G'day parents and friends,

The year seems to be rushing to a conclusion! In the busyness at school preparing student reports, graduation, and classes for next year, shopping, sporting activities, and rounds of end of year social activities, it is easy to forget that this is the first week of Advent. In these last 4 weeks to Christmas we are called to sometimes slow down or stop to consider what are really important and focus on those. The Christian focus is to reflect upon oneself to identify some way of being a better person and acting on it, thus better to receive the gift of Christmas. We are each a work in progress.

12 December, Monday: Whole school bike ride or walk.
Last year we held our inaugural whole school event. It was very successful. We will tweak it a little this year to improve it. Last year we had a high turnout of parents either riding, walking or being part of the road crew. So this is advance notice! We will begin and end at the Yarra Centre to remove the hassle of returning most of bikes to school. So please consider ways you might be able to drop them and pick them up there. More information will come soon.

Late to school
Congratulations to the Middle T which was rewarded with an icy pole for being best improved on time last week. Every day we have children who arrive after school has begun. Some days 20 - 30 children are late! Often it is just a few moments during which messages are given to the children about changes to the day. Sometimes it is after the children are in class receiving explanations or important teaching is occurring. Sometimes these delays are unavoidable. Often it seems not! As an incentive we are rewarding classes that have the best weekly attendance with icy poles and additional play!

Accounts
Thank you to those who have been attending to the completion of your payments for 2016. We will be chasing up a few people over the next week.

CODE RED DAYS

Although it has been raining this week the fire season will soon be upon us, this is just a reminder that the school in compulsorily closed on these days and no one is allowed to be at school. You will be informed as soon as we are notified by a notice from school, TIQBIZ, and Facebook. There were NO declared CODE RED days last year for Central region.

Dates
6 December, Tuesday: Orientation “Step up” day - Foundation: 12:30 - 3pm, Yr 1-6:1:20 -3pm (was 7/12, changed to match other kinders and schools)
12 December, Monday: Whole school bike ride or walk.
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.

God bless us all,

John
Advent

On Sunday we will begin the second week of Advent: a season of four weeks that we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

We are called to reflect on the coming of Jesus today through the Holy Spirit and the future coming of Jesus at end times when he will judge us. The season offers the opportunity to take a good look at our lives and ask ourselves whether or not we are living the kind of lives that allow others to see Christ in us. It is part of the Catholic tradition to pray around an Advent wreath at this time. The Advent wreath is a circle, of evergreens as a reminder that God has no beginning or end. The candles represent the four weeks of Advent. They symbolise the light of Jesus who came into the world to teach us about the love of God. Three of the candles are purple, reminding us of the penitential nature of the season and one is pink, symbolising joy. The first candle represents our hope that comes from God, who is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. The second candle represents the peace that can come from God when we pray and follow the example and teachings of Jesus in our lives.

**Action:** Make a conscious effort this week to do something to promote justice and choose one way to help bring peace to your own part of the world. Offer to visit an elderly neighbour, stand up for someone who is picked on at school or in the workplace, or discourage gossip among your friends.

Karen McQuade
Christian Life leader

**Weekend Mass Times**

**Saturday – 7.00pm**
Sacred Heart Church, Warburton

**Sunday – 8.30am**
St. Thomas à Becket Church, Yarra Junction

**LAST WEEKEND’S READINGS**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading:** Is 2:1-5
*All nations shall stream to the mountain of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm**
Ps 121:1-2, 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

**Second Reading:** Rom 13:11-14
*Live honourably, the day of the Lord is near.*

**Gospel Acclamation**
Ps 84:8

**Gospel:** Mt 24:37-44
*The Lord is coming when we least expect.*

**THIS WEEKEND’S READINGS**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading:** Is 11:1-10
*A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse. Peace and justice will triumph.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Second Reading:** Rom 15:4-9
*Live in harmony with one another.*

**Gospel Acclamation**
Lk 3:4. 6

**Gospel:** Mt 3:1-12
*John the Baptist begins to preach in the desert.*
LIBRARY BORROWING CLOSES tomorrow
FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER

The last borrowing for students this year in the library has taken place this week. Next week, please encourage your children to return all their library books for the year as they finish reading them.

It is very important to have all books returned by the end of the year as a stock take is undertaken over the holiday break.

Individual overdue notices have been sent home, please help your child to find and return all books on their list. If the books cannot be found, please return the list to the office or the library and specify which ones, so we can conduct a search for them here at school.

Thank you for your help with this ☺.

The UNIFORM SHOP will be open Monday 5/12 from 3pm and during the ‘step up’ session on Wednesday 7/12 from 12:30-3pm. The uniform shop will then be closed until after the school holidays.

Please note that we can only accept cash or Cheque.

St Joseph's Yarra Junction Community Facebook group-
https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjosephsyjcommunity

Parents and families are invited to join St Joseph's Yarra Junction Community Facebook group. The group aims to keep everyone up to date, share events and notices, as well as buy, swap and sell uniform. This group is run by parents not school. This is not a space to discuss any grievances with the school, please take them to the leadership team or a member of the advisory board.

TOMORROW: Free dress – bring an item for the Christmas raffle
Turbo Camp 2017

$50 Sponsorship Available

No Questions Asked

Turbo.CYC.ORG.AU

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