NEWSLETTER NO: 3

Thursday 18th February 2016

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

G’day parents and friends,

Working Bee Saturday 9-1pm
We have many things to work on including the regular gardening, clearing drains and gutters. As well as dropping a few tree branches. If you have a fence strainer please let me know asap, as we have a few repairs to do.

Accounts
You will have received your account for school costs. If you have a valid health card you are eligible for a discount paid by the government for excursions and camps. Please contact Sue Lucas, as the window for application closes next week! We request that everyone be making some regular payments to keep on top of the fees. We have to pay our bills too!

PFA Meeting
This morning the first Parents and Friends Meeting of the year was held. A report will be published soon.

Car boot sale Sunday 20 March 10 - 3pm
We are running an opportunity for you to make some money by selling all those unused items that clutter up at home. Or you may make or bake things that others might buy! Here is your chance to build your commercial empire! Booking forms will be available soon! A planning meeting is next Thursday 9am.

Photos
Because the new two-tone shirts are for special occasions as well as PE, we will have them for the school photos on Wednesday the 9 March which will also be the first Wednesday for the Foundation students. Sibling photos are only taken on a prepayment basis. Ordering information will come home tomorrow.

Have you seen the growing number of photos in front of the entrance? We are endeavouring to collect family photos of you, our community! Could you please bring or send in photos. We will copy and return them to you straight away. We have had some emailed! We are happy to receive different photos for separated families.

School BBQ Friday 26 February
Each year we have a BBQ to welcome the Foundation and new families. This year we would like to encourage everyone to come! Come and meet new and old friends; those your kids play with! and talk about! A sausage sizzle will be provided! BYO drinks, any other things you wish to cook, and chairs! Please complete and return the attached form.

Emergencies
In all emergencies we will contact you with information using TiQBiz. In emergencies we also wish to access your child’s medical and contact information using Care Monkey. Go to www.caremonkey.com.au where you easily open a free account and securely save information about your children that we then access at school. It will save parents lots of repetitive form filling and help manage student information in any emergency. We have about half students with completed profiles. Thank you to those who have completed them already. If you have any internet access problems please contact the office to arrange completing it at school.
**Head lice**

Last week we have had a few cases of lice and found nits (eggs) in some hair. Four cases in Juniors and two in Foundation, and a few in the upper school. Please regularly check! Please comb out nits, dead and alive! Repeat treatment after a week!

**Camp**

We had a fantastic time! So many of the children were faced with their fears, particularly of heights. We had tears at the top of the abseiling wall and many scared children. They ALL were brave and pushed off into the air to lower themselves!

In the initiatives we watched groups try and fail and try again to solve problems in which the whole group had to complete the task. Watching them improve in LISTENING to each other and SUPPORTING each other and WORKING TOGETHER so the TEAM achieved was a delight!

_God bless us all,_

_John_
Forgiveness and Healing

This term students will be exploring the importance of forgiveness in healing relationships. This is particularly relevant during Lent as we reflect on ourselves and how we can be better people.

The word ‘repent’ is often used in the bible and it literally means to say sorry and be forgiven. In this context, people turn back to God after admitting their wrongdoings and are forgiven unconditionally by a merciful God who seeks to have a relationship with them.

In relationships sometimes people do not forgive leading to grudges. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, (Penance, Confession) God always forgives and gives us the grace to make better choices.

The children will be reflecting on their friendships and how they can hurt others but make up by saying sorry to make others and themselves feel happy.

Karen McQuade
Christian Life Leader

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday – 7.00pm
Sacred Heart Church, Warburton

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

ALIVE IN OUR FAITH

LAST WEEKENDS READINGS
First Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Dt 26:4-10
Moses tells the Israelites of God’s care for them

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

Second Reading: Rom 10:8-13
All who call upon the Lord will be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4:4
Gospel: Lk 4:1-13
Jesus is tempted in the desert.

THIS WEEKENDS READINGS
Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Gen 15:5-12, 17-18
The Lord establishes a covenant with Abraham.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

Second Reading: Phil 3:17 – 4:1
Our citizenship is in heaven. Phil 3:20 – 4:1

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 17:5
Gospel: Lk 9:28-36
Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James and John.
Welcome to 2016. What a great start we have had already. Foundation and Grade 1’s and their Grade 5 / 6 Buddies are beginning to make positive connections. This has been noticeable on the playground with lots of hellos, high fives and chats. The Buddy Bear is , which the ‘little Buddies’ received, is the mascot of Better Buddies – a fun-loving and caring purple bear, who promotes care, security, warmth and comfort . We are sure these values will be promoted and demonstrated by our children this year as they work and play together.

I came across this small article about asking questions after school. I thought it was very helpful in actually hearing something about the day your child had, rather than the “Yep”, “Nup” or “Dunno”. Please find it attached.

Kidspot is a great Australian site for parents with lots of ideas and tips.

As the Wellbeing Leader I am here to help and assist with any social or emotional issues your child may face throughout the year. We have our provisional psychologist Jordan returning this term and he will be available on Tuesdays. We also have Vicky here on Thursday and Fridays who will be offering social and emotional counselling, small group work and social skills sessions for our children. Please see me if you are interested in using these great people to help your child. Both are free of charge. Toby is also available at school if you access a health plan through your doctor. My Wellbeing day is Tuesday if you wish to sit and have a chat at school or on the phone, or contact me via my email:

pvanstan@sjyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Cheers

Prue Vanstan
10 things to ask your child about their day

“How was school today?” you ask brightly.

“Good!” your daughter answers.

“I can’t remember,” your son mutters.

In homes across Australia and, let’s face it, the entire world, this is the scenario being played out. When our kids get home from school we are like eager puppies bouncing around them and they are like fellow puppies, let off the leash and racing away.

A vague question like “how was school today?” just becomes part of the getting-home-from-school ritual. A glass of milk, a quick “dunno” and they’re out the door. If we really want to reconnect with them and get to know them through their day, we’ve got to be clever with our questioning.

The trick is to not sound too detective-like. You don’t want to appear over-eager or raise their suspicions – too many questions makes them think you’re fishing for something to get them in trouble over (or is that just my lot?). We need questions that are specific but open-ended enough to result in an answer that the kids themselves are interested in.

“Did” questions can often result in a “yes” or “no” answer (Did you enjoy your lunch? Did you play with anyone new?). “What” questions are always good (What did you most enjoy at lunchtime?). Ask questions that ask for a description of their world and hopefully open up a genuine conversation.

When they get home from school today, here are 10 conversation starters that will hopefully spark their interest.

1. What was the funniest thing you heard all day?
2. What was your favourite thing that happened today?
3. Did your teacher say something funny today? What happened?
4. What subject was the most interesting today?
5. Was anyone away today? Did that make the day different?
6. What was something new you read today?
7. What happened today that you wish hadn’t happened?
8. What did you enjoy most for lunch today?
9. What are you learning about in science?
10. Did anyone do something nice for you today? Did you do something nice back?

And a bonus question that is always absolutely lovely to ask:

What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

Remember that a conversation is a two-way street. You can open up your questions with an anecdote from you own day. “I laughed so much today when I dropped my shopping all over the kitchen floor… what made you laugh a lot today?” kind of thing. Actually, I didn’t laugh at all when I dropped the shopping all over the kitchen floor today (eggs!), but maybe I should have…

Keep the conversation going and maybe, just maybe, you’ll actually get to know the answer to “how was school today?”
This year we will be holding a market day / car boot sale on Sunday 20 March from 10am – 3pm.

We are hoping to have a variety of stalls with food, handmade items, second hand goods, local businesses and community groups etc.

You are invited to book a spot – more details to come shortly.

Quality second-hand goods (not clothing) can be brought in to school at the beginning of March.

Come and sign up for Junior Netball on March 4 at the Yarra Centre
SCHOOL BARBECUE

☐ We will be attending

☐ We will not be attending

the BBQ on Friday 26th February at 6.00pm.

Sausages will be available free!

_________ Adults

_________ School age children

The ___________________ family.
Please note that, as part of the proposed transition from Yarra Valley Uniforms to Parents and Friends taking over school uniforms, these items are now being sold by Parents and Friends.

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<th>SIZE</th>
<th>COST</th>
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<td>Sport Polo (navy/sky blue) 6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
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<td>Schoolbag</td>
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Please note that cash is the preferred method of payment during the transition period.