Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back!

It is hard to believe that I write this at the beginning of my second year here at St Joseph’s Yarra Junction. Time has passed so quickly and at times I have felt that I haven’t had enough time to fully participate and enjoy all aspects of community life. Certainly here, as one thing finishes we quickly move onto the next. As we look back on the 2012 school year we should do so with much pride and joy. As a community we should be very proud of what we are able to achieve on a daily basis. Our achievements are many! Whilst we are aware that we face many challenges, I believe we meet these head on, with commitment and persistence to provide the best possible Catholic education for our students. Our students continue to develop into well-rounded citizens who constantly represent the school well. Whether through academic achievement, success on the sporting fields, performances on the stage, tackling social justice issues or just being nice kids, our students continue to make us proud.

In my time here we have articulated our strengths and identified areas where further development is required. We have started compiling strategies that we hope will take us in a positive direction for the next 4 years. The process of establishing a clear strategic direction will take place in 2013 as the school undertakes a review of all aspects of the school through the School Improvement Framework.

Assembly

To facilitate our specialist programs, School celebratory assemblies will be 2:30pm in the SPA Centre on every second Wednesday afternoon this year. Families are always welcome. On the alternate Wednesdays the children will participate in their Friendship Groups which consist of children from all levels. On Monday mornings we will have a brief 8:55am assembly. On other days the children will gather together for prayer and physical activities but not an assembly. The first celebration assembly is 20 February.

School Mass

On Friday 8 Feb at 9am we celebrate the beginning of the year with a Mass. Families are encouraged to join us. The senior students will receive their jackets and introduce their buddies.

Cont’d............
School Information Night
At 7pm Thursday 7 February parents are invited to a brief information meeting. Starting together you will receive an overview of school programs then move to level meetings with class teachers. The level session will be repeated so you have the opportunity to attend another level in which you may have a child.

Introductory Parent Teacher Meetings
On Wednesday 13 February parents are provided with the opportunity to meet with class teachers to help them understand your child and your expectations of them. Meetings start at 2pm while the children will be with specialist teachers. Please reply on the form sent home on Friday.

Working Bees
To maintain our beautiful grounds and facilities requires constant work! We provide many opportunities for you to assist. Please indicate on the form sent home on Friday a minimum of one working bee for you to donate you labour. In addition you may approach me to identify an alternative time and specific job. Thank you for your assistance. Our first working bee is THIS Friday. The tasks are to paint the covered area so the art work that children made last year can be attached; and to remove the big bushes and trees between the oval and kitchen garden. So we need painters and their ladders, and saws etc!

School Closure Days
As part of the 4 year School Improvement Framework process we will have two pupil free days on 18/19 March.

Foundation
Over time each state developed their own programs for a special first year of school calling them preparatory class, reception, kindergarten, or not having one at all as in Queensland. This year the first year of education is called Foundation all across our Commonwealth as we introduce a national curriculum.

Allergies
One of the most common allergies in children is to nuts, especially peanuts. To minimise risks parents are requested to maintain the school as nut free. So please check snack bars etc, and make peanut butter a home treat!

God bless us all,
John

Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle Tickets – Sacred Heart Parish
This week every school family will receive a book of 5 raffle tickets to sell to help raise funds for our parish. Tickets are $2 each and each family that sells a book will receive a ticket in the Parents and Friends Easter raffle. (There will be no other tickets sold for the Easter raffle).

If you are unable or unwilling to sell these tickets please return them to the office at once so they can be re-allocated!
Welcome to the new school year! This year we begin with wellbeing and values education for all classes and will be striving to make the values of the Gospel relevant to everyday life for the children. The gospel values are those that Jesus taught and practised. They encompass our school values of:

- care – appreciate and care for each other, our belongings and the natural environment
- respect – be aware of the rights of all people, everyone is special and important
- responsibility – for own actions, follow rules, work to best of ability
- justice – promote a just world that promotes the dignity of each person - love, truth peace
- collaboration – build relationships, sense of belonging
- learning – value lifelong learning and have high expectations of possible achievements, opportunities to develop spiritually, physically, academically, emotionally, socially and culturally.

Values are the basis of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes taught in the Bible. All values are based on love which is both an emotion and a value (caring). Through these we aim to promote a caring attitude in our community, following in the footsteps of Jesus.

This year we will again offer information evenings and the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Baptism needs to be arranged with Fr. Ashkar and this can be done by attending a meeting at the parish church, held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. I am always available if you wish to discuss anything. An information evening will be held on Tuesday, 26th February at the school for parents of children wishing to receive the other sacraments. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is likely to be held on Tuesday, 19th March, First Eucharist will be on 2nd June and Confirmation on 15th November.

Karen McQuade
Christian Life Leader
Private piano lessons with: Maria Mithen on Mondays
Sarah Wilson on Fridays

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Parents who have a current Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card (Valid at 30th January 2013) are entitled to claim the Education Maintenance Allowance.

This form must be completed EACH YEAR.

Forms are available from the office and must be returned to the office by February 25th.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

Conveyance allowance forms need only be completed once for each child unless the family changes address.

New students who live further than 4.8 kilometres from the nearest Catholic school can claim the allowance.

Forms are available from the office.
This is strictly audited and the route must be the most direct one.
DAYS WITH DAD
2013

Our exciting project begins this Term, targeting our Dad’s….You! The idea is to connect with your kids, school and community through some great activities. Dad’s spend a great deal of time working and often can’t make it to many events but here is your chance! The first night will be great fun and is run by Better Men Australia. Date Night with Dad is a game show night for Dads and their primary school kids only. The second event, is a blokes only night about kids and parenting. Pizza will be supplied. Once again this is run by the guys from Better Men Australia and promises to be a good night. Next Term, we are connecting with Ben’s Shed to make and create for our quiet shared area. This will be a one off session wood working in the shed.

All of these activities have been funded by a grant we received from School Focused Youth Service.

As previously mentioned last year, we will happily welcome any Grandads, Uncles or special significant males to come along and support their special child here at the school.

Dates for Term 1:

Date Night with Dad     19th February
and
Dads Only Parent Night   27th March

Please contact me for any further information. It is worthwhile, valuable and will mean a great deal to the children.

Come on Dads this for you and your children!

Prue Vanstan
Wellbeing Leader
2013 EASTERN YARRA VALLEY TRIANGLE MASTERS

School Term 1 venues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yarra Glen</th>
<th>Monbulk</th>
<th>Yarra Junction</th>
<th>Yarra Glen</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 10Feb13</td>
<td>Sunday 24Feb13</td>
<td>Sunday 17Mar13</td>
<td>Sunday 24Mar13</td>
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Commencing at 9 am each day

Entry Fee $15

Terms 2, 3 & 4 schedules to be decided. Masters Finals Sunday 8 December 2013

The Eastern Yarra Valley Triangle Masters has been created to provide players suitable unisex competition in:

- **10 and under singles** age Division of pre-pennant and pre-tournament standard, featuring -
  - 50% compression red balls
  - smaller courts (6 on a full size court) and smaller nets
  - multiple first to 7 points matches in the day
  - under arm serves

- **12 and under doubles** age Division of early pennant and early tournament standard (including 10/U and 11/U) -
  - 75% compression green balls
  - play on standard courts and standard games
  - introducing "Selection Tennis" method of multiple partners and matches in the day
  - players must be able to serve over arm and score standard games

- **Player eligibility** - must be the relevant age, or under, as at 31 December
  - accepted in each Division
    - within 24 hours of close of entries
    - highest ranked players invited to the December Masters Finals
    - where improved standard demands
  - restricted to Yarra Valley or Eastern Region Tennis junior players

Entry is not restricted to Yarra Valley or Eastern Region Tennis junior players. Clubs can apply to have their venues involved in the Masters Competition in subsequent school terms.

The President should apply via email with venue name, address, contact details (including mobile) to eyvtmlasters@bigpond.com

Yarra Valley Uniforms
PAYMENT TO DONNA BY CREDIT CARD IS NOW AVAILABLE

The Uniform Shop is open on Tuesdays after school.
Donna’s contact number is: 0427 516 375.

2013 School Term 1

Please send an email to yourservetennis@live.com.au if you would like your child to participate
"Wesburn Junior Football Club Registration day for U10, U12, U14, U16 will be held on Sunday 10th Feb 12-2pm at Wesburn Football Ground. BBQ provided. For further information please email WesburnJFC@gmail.com or call Ray on 0419 573 699"