Dear parents and friends,

Australian Catholic University
Last Tuesday the school was visited by a group of specialist maths teachers and pre-service teachers from Australian Catholic University. The specialists undertook demonstration lessons in our Junior, Middle and Senior classrooms and these were observed by our regular teachers as part of their professional development. As you know, we are working hard to improve teaching and learning in mathematics at St. Joseph’s – Yarra Junction and to that end, we are fortunate to be part of the Contemporary Teaching and Learning in Mathematics (CTLM) program.

Long Service Leave
Mr Faulkner and his wife, Jill, arrived safely in China and are now staying with his brother, who lives and works there. We wish Mr Faulkner a well-earned rest and a safe and happy holiday. For the next two weeks I (Mr Colley) will be overseeing the school. Please do not hesitate to approach me if there is anything I can help you with. My breath might smell but I don’t bite! ;-)

Catholic Identity Survey
St Joseph’s – Yarra Junction is currently involved in a mandatory data gathering exercise introduced by the CEOM. This informs our school review, which will occur next year. All staff at SJS and our Senior students have to undertake the survey. In addition, we need as many of YOU – the parents – as possible to take the survey. (Currently, we do not have enough parent responses to make it valid). The data will help us understand what we think of St Joseph’s as a Catholic school and what we would like as the ideal Catholic school. Those of you who are not Catholic or feel that you do not practice your religion are still encouraged to participate. Responses will remain totally anonymous.

To encourage your participation, once again, the school’s computer facilities in the Fast ForWord room will be made available on Thursday 7th June at 2pm. All the coffee and cake you can take will be provided to help you think!

Alternatively, you can complete the survey at home. Simply go to www.schoolidentity.net, then logon with ‘Oceania’ and follow the prompts. The survey takes about 45 minutes to complete. If you would like any advice about the survey please feel free to approach me.

P & F St Jo’s School Disco
Just to remind you that our P & F School Disco will be held in the SPA Centre on Friday 15th June between 6pm and 9pm. Tickets cost $6 per student or $15 per family. Last year’s event was a HUGE success and I am sure that this year’s will be just as good. The school disco raises valuable funds. I look forward to seeing you there! Please return your booking forms to Sue Lucas as soon as possible.
NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK continued...

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal 2012
During June, St Vincent de Paul is holding its annual Winter Appeal. You can assist by donating non-perishable food items and blankets and doonas that are in good condition. (No clothing please). These can be left at the school office. If you are able to make a financial contribution, donation envelopes are also available at the office. Sue Lucas will be launching the appeal at our Celebration Assembly on Tuesday afternoon. It will culminate with our Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass on Friday 15th June.

Education Maintenance Allowance
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) will be restructured in 2013, and result in an increase in payment provided directly to families. EMA payments will increase from $117.50 to $200 for parents of eligible preps, $117.50 to $150 for all other eligible primary students. The school start bonus has been discontinued.

Absentee notes
Just a reminder that we require a note from parents if a child is absent from school. This is kept on file and needs to include reason for absence. Thank you for your assistance with this procedure.

School Fees
It would be appreciated if all parents could ensure that they have paid Term 1 school fees and levies as soon as possible to enable St Joseph’s to meet our own financial responsibilities. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Family Camp
Have you booked for the Cup Day weekend?

Lost Property!

There are plenty of tops floating about, many without names!! Parents have to be responsible for that, not the students. So... please check that your names are legible. Perhaps some of the missing named ones might return!

2013 Enrolments!
Just a reminder that if you have a Prep for 2013, please pick up enrolment forms from the office, so we can start to plan our 2013 groupings.

Have a great week, everyone!

Justin Colley
Assistant Principal
**ALIVE IN OUR FAITH**

The gospel readings in the next few weeks focus on being energised with the spirit of God and setting our sights on being like Jesus. We are challenged to work for the kingdom, relying on his power and guidance.

The following prayer reflects on how we can make Jesus present in our world.

Blessed are you who think prayerfully of others…
For you possess the mind of God.

Blessed are you who see the hurts of others…
For you possess the eyes of Christ.

Blessed are you who listen to others…
For you possess the ears of Christ.

Blessed are you who speak kindly to others…
For you possess the mouth of Christ.

Blessed are you who show love to others…
For you possess the heart of Jesus.

Blessed are you who reach out to others…
For you possess the hands of Christ.

Blessed are you who walk the extra mile for others…
For you possess the feet of Christ.

Blessed are you who persevere in being Jesus’ witnesses with compassion and love for all people…
For you possess the healing presence of Christ, And yours is the Kingdom of Heaven.

*By Rev. Elio Capra SDB*

Karen McQuade
Christian Life Leader
This week’s morning fitness roster:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Location if wet</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Echidnas</td>
<td>Power Walk</td>
<td>Meet in undercover area. Walk around school paths</td>
<td>Meet in undercover area. Walk around passages/stairs in main building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Bellman</td>
<td>Obstacle Course</td>
<td>Meet on playground</td>
<td>South building shared area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dingos</td>
<td>Relays</td>
<td>Basketball court</td>
<td>Church meeting room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Booth</td>
<td>Commando</td>
<td>SPA gym or driveway</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Drago</td>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Basketball court</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kangaroos</td>
<td>Pentathlon</td>
<td>Oval</td>
<td>Join in with Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs McQuade</td>
<td>Circuit Training</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wombats</td>
<td>Skipping</td>
<td>Roundabout</td>
<td>SPA Performing Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Vranken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Colley</td>
<td>Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bandicoots</td>
<td>Pentathlon</td>
<td>Oval</td>
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<td>Mrs Vanstan/</td>
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<td>Mrs Bourke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tassie Devils</td>
<td>Skipping</td>
<td>Roundabout</td>
<td>SPA Performing Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Traynor/</td>
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<td>Meet in undercover area. Walk around passages/stairs in main building.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Brown</td>
<td>Obstacle Course</td>
<td>Meet on playground</td>
<td>South building shared area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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CHILDREN’S ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Josh Mazurak who was selected to play in the U12 Dandenong Ranges Interleague Football team and Noah Anduez who has been selected to play in the U11Dandenong Ranges Interleague Football team.

WELL DONE!
Thank you to the following people who have brought in **Woolworths Earn & Learn stickers**:

Noah Andueza, Shaedyn Bannerman, Jack Bourke, Jaxon Bowman, Ellen and Max Bradley, Mia Caneva, Samantha Edwards, Patrick Huynh, Maximus Iskra, Bethany & Andrew King, Emily Knight, Ethan, Liam, Genevieve & James Linder, Joel Lunson, Sally McIntosh, Joshua Mazurak, Ruby Mellett, James Morgan, Hamish Murphy, Madisyn, Tarkyn and Tahlia Nicolandos, Charlie Nyhuis, Rory & Cameron Nyko, Grace & Jack Patterson, Joshua Peels, Tahlia Robin, Peter & Roisin Scoble, Tori & Josh Sharp, Keeley Slater, The Taylor Family, Charlotte & Harry Vranken, Adina & Ethan Ziegler, Simone Traynor, Sue McConachy, Graeme Morritt, Sue Lucas & John Faulkner.


More sticker cards are available at the office – KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!!

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**Covering our new books**

*Thank you to the many people who have willingly offered to cover our new resource books. If you still have books at home, please return them to the school [even if not covered], so that we can redistribute them. We are very keen to use these resources in our classrooms.*

*If you are available to cover more books for us, please let us know. Working together in this way is what makes St Joe’s a great place to be!*  

*Thank you.*
The Middles visited the Lego education centre in Moonee Ponds last Friday as part of their Integrated Studies unit on Technology. They participated in workshops to build pieces of technology and learn about how they worked.

1. **Lifting levers**
   Children explored first, second and third class levers through building them and investigating the use of levers in action. They designed a solution using levers for picking up glasses by not bending their backs.

2. **Go Green Car**
   They explored the use of a capacitor and generator to transfer and store energy and investigating how green energy (renewable) can power a vehicle. Students designed and built an energy efficient car to race against others.

3. **WeDo Crocbot**
   Children built and computer programmed a crocbot (robot crocodile) with a motor and motion sensor to eat anything that came in its way.

Some comments from the children:
Best excursion yet. I never knew how to build levers and program Lego to do what you want. Jack S.
I enjoyed it. I thought the place was going to be a bit bigger. It was really cool. Ella R
It was fun building the croc and car and it was fun making the grabby things (levers). Anastasia A.

If parents are interested in taking their children for birthday parties, fun Sundays or holiday programs, details can be found on the website: [http://www.mooreed.com.au](http://www.mooreed.com.au)

**Fast ForWord News**
Our students in Fast ForWord are working really hard and getting some wonderful results. If you, as parents, are seeing any changes in your children please let us know. Your feedback is extremely important to us.
Looking ‘ForWord’ to hearing from you.
Fast ForWord team.
INSIGHTS
by Michael Grose - No. 1 parenting educator

Sorting out sibling squabbles

"Healthy families know how to fight well. When parents take an active approach to helping their children resolve their fights, they are teaching them a valuable life skill as well as reducing the incidence of fighting over the long term."

If your kids constantly fight with each other, then don’t despair. All that emotional energy isn’t going to waste.

According to a recent study, sibling fights teach kids important conflict resolution skills. In fact, parents who stop their children from arguing may well be depriving them of important learning opportunities.

Researcher Laurie Kramer from the University of Illinois in the US found that kids who learned how to argue with their siblings had more advanced emotional development.

Anecdotally, it seems that sibling fighting is one of the biggest impediments to parents enjoying family life. Many parents tell me that if their children stop bickering, their lives would improve dramatically.

Many parents also worry that their children who fight with each other will not get along as adults. The evidence doesn’t support this view. The test for strong families is more about the willingness for kids to pull together when the chips are down, than the frequency of the squabbling.

Healthy families know how to fight well. When parents take an active approach to helping their children resolve their fights, they are teaching them a valuable life skill as well as reducing the incidence of fighting over the long term. Here are some ideas;

✓ Model good conflict resolution skills. Kids learn by imitation. If they see parents resolve disputes in a calm and respectful manner, they are more likely to do the same.

✓ Focus on emotions. When kids come to you for help, say something like: "Yep, it would make me mad too if someone said that to me." Usually someone’s feelings get hurt when siblings argue so make sure you recognise their emotions without taking sides. This focus on feelings helps kids develop emotional literacy and promotes empathy.

✓ Explain why siblings may have behaved the way they do. Ask questions like, "What do you think she meant by that?" Kids are faulty observers and only see one side during disputes. It’s the job of parents to round out the picture, and help kids see that there are two sides to any dispute.

✓ Coach them on sorting out disputes. Kids need the chance to sort out their conflicts themselves, but sometimes they need a little coaching. Don’t waste time trying to sort out who started an argument. Instead, make some suggestions such as taking turns, giving way, bargaining and swapping.

✓ Encourage them to restore their relationships. Kids often get over disputes far quicker than adults. They can be squabbling one minute and cuddling up the next, so it gets tricky intervening sometimes. However, there are times when you need to encourage a child to mend bridges with an aggrieved sibling. This can mean kids have to swallow their pride, admit that they may be wrong, make an apology or make some sort of restitution such as doing a special favour. This type of restoration means kids must take responsibility for their behaviour and is a sign of growing maturity.

Children without siblings can learn conflict resolution skills by spending time with other peers and friends, and having parents who are willing to argue with them without coming on to strong or laying down the law.

Conflict and siblings tend to go together like bread and butter. While sibling squabbles can be annoying, they also offer parents great opportunities to help kids to handle conflict effectively, which is a great life skill.
FETE MEETING

On Wednesday 20th June
at 7.00pm
at St Joseph’s school
for all those interested in learning about plans for the 2013 fete, those with ideas to impart or those with offers of help.
PIANO LESSONS

As Maria Mithen’s quota of piano students is full, Ms Sarah Wilson has offered to give lessons to additional students.

Ms Wilson can take students from Year Prep to Year 6 and will give lessons on Tuesdays during school hours. The cost is $25 for a 30 minute lesson and is to be paid per term.

A form is available at the school office for parents who are interested in enrolling their child/ren.

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St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

As the days get shorter and the weather colder, think of those in our community who find it difficult to put hot meals on the table or keep themselves and their children warm.

During the month of June, St Vincent de Paul is holding its annual Winter Appeal. You can assist by donating non-perishable food items and blankets and doonas that are in good condition. (No clothing please). These can be left at the school office. If you are able to make a financial contribution, donation envelopes are also available at the office.

In previous years the School Community has been very generous in its support, and we hope you can once again help people in our local community who are experiencing difficulty.

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Yarra Valley Uniforms

ORGANIC COTTON CHILDREN’S UNDERWEAR NOW AVAILABLE

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

Remember to keep receipts to claim on your Education Tax Refund next year.
PLEASE parents of Junior students – could you check the name on your child’s windcheater. Ethan Linder’s named windcheater has been missing since the Photo trail excursion.