

- manage emotions,
- set and achieve positive goals
- feel and show empathy for others
- establish and maintain positive relationships
- make responsible decisions.

This term we are going to be focussing on two areas of social and emotional skills;

**Responsible decision making** and **Social awareness**.

Through the classrooms, assemblies, playground and learning, the spotlight will be placed on each of these skills. From now to the middle of the term we will be focussing on **responsible decision making**. This skill looks at making good choices about personal and social behaviours. One thing we would like to focus on is the language we use. For example, that was a great decision with your learning or how did that decision affect you? This could become part of the home discussion and language especially when talking about knowing which decisions are good or bad, safe or risky or help us with our friends.

**At home you could……**

Read some stories that focus on decisions, such as Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Pigs, Sebastian Lives in a Hat and the list goes on. Highlight the decisions made in the book and rank them as being good, ok or bad, then discuss alternatives. Discuss decisions you made in the day or may have to make, and how you plan for alternatives. The more we talk about these skills with our children, the more chances they get to practice them and apply them. Also, linking money to ‘but I want’, is good way to discuss the decisions we make as parents when it comes to money and how we have to spend it. We cannot always ‘buy or have it’ now, we have to make choices and decisions as to what we need. These are everyday decisions that can bring about some great family discussions.

In next week’s newsletter, KidsMatter have a great article about social and emotional learning to have a read and a think about.

Once again please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss or explore any social or emotional issues that may be happening for your child. I am happy to have a chat and help where I can.

Smiles

Prue Vanstan
Wellbeing Leader
CIRCUS SKILLS – Session 1
Dear parents, friends and students,

Last year, John attended a Principal's Conference in the Northern Territory. On his return to St Joseph’s he couldn't speak highly enough of his experience and staff were encouraged to consider working there one day. Little did he know that I was already seriously interested. A few months later I responded to a 'call for help' (for recruitment) from Catholic Education Northern Territory. After two highly rigorous applications, I was eventually made Deputy Principal of Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre, in Santa Teresa, an indigenous community 83km southeast of Alice Springs. LACEC is a K – 11 school and one of the most successful in the whole of central Australia and the NT. I do NOT regret moving for a second! Although my life is certainly harder now, it's also richer than before. The last six months have been extraordinary… But how do I summarise what I've just experienced? Maybe in terms of Benefits and Challenges? Here they are - in no particular order:

**BENEFITS:**
- The beautiful desert environment, which is nearly always sunny!
- Going on expeditions into the Simpson Desert.
- Learning some words of Eastern Arrernte (the local language).
- Learning to swear in Eastern Arrernte.
- Making friends with indigenous students and families, who are generally very polite and respectful.
- Mixing with students and families out of school, i.e. going for walks around the community, going on bush trips, swimming at the pool, at church, etc. The point being that the distinction between work and life is more blurred than ever before, which is good and bad at the same time.
- Being invited to participate in cultural activities such as the Men's Business 'coming home ceremony', which was the most profound and extraordinary inter-cultural experience of my life. I got smeared with vegetable oil and kangaroos' blood!
- Liaising with Catholic secondary colleges all over Australia, who send 'immersion groups' to experience life and work in the community.
- Experiencing Catholic education in its true form, the 'preferential option for the poor or disadvantaged'.
- Getting to teach and lead across nearly the whole school range, from K to Yr. 11.
- Getting to work with new colleagues from Catholic education systems all over Australia.
- Going on all expenses paid Deputy Network Meetings in Darwin four times a year. Sorry people, it beats 'the burbs' any day! To supplement my PD, I'm also about to start a Masters degree.
- Earning the best money in my life.
- Using the word 'extraordinary' several times a day!

**CHALLENGES:**
- Not being able to drink alcohol whenever I want.
- Not being able to nip to Coles whenever I want.
- My clothes, skin and hair slowly becoming calcified due to the appalling tap / bore water in the area.
- In my unit, download speeds circa 1995!
- Having to put iPads in the FRIDGE on 40+ degree days, whilst the students and I review our progress until they're cool enough to work again. That or getting sucked to death by a whirly-wind!
- DUSST!
- Having to spend four hours every week cleaning student TOILETS because the indigenous cleaners employed to do that practically refuse to.
- Living in a community where there's not enough to do - especially for children. Consequently, they roam around the school after dark, bored out of their minds...
- Having rocks thrown at my office / window when I'm working late.
- Trying to teach Science (my regular teaching commitment) when the students' knowledge of English is limited and their scientific vocabulary is very poor.
- Some students not showing me or other non-indigenous staff the same level of respect as indigenous staff.
- Challenging complacency or an indigenous work ethic, which is sometimes incompatible with the demands of a school (this is present in some though NOT all indigenous staff).
- Challenging the dependency culture or avoiding paternalism; helping but not doing...
- The claustrophobic nature of small community life.
- Unsophisticated Christian thinking.

So that's my experience. Hopefully, I'm better for it and will eventually return to work and life in Melbourne like the Bionic Deputy, stronger, faster and more wrinkled than before. Either that or it'll kill me. Hope you found this interesting. Hope you're all having a good 2015.

[Signature]

Justin [Surname]
LACEC and the community oval rom the hill.
Still green from Christmas rains.

Santa Teresa’s church. The wall paintings inside depict local geography with dreamtime and Bible stories. It’s stunning.

The Beginning of Year Mass.
The student’s church behaviour is absolutely excellent!

The Three-Legged Race at the sports carnival on the oval.
The grass has all died; it’s just a dust bowl now.

My beloved Hilux deep in the Simpson Desert.
I had about 100 flies on me when I took this!

A red-ochre sand dune at Old Andado Station, in the Simpson.
It was sunset. The colours are real.

Wildlife tracks on one of the dunes at Old Andado Station.
A natural dot painting as such.

As Acting Principal, I presented these fine students with their Semester 1 Principal Awards (for participation and behavior).
WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN PROGRAM IS ON AGAIN

Please encourage family and friends to help collect the stickers when they shop at Woolworths.

This enables us to increase the school resources for our wonderful students.

The Upper Yarra RSL Sub-Branch has invited people from all age groups to become involved in this year’s Vietnam Veterans March on **Sunday 16\(^{th}\) August** at 10-30am at the Cenotaph in Yarra Junction.

They have particularly invited our school students (and parents) to come and march behind our school banner.

You may wish to wear medals belonging to grandparents or other relatives.

CONVEYANCE CHEQUES TERM 2 2015

Please note that Conveyance cheques for Term 2 are now available to be collected from the office or to be signed over to go towards fee/levy payments.

Please phone/contact Sue or Di at the office if you would like it sent home with your child.