Dear Parents and Friends,

Advent
As we anticipate Christ’s Advent, we are called to transcend the materialism of the modern world and focus on its real meaning: God entering human existence!
In this second week of advent the voice of the prophet John the Baptist cries to us from the wilderness, prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight! We are the path and called to change our lives so it is ready to receive the message of the Good News. So, we are challenged to consider how we can each be better people, to our family, friends, and those we meet in passing.

Swimming
Swimming started today. We are blessed with fine weather this week. Parents are always welcome to walk with us to the pool, or to meet us there to assist the clothes changing of the youngsters.

Survey
For those who have returned the survey on my job, thank you. Another form is attached to provide an opportunity to assist, and I encourage you to return it TOMORROW.

Choir and Choral Group
Today our children sang for some of our senior citizens in town. On Thursday you will hear our magnificent choristers singing in the arcade at noon and at the library at 1:30. If you have a chance go along and support them.

Parents and Friends Committee
The Committee invites its friends to gather at the RSL at 7pm on Wednesday for dinner. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Nits
We still have a few cases at the moment! So please check all your children.

Come Lord Jesus

John
John Faulkner
Principal
ALIVE IN OUR FAITH

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 24th December
6.30pm Family Mass at Yarra Junction
8.30pm Mass at Pallotti
Midnight Mass at Mt Evelyn

Christmas Day 25th December
7.00am Dawn Mass at Mt Evelyn
9.00am Mass at Warburton
11.00am Mass at Mt Evelyn

To prepare for the 6.30pm Family Mass at Yarra Junction on Christmas Eve, there will be a Parish Choir practice on Monday 12th December at 7.30pm. If you would like to part of the choir for this liturgy, please come along.

Parents, grandparents, past students … All welcome!

THIS WEEKENDS READINGS
Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Is 40:1-5. 9-11
In the desert make ready the way of the Lord.

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

Second Reading: 2 Pt 3:8-14
The Lord shows great patience.

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 3:4. 6

Gospel: Mk 1:1-8
John the Baptist proclaims the coming of the Messiah.

NEXT WEEKENDS READINGS
Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Is 61:1-2.10-11
Isaiah proclaims the goodness of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

Second Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24
Rejoice and pray always.

Gospel Acclamation: Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Gospel: Jn 1:6-8.19-28
The priests and Levites question John's identity.
Orienteering

Congratulations to all children who participated in the Orienteering Competition at Maroondah Dam last Friday. It was a difficult course and provided an opportunity for many children to demonstrate persistence and co-operation. Special congratulations to the following children who were place getters on the day.

| Grade 3 Girls | Shantelle D | 3rd place |
| Grade 3 Pairs | Stella and Josh M | 1st place |
|               | Pacey and Declan | 2nd place |
|               | Shamus and Dane | 3rd place |
| Grade 4 Boys  | Noah A | 1st place |
| Grade 5 Girls | Natalie B | 1st place |
| Grade 5 Boys  | Tom D | 1st place |
|               | Josh M | 2nd place |
|               | Tyson SS | 3rd place |
| Grade 5 Pairs | Rhys F and Michael R | 1st place |
| Grade 6 Boys  | Brendan H | 1st place |
|               | Braden T | 2nd place |
| Grade 6 Pairs | Belle and Maddi | 2nd place |
|               | Grace and Belinda | 3rd place |

Orienteering

On the 2nd of December 2011 St Joes went to Maroondah Dam to do orienteering. Some people paired up with partners. The Grade 4s and 5s and Grade 3s all went on different tracks. Then we all sat down and all the people that came 1st, 2nd and 3rd got certificates.

We also did something like a photo trail where we had to try find little men at all different controls. Then we got lollies. St Joe’s was very successful. Lots of us fell over in mud. We all had a great day.

By Stella Paterson and Kane McDonald.

On the second of December Middles and Seniors went to orienteering.

It was a bit muddy on the day so some people slipped over. We all loved it and in the end we were all exhausted.

These are some people who won awards: Declan Taeuber, Pacey Luttgens, Josh Meerkotter, Stella Paterson, Rhys Foley, Braden Taeuber.

By Archer Noonan and Joshua Read
Keep the spirit of generosity alive

Developing a sense of sharing in kids is really important for their future relationships as well as the well-being of our communities.

If there was one positive to come out of the terrible Victorian bushfires it was the astounding response of ordinary Australians to the plight of the bushfire victims. It seemed everyone wanted to do something to ease their burden.

Helping out wasn’t just left up to adults. Kids of all ages did their bit. It seems there wasn’t a school that didn’t have a sausage sizzle, free dress day or fund-raiser of some type. Kids everywhere passed on used toys, donated their pocket money, or volunteered to help in any way they could.

I heard the story of a nine year old whose mum went into his bedroom to growl at him for being up too late. She found him busy emptying his money box into little plastic bags, ready to donate at the school bushfire appeal next day. This mother was pretty chuffed as she knew the money box represented over 6 months pocket money, including Christmas contributions. She then helped him look through his drawers for any coins that he may have missed. There are plenty of stories like this showing the generosity of Australian kids.

The trick now is to keep alive this spirit of generosity that has been triggered by this tragedy. With families shrinking, kids get fewer opportunities to help others than before. They are less likely to help out at home without being paid.

And of course, young children are egocentric by nature so giving is not exactly a high priority for them. But part of a parent’s job is to remind children that the world doesn’t revolve around them.

In the eagerness to get kids off to a good start in life, a spirit of generosity is one quality that parents can easily overlook. Developing independence and personal competencies tend to be higher on most parents’ wish lists for their kids.

But developing a sense of sharing in kids is really important for their future relationships as well as the well-being of our communities. Children who are able to share their time, space and possessions generally have more friends and experience more success than those who are self-centred and mean-spirited.

Like most facets of child-rearing, developing a community ethos in kids can be a frustrating task but perseverance and modeling are parents’ greatest allies when it comes to things that really matter.

Here are four practical ways to keep the spirit of generosity alive in your kids:

1. Encourage them to give toys, books and clothes away when they have finished with them.
2. Expect them to do at least one job at home each day that’s not tied to pocket-money.
3. Ask them to put away a small amount of pocket-money each week for charity or to help others.
4. Encourage them to visit, or even help, an elderly or sick neighbor, if safe to do so.

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**Notice Board**

**Christmas Raffle**

The Christmas raffle will be drawn at the end of the year Mass at 9.00am on Wednesday 21st December.

**P&F Christmas Dinner**

The P&F Christmas Dinner has been booked for 7pm on Wednesday 21st December at the Upper Yarra RSL.

If you have helped the P&F during the year, you are welcome to attend. Please note the night is pay your own way. Please contact Jo on 0403 504 096.

**Business Register**

Recently the St Joseph’s Business Register form went home to help us form a database of businesses in our school community. We would love to help support business that help support the school so if you would like to know more or get another form, please call John Iskra on 0488889955

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**Christmas Carols**

Come and listen to the Choral Group singing Christmas carols in Yarra Junction on Thursday 8th December.

They will be performing:
- in the arcade near Safeway from 12.00-12.45pm
- at Yarra Junction Library from 1.30 -2.00pm

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**PIANO RECITAL**

Sports & Performing Arts Stage
St. Joseph’s Primary School Milners Road, Yarra Junction
Monday 12th December
4.15pm

You are invited to hear the children perform their repertoire and duets on the Baby Grand piano.
BYO afternoon tea plate to share.
RSVP: Maria Mithen
0422 842 969
YMCA BUSHFIRE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Highlights these holidays include Wild Action Zoo, Carnival Day, Tenpin Bowling and an Outdoor Camp!

More information can be found at www.bushfireprograms.ymca.org.au from Friday 25th November or by calling (03) 8736 6520.

Bookings for the Summer holiday period open 8.00am Tuesday 6th December and close 5.00pm Wednesday 21st December. We strongly advise families to book quickly in the booking period as some programs will book out. However, please note early bookings will not take precedence.

Paul’s bottle cap collecting is still going – please keep saving them and bring them in to the office.

Yarra Valley Uniforms

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

Remember to keep receipts to claim on your Education Tax Refund next year.

Yarra Junction Library

Horse Fun
Friday January 13th 11.30 -1.30pm. All things horsey. Design a front cover for a horse book to win a prize. Horse crafts, books and film clips. BYO lunch, drinks provided. Bookings required 59671588

Super Hero Lunch day
Friday January 20th 11.30 - 1.30pm. Come dressed as your favourite superhero, be in it for a prize. Make masks, read stories, watch film clips, have fun. BYO lunch drinks provided. Bookings required 59671588

CHILDREN’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- Congratulations to Grace Robinson for receiving the Performance Award in Tap Dancing.