Dear Parents and Friends,

Advent has started!

Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make a path for our God in the desert.
This is the promise of the Lord;
And God’s promise will be fulfilled.

Working bee Friday night 3-6pm

During the working bee the kitchen garden was tidied up, the gutters were all cleared, buildings were de-cobwebbed, the area for this year’s buddy planting was prepared, and were able to put in some of the posts donated by the Morgan family that the children will decorate next year as totem poles. The honour roll of workers includes the Clark, Gibson, Hendriks, Iskra, Newell/Caneva, and Nicolados families. Families who have not attended a working bee this year are expected to pay the levy.

Fire Safety and School Closures

I repeat the advice to you that our school will be compulsorily closed as a precautionary measure whenever a Code Red bushfire warning is issued for our area. The decision to close will be confirmed by 12 noon the day prior to the planned closure. We will contact you directly via SMS message. You are also urged to check the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website for updates – see www.education.vic.gov.au/bushfires. The decision to close follows advice from fire and emergency authorities. Please note that all school bus routes will also be closed; services will resume when the school reopens.

I realise that closing the school will result in you having to make alternative arrangements for your child, but the safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. Given the predicted weather conditions, we urge that your child is not left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

All possible steps will be taken to ensure our school community is aware of the school’s closure, including displaying posters advising of the planned closure at the roundabout and sending an SMS to all parents. If, however, you know of other parents who, for any reason, may not be aware of the school’s planned closure, please contact them to help ensure they are aware that the school will be closed when that advice has been issued. You should also explain to your child and family members that the school is expected to be closed. For safety reasons, no staff will be on-site while the school is closed.

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Assembly

Assembly will be tomorrow at 2:30 pm.

Cont’d............
Parents and Friends Association
I would like to wish the incoming and continuing members well in their roles for next year. One of the functions of the AGM was to select the committee for the next year. Congratulations to Chair: Cathy Linder; Assistant Chair: Andrew Peeler; Communications officer: Rhonda Scoble; Treasurer: Kim Robin; Marketing: Nick Love; Fundraising: Maria Virgona; and Donations: Georgette Bourke. All parents are encouraged to come along to any or all of the meetings. Come along and support your child’s school community. The PFA dinner is on Wednesday at Wild Cattle Creek at 7pm.

Giving Tree
Representatives from the St Vincent de Paul Society, (Vinnies), spoke to the children on Friday to accept the gifts you have donated. They were most impressed. What a generous community you are! Congratulations all.

Metal Collection
We have filled and replaced two bins. Tidy up your place and help our school raise funds!

Carols
The children are preparing for a carol service on Friday 14 December, in the church from 7-8pm. So place this in your busy calendar and start toning up your voices!

God bless us all,
John

WORKING BEE

Thank you to the following families that attended the Working Bee;

Clark
Gibson
Hendriks
Iskra
Newell / Caneva
Nicolandos
First Week of Advent

The beginning of the new liturgical year began yesterday with the 1st Sunday of Advent. The word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning coming. We prepare for four weeks, to celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

However we are also called to reflect on the coming of Jesus today through the Holy Spirit and the future coming of Jesus at end times when he will judge us.

The season offers the opportunity to

- share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah,
- take a good look at our lives and ask ourselves whether or not we are living the kind of lives that allow others to see Christ in us,
- to be alert for his second coming.

It is part of the Catholic tradition to pray around an Advent wreath in this season. The Advent wreath is a circle of evergreens as a reminder that God has no beginning or end. The candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, reminding us of the penitential nature of the season and one is pink, symbolising joy. The first candle represents our hope that comes from God, who is faithful and will keep the promises made to us.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:12-13)

Karen McQuade
Christian Life Leader
**Choir & Choral Group Performance**

On **Monday 10th December** some elderly visitors from Riverside Planned Activity Group will visit St Joseph's School to be entertained by the Choir & Choral Group. The children will perform a selection of Christmas carols. Choir members are asked to bring a small plate of food so that we can offer our visitors morning tea.

The Choral Group will also be performing Christmas Carols on **Thursday 13th December** in the arcade outside Woolworths at 11.30am and the Yarra Junction Library at 1.00pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Location if wet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Echidnas</td>
<td>Relays</td>
<td>Basketball court</td>
<td>Church meeting room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Bellman</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dingos</td>
<td>Commando</td>
<td>SPA gym or driveway</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Booth</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kookaburras</td>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Basketball court</td>
<td>South building shared area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Drago</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kangaroos</td>
<td>Pentathlon</td>
<td>Oval</td>
<td>Art room or passage outside</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs McQuade</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wombats</td>
<td>Circuit Training</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Vranken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Koalas</td>
<td>Skipping</td>
<td>Roundabout</td>
<td>SPA gym (one third)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Colley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bandicoots</td>
<td>Boundary Run</td>
<td>Meet outside office. Run around cross country track and oval</td>
<td>Join in with aerobics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Vanstan/ Miss Bourke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tassie Devils</td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
<td>SPA Performing Arts</td>
<td>SPA Performing Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Traynor/ Mrs Brown</td>
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### Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge 2012

| Shaedyn Bannerman | Angus Hall | Caitlyn Caneva |
| Lily Woods        | Maximus Iskra | Mia Caneva |
| Nate Reihana      | Rory Francis  | Tyson Henry |
| William Smith     | Ailish Sheehan | Alice Rolando |
| Ashley Pitman     | Ethan Ziegler | Jacob Grotars |
| Jacomio Warner    | Jessica Finette | Joshua Peels |
| Kiara Zekas       | Lily Trainor  | Portia Swankie |
| Riley Foley       | Ryan Hirschfeld | Scarlett Atkins |
| Tarkyn Nicolandos | William Kerr  | Connor Taylor |
| Fletcher Stafford | Hardy Nagel   | Isabella Cummings |
| James Morgan      | John Rainbow  | Kayla Weir |
| Madisyn Nicolandos| Matilda Cottier | Max Bradley |
| Melinda Virgona   | Zoe Hendriks  | Angus Smith |
| Annika Peeler     | Charlotte Franken | Ebony Bowman |
| Katrina Tacuber   | Lilly May     | Madeleine O’Donnell |
| Mason Cole        | Mychal Enever | Tom Reardon |
| Adina Ziegler     | Angus Mellett | Archer Noonan |
| Charlie Kent      | Christopher Newell | Declan Tacuber |
| Finn Reardon      | Lara Hermon   | Liam Linder |
| Pacey Luttgens    | Riley Swankie | Ryan Finette |
| Tiffany-Jo Gribbrook | Tori Sharp   | Violet Hall |
| Amy Schroeders    | Anastasia Alexander | Ben Bourke |
| Dane Cerveri      | Eloise Robinson | Jack Sheehan |
| Joshua Meerkotter | Joshua Read   | Kane McDonald |
| Lachlan Cox       | Mitchell Farr | Shamus Trainor |
| Shantelle Dolheguy| Stella Paterson | Thomas Clements |
| Zak Stafford      | Jonathon Pitman | Lexi Bowman |
| Jasmine Hendriks  | Ben Peeler    | Charlin Nyhuis |
| Harrison Franken  | Jaxon Bowman  | Phoebe Wells |

### CHILDREN’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- Congratulations to **Daniel Enever** who was awarded two 3rd place trophies in Fighting and Kata at Yarra Junction Wado Ryu Karate Club.
- Congratulations also to **Ellen Bradley** for coming 1st overall in the Level 1 Competitive Level at the Glitz Gymnastics Gala Day on the weekend after getting 1st on Beam, 2nd on Bars, 2nd on Vault and 3rd on Floor.
DAD’S WE WANT YOU!

YES YOU HEARD, WE WANT YOU TO BE PART OF OUR EXCITING DAD’S ONLY PROGRAM FOR NEXT YEAR!

We are pleased to announce that St Joseph’s successfully has received funding from School Focused Youth Service, to begin our program called “Days with Dad”. Our aim is connect Dad’s with their children and the school through a variety of fun and interesting activities. We will happily welcome Grandads, Uncles, Brothers or any other significant males to join us in this program.

STAYED TUNED FOR FURTHER UPDATES!

Prue Vanstan
Wellbeing Leader
Coaching kids in social situations

"Kids are born with L plates when it comes to social skills. Boys, in particular, need a little help and prompting about how to act appropriately around other kids."

A mum approached me after a recent seminar with an interesting question about her son's behaviour amongst his peers. She said her son is lovely but bold. He was a little too enthusiastic with his friends. So much so that his buddies felt downtrodden, uncomfortable around him and sometimes gave him the cold shoulder. He also liked to be the boss, and didn't like being a follower in social situations.

Here's a perfect opportunity for this mum to do some coaching to help her son negotiate social situations.

Social skills are key to get excited but kids from 2 to 10 need to learn that they have to tone their enthusiasm down around certain people and in certain situations. That's what the socialization process requires. Besides, popular children generally know when to follow the lead of others, how to share their possessions, and how they always have their own ways. This ability to share comes with maturity, but sometimes children need some gentle parental nudges in this area.

Here are some techniques to use to help your child to behave well around others, and maintain friendships as well.

**Remind:** Be pre-emptive with your teaching. Before they visit their friends, give them a couple of points that are relevant to them about their behaviour. "Remember, no shouting or yelling. Ask if it's okay before you play with me."

**Rehearse:** It's useful to practice with kids how they should act in social situations. "Keep Jeremy in front of you until you say what you will say when you go to Grandma's. Let's practise saying hello.

**Revisit:** Give kids feedback after the event but keep it positive and upbeat. "That was great the way you acted towards the others. I liked how you included your friends in what you were doing."

Effective parents are teaching parents. A lot of the lessons that parents teach their kids are through experience. That's why coaching is one of your greatest tools. They need to spend more time with you so they can pick up good manners, like the importance of sharing and other social niceties. Boys, in particular, need a little help and prompting about how to act appropriately around other kids.

There are times when parents need to make sure their lessons hit home and that includes when you coach kids how to be social and consider the needs of others.
Hi all

The Parents & Friends AGM was held on Wednesday evening 28th November and a committee has been formed for 2013.

We still need more helpers, so please get involved, even as a general member.

We generally meet 2 - 3 times per term but you don’t have to attend meetings if you can’t or prefer not to.

Leave your details at the office or contact our chairperson

Cathy Linder on 0409 187 166.

We have lots of events and activities being proposed for next year; for example, The Autumn Fair, Bushdance, Shopping Tour, Trivia Night and we are open to suggestions.

ALREADY WE NEED - HELP!

1. Christmas Raffle

Christmas raffle tickets go home this week, yes it's getting close!

We will need some helpers to put hampers together in the coming weeks.

Date will be advised, watch your newsletters.

Christmas hamper ideas other than chocolate, stationery, coloring books, tea towels, decorations, serviettes, candles or anything else you would find useful for Christmas.

2. Future Fundraiser

We have been offered the opportunity to run the BBQ at the 'Crank Up' event held at the Upper Yarra Museum in Yarra Junction, weekend of 6th and 7th of April, 2013.

This would be a great fund raiser for the school if we could get enough helpers. It is in the middle of the school holidays after Easter. We would be looking at setting up a roster with 2 hour shifts (4 people per shift) from 9am to 8pm both days.

Maybe your family would have the numbers or you could team up with another family and make it a bit of fun.

Again, please leave details at the office or contact Cathy 0409 187 166.
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.

Summer Reading Club

UNTANGLED TALES

Saturday 1 December 2012 –
Wednesday 23 January 2013

Join the Summer Reading club at your local library and get tangled up in fairy tales, myths and legends with some of your favourite Aussie authors!

Read 10 books and get bookmarks, stickers, and self-inking stamps plus go into the draw for some great prizes!
Update on changes to Conveyance Allowance

Dear Principal,
This letter is to update you on changes to the Conveyance Allowance Program (CAP) announced by the Minister for Education in Parliament yesterday. The information below explains how the changes affect your school.

Means testing
In October 2012 it was announced that means testing was being introduced for all new applicants, effective from 1 January 2013. After receiving feedback from rural and regional Victoria, the Minister for Education announced in Parliament yesterday that the means testing component of the CAP will be removed. This means in 2013, students in rural and regional Victoria will be entitled to apply for the conveyance allowance under the 2012 criteria.

Urban Metropolitan Boundary
The Minister for Education also announced that a new metropolitan boundary based on Melbourne’s Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) would be used for the CAP. This change, including the grandfathering of existing students currently receiving an allowance, will proceed.

Next steps
We request your assistance in making your school community aware of the removal of the means testing component from the conveyance allowance criteria as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Miles
Deputy Secretary
Infrastructure and Finance Service Group
30/11/2012