*** Supervision of students at St Joseph’s School is from 8.35am until 3.20pm ***

**G’day parents and friends,**

**Beginning of the Year Testing**

Please note that parents/guardians of students in years 1-6 2017 are requested to access School Interviews to book individual testing times for your children for either Tuesday 31 January, or Wednesday 1 Feb. The teachers are only identified by level to enable more time options. Sessions are about an hour each. Bookings will be open from Tuesday 13th December. Log-in details are under Dates to Remember.

As usual during the testing days the new Foundation children will be at school for half days. Everyone will be at school for the whole day on Thursday 2 February.

**Fires**

If your child has come home with stories of playing with fire at school it is probably substantially true!

During this week many children have assisted in clearing up the tree litter around the back of the school and adding it to fires. They have been well supervised, and we had no problems. The children did a great job, and had some fun too!

**Monday 12 December - Whole school bike ride or walk.**

Caremonkey has activity and permission information for Monday’s ride. Last year we had a high turnout of parents either riding, walking or being part of the road crew. We request assistance again. We will begin and end at the Yarra Centre. So please consider ways you might be able to drop them and pick them up there. After returning to the Yarra Centre, the children will play until they are picked up. More information is available on Caremonkey.

If your child needs to catch one of the buses please contact the school to discuss how we can make this work! Those who have registered NOT having Caremonkey should have received a hard copy.

**Transition - Step Up Day**

On Tuesday we had a most successful step up. We welcomed our 2017 Foundation. Everyone else moved into their new levels for the third time. During these sessions we have observed interactions of the children to inform finalising home groups. The children will be informed of these early next week, and parents will have home grouping included with reports on Tuesday.

**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**

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.
Advent
On Sunday we will begin the third week of Advent: We light the third candle which symbolises the joy that Jesus can bring into our lives.

By thinking of others, especially the poor and needy, we bring joy into their hearts. We also prepare our hearts joyously for the birthday of Jesus.

At the moment, the Mini Vinnies group is organising a Christmas stall next Wednesday afternoon to raise money for the needy people in our community. Each level has had a turn to make cookies as part of the lunchtime cooking club. It is a great opportunity for children and parents to purchase their Christmas gifts and cookies.

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

**ALIVE IN OUR FAITH**

**LAST 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**  
Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v.7

**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.

**THIS WEEKEND’S READINGS**
Third Sunday of Advent

**First Reading:** Is 35:1-6, 10  
The desert will rejoice and blossom.

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

**Second Reading:** Jas 5:7-10  
Be patient, even in suffering.

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

**Gospel:** Mt 11:2-11  
John asks, ‘Are you the one who is to come?’
Many children have been busy making Christmas cookies at our lunchtime cooking club in the past few weeks. They will be on sale next Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 until after school. There will also be a variety of gifts on the stall, priced from 50c to $10, so children and parents can do some Christmas shopping. The money raised will be donated to St. Vincent De Paul society to assist the needy at Christmas and to sponsor a student.
CHOIR / CHORAL GROUP NEWS

Choir members are needed for:

GRADUATION MASS at 6pm on Thursday 15th December at St Thomas à Becket church
Please arrive by 5.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS at 7pm on Saturday 24th December at St Thomas à Becket church
Please arrive no later than 6.45pm

PLEASE NOTE: Younger children can come dressed up e.g. angels, shepherds.

THE CHORAL GROUP is singing in the Woolworths arcade Yarra Junction
Tomorrow, Friday 9th December
Between 11am and 12 noon

Parents, family and friends are welcome to come and enjoy the singing.

CONVEYANCE CHEQUES for Term 4 2016 will be available tomorrow Friday 9th December