Dear Families, Staff, Students and the wider St. Joseph’s School Community

We are all indeed fortunate to be part of the St. Joseph’s School Community; while this is something easy to say, the “proof” as they say is “in the pudding.” Action speaks louder than words and with this in mind I would like to specifically thank the following teams of people who late last year donated time, energy and resources to several amazing projects for our school.

These programs add to the fabric of our school and are available for all to benefit from. This help brings to life our school values and creates resources of quality for us all to enjoy.

The activities being:

School Eel Sculpture

One of our school artistic grandmothers developed a project to help students identify with the school site and its geographical history. This involved researching our site's history and then students creating a sculpture which records this history in stone. Once finished the sculpture was to be erected in the school grounds for future school generations to play on and learn about our school site.

This project is essentially completed with students last year creating individual stones telling the site’s history from open flood zone, to Chinese garden to a greyhound racing track and now a school. These sculptured blocks come together as an eel; the eel is the indigenous fish of the Russell’s Creek area.

Very special thanks to Merran Koran (project artist and creator), Pat Negri (construction designer) and Reece Jago (builder). With the students and our three helpers working together we created the sculpture and installed it with seating which fits atop the sculpture. This great labour of love will enhance the children's knowledge of this site and their connection to our community.

I thank all involved for their creativity, persistence and the outcome that is now on display in the school grounds passive play area.

Mulching the School Garden Beds:

After we broke up in December last year three dads volunteered time through their workplace Glaxo Orange Day volunteer program to help us top up the garden beds. As you can imagine even with machines this is still a very big job. A very special thanks to John Graham, Sean Mueglitz and Nick Turoczy for their great work on a hot day. This was a full day barrowing and spreading dry, dusty mulch to ensure our grounds stay in the magnificent state they are in.

Christmas Mass at St. Joseph’s School Hall:

Again with great volunteers from St. Joseph’s Parish and our School Maintenance and Grounds Team at the end of last year the hall was converted into a mass centre for the 5pm Christmas Eve Mass. Parishioners and school community working together created a meaningful mass that focused on Christmas with young people and families in mind. Thanks to Fr. John, Leanne McElgunn, Mary Lancaster, Peter Jackman and Maria Van De Camp for their help and wonderful support. A reminder to those preparing for Reconciliation to collect and wear a purple stole when attending Mass.

School Mural:

Late last year we started a whole school mural to replace an old one on the side wall of the school maintenance shed. Jeff Vizion (School Teacher Aide) spent many hours of his own time planning and creating this mural. Each child in the school has had the chance to paint a picture of themselves into the mural which is now completed.

This project has been sensational with all the children having an opportunity to work with Jeff and complete an art project which connects them to our school. A big thank you to all involved but especially Jeff for his vision and commitment.

Values: Wonder and Awe, Hope, Celebration, Community, Reconciliation, Love
Principals Message Continued

New Soccer Goals
Over the north side of Russell’s Creek we have installed a set of new soccer goals available for the students at sport times. The goals were purchased with funds from the profits of our Fair and installed by staff from our Maintenance Grounds Team. Much work was required to vandals proof this equipment which will be permanently erected on the oval for community use.

In conclusion: The final point I would like to share is if we can all contribute to the rich fabric of our school community we make school wonderful for all. We also model and teach our children the importance of effort, thinking of others and building relationships. If we don’t work together on these type of projects school is poorer for us all.

Of course we all lead busy lives and have many other commitments that need attention. Your contribution when able is what we all appreciate.

Coming up is the Prep/One social event in the school grounds and the Parent Social Function at the Last Coach and tonight we have our School Fair meeting. I invite you to consider how and what you can be part of.

Finally in any living community there are both celebrations and challenges for us all, please see below for an update:

Important School Information
Congratulations to Nick (Teacher D1) and Kaz Murrell on the news that they are expecting their second baby later this year. We wish the family well and trust all goes well over the next months for Kaz.

Many may have heard over the weekend that Cathy Duynhoven (School Finance Manager) ruptured her Achilles tendon on Friday which required surgery over the weekend. All went well with Cathy now at home with plaster from toe to knee!!! Cathy will be away this week with further leave dependent of her recovery. We wish Cathy all the best this week knowing that she will be well supported by school, family and friends.

Have a great week, regards,

[Signature]
Michael Gray, Principal

Welcome to the LRC for 2015

Our Library Resource Centre has started the year with a few changes. The Computer Lab has moved into the west end of the LRC, due to D3 being needed as a classroom. It’s great to have technology, as well as books, in the LRC.

It’s 4 weeks in, and every student has had some library lessons and should be well on the way with their 2015 borrowing.

It has been wonderful to see older children helping the younger ones to borrow.

Big thanks to everyone who found and returned books over the holidays—keep returning as you find them!

Maureen has been busy cataloguing new resources, both for the library and for Guided Reading in the Classrooms.

Due to the wonderful purchasing of books during Book Fair we have many new books and will continue to purchase more as the year goes on. If any student has a special book for the library then remember to add them to the Requests Book, near the printer in the LRC.

We are also in the process of changing the Lexiles; adding more titles (which means more quizzes), colour coding and covering them and returning them to the shelves. Hopefully this will give the students even more variety with their reading.

LRC Timetable for 2015

Odd Weeks
Mon: E2, E1, E5, E3, E4
Tues: E6 (Mrs H), D6, C1, C4
Wed: D4, B2, B5
Thurs: D2, D7, B4

Mrs Hyland
Mrs King
Mrs King
Mrs King

Even Weeks
Mon: E2, E1, E5, E3, E4
Tues: E6 (Mrs H), D1, C2, C3
Wed: D3, B1, B7
Thurs: D5, B3, B6

Mrs Hyland
Mrs King
Mrs King
Mrs King

Canteen Roster

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<th>Week 5</th>
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<th>Week 6</th>
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**Prep/One Family Gathering**

*Families of Grade Prep and One children,*

*are invited to an informal social gathering at St. Joseph’s P.S.*

**Bring your picnic rug and you may choose to bring**

**takeaway tea/picnic nibbles/refreshments.**

**When: Thursday Feb 26th  5.30pm – 7.00pm**

**Where: St. Joseph’s Primary School Junior Playground area**

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**Friday Morning Cuppa**

An invitation is open to any parents who might like to meet for a cuppa on a Friday morning in the *foyer* next to the hall.

This is a great way to meet new parents or just to have a catch up.

All parents are invited, especially those who are *new* to our school.

Coffee, tea and biscuits provided.

Fridays, beginning 27th Feb

8.45am – 9.45am

(We will trial this day until the end of term 1)

Any queries, contact:  Catherine Lee  clee@sjwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au
You are invited to attend the Children’s Liturgy at St Joseph’s Parish Church, Warrnambool on the FIRST Sunday of each month. You are welcome to come on Sunday 1st March at 6pm. Hope to see you there...

Pedal Power People Power

Have a fantastic family day out at Powercor Tour de Depot, a community cycling event for all ages and fitness levels. Register now, entry fees support the Warrnambool & District Food Share.

Warrnambool & District Food Share (WDFS) is an independent, not-for-profit community organisation providing emergency food relief to the Warrnambool and district community.

WDFS was established and is closely supported by Foodbank Victoria, after the region was identified as an area that had a high need for emergency food relief.

WDFS sources food locally, and receives regular weekly deliveries from Foodbank Victoria. All food is of high quality and consists of groceries, fruit and vegetables, frozen and refrigerated products.

Foodshare’s volunteers prepare food hampers for distribution to over 50 welfare agencies in the region, provide food for two local soup kitchens and support a Schools Fresh program. WDFS distributes over 210 hampers providing food to more than 500 people each month.

All of this goodwill, emergency relief and immediate response to the food needs of our local community is provided free of charge.
Living with Teens

A 3 week program for parents of 12 - 15 year olds

Living with Teens will:
- Help parents understand and cope better with the challenges of early adolescence.
- Provide parents with information and skills for developing and maintaining trusting, positive relationships with their young adolescents.

During sessions parents have the opportunity to discuss and practice a range of strategies and ideas including:
- Adolescent development
- Connecting and communicating
- Negotiating boundaries
- Solving problems
- Setting effective limits
- Parental self care

(Sorry, no childcare available)

For enquiries and bookings
phone Marea: 5559 3000