Parents and friends,

We’ve enjoyed a number of wonderful events this week! On Tuesday several of our Year 6 Leaders were involved in a Wreath Making Workshop that resulted in the creation of a beautiful wreath. This wreath was presented at the Primary School ANZAC Ceremony at Upper Yarra RSL on Wednesday morning. Our school was represented by all Grade 6’s who led all participants in singing the National Anthem. It was another significant moment, serving tribute to those who have protected and still protect our country.

Congratulations and well done to all Grade 6’s -who acted responsibly, maturely and with great reverence.

We also welcomed some visiting Pre-Foundation children, who spent an hour in our Foundation classroom exploring what school life might be like next year. Thanks to Alyson Whetham who coordinated and managed this session. More of these opportunities will follow in Terms Three and Four.

On Thursday night, the occasion all Juniors (and their parents!!) had been waiting for! The Annual Junior Sleepover. What a fantastic way to enjoy school without the schoolwork! It is also a wonderful introduction to our Middle Overnight Camp and ultimately our Senior Extended Camps. A BIG thanks to all Junior Staff for their willingness and enthusiasm in planning and leading this special experience.

Next week is Naplan Week which is the National Assessment Program (Literacy and Numeracy) for Australian students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. The results will provide information that may be used to plan new programs and provide a useful source of feedback and guidance to students, parents and teachers. Our Naplan tests for all Year 3 and 5 students will occur on the mornings of Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th May. We will be arranging our school to have minimal interruptions or distractions during these days. Please ensure that your child is at school on time, as we are required to observe the timing guidelines closely. Also, please remind your Year 3 or 5 child that this is only one of many forms of assessment that teachers carry out during the school year. We want our students to be confident and prepared but not overly anxious or worried!

Finally, just a reminder about our Mother’s Day Stall tomorrow (Friday 8th) which will be held at 12:30. As the note during the week suggested, all students may bring up to $15 to purchase some goodies. We will coordinate brothers and sisters so that mums don’t end up with 4 lavender soaps exactly the same! Once again, thank you to the organising parents that are willingly giving us their time to allow this special event to occur!

Regards,
Marty McKenna
Acting Principal
SCENES FROM THE MIDDLE CAMP AT ADANAC
The focus of this week’s readings is love. If we really want to be followers of Jesus, the most important thing we have to do is love God and love other people. Jesus gave us a lot of rules to follow, but he continually told us that we must love each other.

Think about the way that parents love their children. As much as parents love their children, God loves them even more. How did God show that he loved us?

What does Jesus want us to do? Did Jesus give us a lot of rules? No, he gave us one important rule – to love one another. Who does Jesus expect us to love? But how can we love people we don't even know? We can try to consider everyone in a positive way.

Sometimes people think bad things about whole groups of people they don't even know, just because they are poor, or because of their religion or the colour of their skin, or their nationality. These people somehow act like they think they are better than other people.

But sometimes it is even harder to be loving to people we do know. Can you think of someone who you find hard to love. As an exercise - close your eyes, and think of that person. Imagine that person is smiling. Think of the person that way and ask God to bless them.
Why talking is important
Talking and listening to children does lots of important things. It improves your bond with them, and encourages them to listen to you. It helps them to form relationships and to build self-esteem.

The basics
Like so many other things, talking and listening can be done badly, just OK, or really well. And like any other skills, you get better with practice.

Good communication with children is about:

- encouraging them to talk to you – and listening so they can tell you how they feel
- being able to really listen and responding in a sensitive way to all kinds of things – not just nice things or good news, but also anger, embarrassment, sadness or fear
- focusing on body language and actions as well as words, and interpreting nonverbal forms of communication.

Some children need a lot of encouragement and positive feedback to get talking. Others will be desperate to talk to you when you’re busy doing something else. This might mean stopping what you’re doing and listening.

Top tips for talking and listening

- Set aside time for talking and listening to each other.
- Listen to your children when they want to talk, have strong feelings or have a problem.

- Be open to talking about all kinds of feelings, including anger, joy, frustration, fear and anxiety. Talking about feeling angry is different from getting angry, though. Learning the difference is an important step for a child learning to communicate. When talking to your child, try to remember how it was when you were a child and how you were generally attracted to those people who really listened to you. After all, children think differently from grown-ups. There are a lot of things they don’t know and a lot of things they don’t have the words to talk about.

- Let your child finish talking and then respond. When listening, try not to jump in, cut your child off, or put words in your child’s mouth – even when your child says something ridiculous or wrong or is having trouble finding the words. Children appreciate this as much as grown-ups!

- Use language that your children will understand. Sometimes we forget that children don’t ‘get’ everything.
- Watch your child’s facial expression and body language. Listening isn’t just about hearing words, but also trying to understand what’s behind those words.
- To let your child know you’re listening, and make sure you’ve really understood, repeat back what your child has said and make lots of eye contact.
- Show your interest by saying such things as, ‘Tell me more about...', ‘Really!’ and ‘Go on...’.
- Ask children what they feel about the things they’re telling you about.
- Avoid criticism and blame. If you’re angry about something your children done, try and explain why you want them not to do it again. Appeal to their sense of empathy.
- Work together to solve problems and conflicts.
- Be honest with each other.

If you talk and listen to your children from a very young age, you’ll all get into habits that will be very useful once they’re teenagers. An open relationship – where children feel comfortable talking about what they have been doing and with whom – will encourage children to tell you about the details of their life when they’re older.

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KIDSMATTER LAUNCH NIGHT

We are very excited to announce that we are officially launching Kidsmatter with a family fun night. Kidsmatter is about promoting good mental health and a positive school community, so what better way than to get together, laugh, try new things and have a good time.

WHEN: Come along on Thursday 21st of May at 7pm to join in and have fun!!

WHERE: In the SPA centre

WHO: The family.

WHAT: Lots of activities including….Jumping castle (adult sized for mum and dad too!) games, computers, constructing, juggling and much more!

Lots of spot prizes to be won. Three major door prizes to be won on the night.
Don't forget the **Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge** 2015 is underway!

**Well Done** to those children who have been entering the books they are reading online. Don't forget to go back in to your list and mark the books you have started as "finished" once you have read them, so they can be verified. Parents, if you haven't already, please fill out and return your child's permission form. Extra copies can be obtained from the office, as well as your child's special code if it has been misplaced. Remember to help or encourage your child to enter the books they have read online. Class teachers have a copy of the codes and can show your child how if they need help in doing this.

To complete the challenge, students in **Foundation to Year 2** need to read or experience **30 books**, while students in **Years 3 to 6** need to read **15 books**. The challenge finishes in September.

Remember, to receive their certificate and have their name published in the newspaper, permission forms must be returned.

**Enjoy your reading!**

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Hello! My name is Zoe and this year I am participating in the 63rd Melbourne Gang Show! This is a musical performance put on by The Scout and Guide Associations. I had to audition for a part by standing up in front of everyone and acting and singing. I got into the show and my parts are a townschild and a mini-thug. I have learnt many songs and have been rehearsing in the city every Monday night.

The story line of the first act is about a little boy called Jack. His Dad is at war, and he has to stay with his Grandma, who is also the lady President of the town, in the country. He will not talk to anyone, but in the end, his conscience (known as Arty) gets him to speak.

The second act is about a town where everyone is perfect, other than a group of misfits, who the perfect people call "rats". It is kind of a Pied Piper story, as a character called Phiffer sets out to get rid of them.

**It would be great if you could come watch the show!**

You can book tickets online at: [www.gangshow.org](http://www.gangshow.org)

On the website you will find a box that says 'Attribute sale to...' and in that box PLEASE write my name and patrol:

Zoe Hendriks, 'Portia' patrol. Thanks!

The show is on the 19th - 27th June, but the earlier you get tickets, the better seats you'll get! The tickets are $21 per concession, and $27 per adult. We have just completed the first act, and trust me, it is SUPER!! Yeah, I know that tickets are expensive... but it's sure worth it!!!!
1. The Mother's Day stall will be held tomorrow, Friday 8th May. Junior students should bring their money tonight or send it with siblings - as they have their sleepover at school tonight.

   Children may bring a MAXIMUM of $15 each to purchase gift/s.

   We wish all mums, grandmothers and carers a very happy Mother's Day.

2. In the near future we will have a second-hand uniform sale. If you have any outgrown uniform items that are in good condition, could you please send them to the office.

   The day Seniors left for camp a Gift Card was found in the school grounds.

   This had been used for some purchases but still has a credit balance.

   If you believe you have lost it please contact Sue at the office.

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**Little Yarra STEINER SCHOOL**

205 Little Yarra Road
Yarra Junction
tel. 5967 1953

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING
THURSDAY 28TH MAY 7:30 PM

SAVE the DATE!!
Parish Trivia /Social night Saturday June 27th
7.30 - 10pm at Spa Centre, St Joseph’s
Come along for a relaxed evening catching up with friends & having some fun!
More details to come.
Have you enrolled your child for **PRESCHOOL** in 2016?

**PRESCHOOL OPEN DAY**

**Wednesday 20th May 2015**

**Woori Yallock Preschool**
2.00 - 3.00pm

**Launching Place Preschool – 2.00-3.00pm**

- You are welcome to come and visit the preschools
- Meet our qualified and experienced staff members
- Let your children enjoy some of the activities available
- It’s a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have

Woori Yallock Preschool - 59647498,
28 View St Woori Yallock

Launching Place Preschool – 59646088
Mathers Ave, Launching Place

For Enrolment enquiries please call Yarra Ranges Kindergartens Inc - 59662225