

St Joseph's School Newsletter

Volume 33 No. 40

13th December 2023



**PO Box 186 Hopetoun
Vic 3396
Phone 03 5083 3296
Fax 03 5083 3192
admin@sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au**

OFFICE HOURS

**Monday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Tuesday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Wednesday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Friday: 8:30am-4:00pm**

**WHERE POSSIBLE PLEASE PHONE
THE SCHOOL DURING OFFICE**

Calendar

Wed. 13th Dec	School Christmas Concert 6.00pm (BYO Family basket tea) Hopetoun Memorial Hall
Thurs. 14th Dec	Last day for students 3.10pm finish Casual clothes (Christmas shirt or decorations) Corrong visit (F-6) Biscuit delivery (Gr 4/5/6)
Sun 28th Jan	Working Bee 9.30am
Mon 29th Jan	Structured Literacy day for staff
Tues 30th Jan	Planning Day for staff
Wed 31st Jan	Students commence

Dear Parents, carers, families and parishioners,

Wow-eee! What a year it's been! I've been very excited to be able to return to work on a part-time basis this week after so long away. My sincere thanks to Mr Robarts for so generously giving his time and expertise over the last 3 terms to keep things running smoothly at school in my absence. Mr Robarts will now be able to enjoy his well-deserved retirement. We wish you good health and abundant blessings Mr Robarts!

WE'LL MISS YOU! As our year draws to a close, we take this opportunity to say farewell to Lawson & Toby. Thank you for your contribution to our school over the last 7 years. We wish you every success and God's blessings in your future years. We have absolutely loved watching you grow over the years and will miss you greatly next year!

Thank you to each student for the laughter and learning they have brought to our classrooms this year. Thank you to all family members and friends for your support of our many special events this year. We have greatly appreciated your interest and involvement, everyone doing their little bit to strengthen our community spirit. A big thanks also to all staff for their amazing efforts throughout the year, ensuring every students' learning needs were met. We are so lucky to have such a terrific staff team here at St Joseph's!

We say farewell also to Janelle & Lorraine as they both finish up in their LSO roles here. Thanks ladies for your tireless efforts supporting so many of our students on their learning journey. We wish you all the best in the years ahead and look forward to keeping in touch.

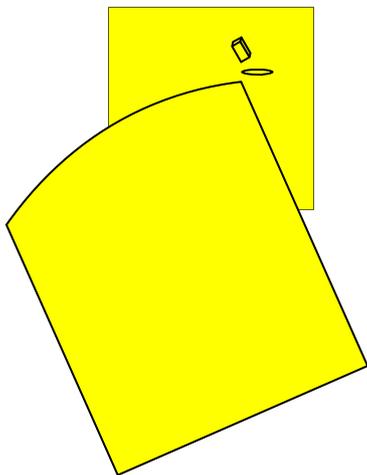


Christmas concert Change of Venue

Concert night is upon us! There has certainly been great excitement in the air this week! We ask students to please **wear denim shorts, a Christmas shirt and their runners. The concert will start at 6pm at the Hopetoun Memorial Hall.** BYO basket tea for your family and drinks. The concert will officially end as a school event at 8pm. We can't wait to see you there!

May the peace and joy of the baby Jesus be with you all at Christmas time. Miss Maiden

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING



Corrong Visit

TOMORROW the students will visit Corrong Village to perform their Christmas Concert dances and to sing some carols. They will also give the residents some "Christmas Goodies".

Parishioner Biscuit Delivery

Also tomorrow the Grade 4/5/6 room will be delivering biscuits to our parishioners as Christmas treat to them all.

Graduation

Thank you to everyone who came along on Saturday night to celebrate our End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Lawson & Toby's Graduation. It certainly was a wonderful evening! Thanks to Hayley for the amazing cake!

Thank you morning tea for volunteers

Thanks to those who were able to make it on Friday. We certainly couldn't function as a school without the wonderful support of our volunteers.



May the peace and joy of the Christmas season be with you all. Wishing you a very safe, happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Red Cross Lunch

At lunch on Friday Lawson and Toby gave us all a recount of the year that was for the Junior Red Cross and Mission Group. Can you believe these students raised over \$3,516.25 this year?! What an incredible achievement! Our local Red Cross branch was presented with a cheque for \$708.50. A huge thank you to all members of our school community for your wonderful support of our Junior Red Cross and Mission Group. Their yearly report is further in the newsletter.



Supervision

A reminder that school supervision begins at 8.30am.

Attached this week:

The Resilience Project- Mindfulness

Junior Red Cross & Mission Group Year in Review

New Year's Eve bar roster

Working Bee

A reminder to keep Sunday **28th January** 2024 free for the working bee to ensure our grounds and classrooms are spick & span to start the new school year. The working bee will start at 9:30am. PLEASE NOTE: A Ride-on-mower safety & induction session will be held first up for all those who will be using the ride on mower during the year. Please bring: rakes, shovels, window cleaners, cordless drills, tool boxes....and anything else you think may come in handy!



Grade 6 Graduation



Congratulations!



A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Last week Grade 4/5/6 worked with Father Matt and Mr Roberts to assembly their bird boxes.

After selecting appropriate designs and measuring our templates for each specific bird, students worked on piecing together the nesting boxes. Students created bird boxes for Kookaburras, Eastern Rosellas, Striated Pardalote and Owlet Nightjar.

We look forward to finishing these off with some natural sealer and finalising locations for installation in the new year.

We take this opportunity to thank Junior Landcare Woolworths Grant for their support with this project to provide additional nesting places for our local native bird life. **Ms Roberts**



Wow! Who would've thought our Foundation students would be at the end their first year of school already. We have had such a productive year and are so proud of everything that this group has achieved. We hope now they can rest up ready to come back firing next year.

We would like to thank all our families and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone ready for Grade 1.

Mrs Jochinke & Mrs Horman

This year has been fantastic to say the least. We have had many fun and exciting learning experiences and it has been great to see students grasping new concepts and achieve many learning goals across all subjects. We thank families for all their encouragement throughout the year to support their child/ren's learning journeys. We hope you all have a wonderful, restful and safe holiday and we are looking forward to seeing everyone back in 2024 for another wonderful year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

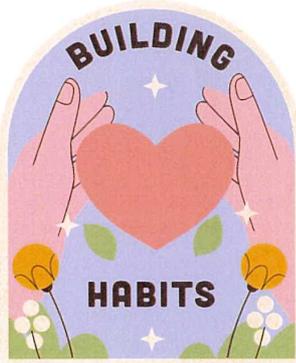
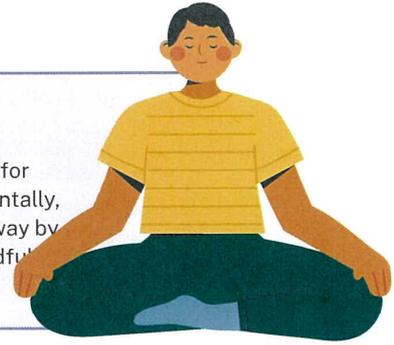
Mrs Phelan and Ms Roberts

Another tremendous year has come to a close. Thank you for your support across all learning and experiences this year for our wonderful group of spectacular 4/5/6 students. I would like to wish all families a very Merry Christmas and I hope this holiday break brings you much happiness and joy. Happy New Year and bring on 2024! - **Miss Weir**

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Mindfulness

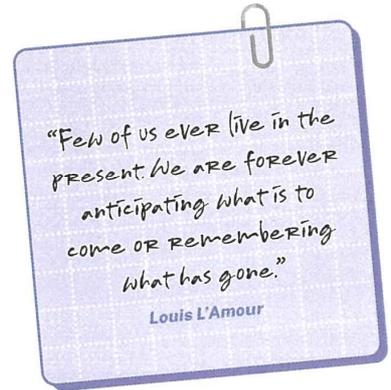
is about **purposely paying attention to the present moment** in ways that are helpful for you. **Looking after our mind** can have great positive benefits, both physically and mentally, such as a **reduction in anxiety and stress**. You can practise mindfulness in a formal way by completing meditations/breathing exercises, or in a more informal way by being mindful engaged in your day's activities.



Habits are automated behaviours that we have learned from experience.

Developing daily wellbeing habits will positively impact your mental health and create a sense of wellbeing. They will further develop your resilience skills to help you cope with life's ups and downs.

Creating new habits can be challenging, you need to train your brain. Think about your current daily habits. Do you have a morning routine? What about a pre bedtime routine? **Where could mindfulness fit in?**



"Few of us ever live in the present. We are forever anticipating what is to come or remembering what has gone."

Louis L'Amour

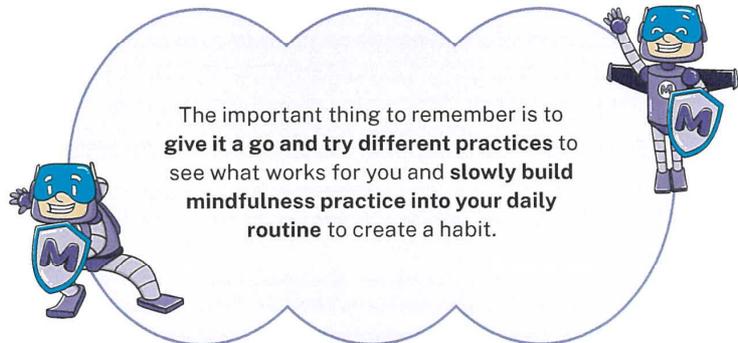
Month Of Mindfulness



Click on the image below or scan the QR code to gain access to a **month of mindfulness practices and information**.



Not all of the activities suggested are considered **formal or traditional** mindfulness, but they **encourage an attitude of mindfulness** which will help you to improve your ability to be present or focused, this aids in the practice of more formal pursuits.



The important thing to remember is to **give it a go and try different practices** to see what works for you and **slowly build mindfulness practice into your daily routine** to create a habit.



Listen to Martin from The Resilience Project talk about the **importance of Mindfulness**. Something to think about...

- Do you or your family practise mindfulness?
- If so, what do you do?
- If not, how could you incorporate mindfulness into your life?

Proudly supported by



The Resilience Project is proud to partner with Coles to support students, teachers and parents to become happier, healthier and more resilient. We are grateful for the commitment and shared vision of Coles to support the mental health of all Australians.

education@theresilienceproject.com.au | (03) 9113 9302 | theresilienceproject.com.au





Star of the Week



What are you most looking forward to about Year 7?
Tech



If you could change 1 thing at St Joseph's, what would it be?
Having more yard area



What's been the most exciting change you've seen at St Joseph's in the time you've been here?
Cricket pitch



Lawson



What do you hope to do in your future?
Farming



What is your most memorable moment at St Joseph's?
Basketball



What will you miss most about this school?
The cricket pitch



Star of the Week



What are you most looking forward to about Year 7?
Tech



If you could change 1 thing at St Joseph's, what would it be?



What's been the most exciting change you've seen at St Joseph's in the time you've been here?
The cube



Toby



What do you hope to do in your future?
Be a diesel mechanic then farm



What is your most memorable moment at St Joseph's?
The intense games of basketball



What will you miss most about this school?
The people and teachers

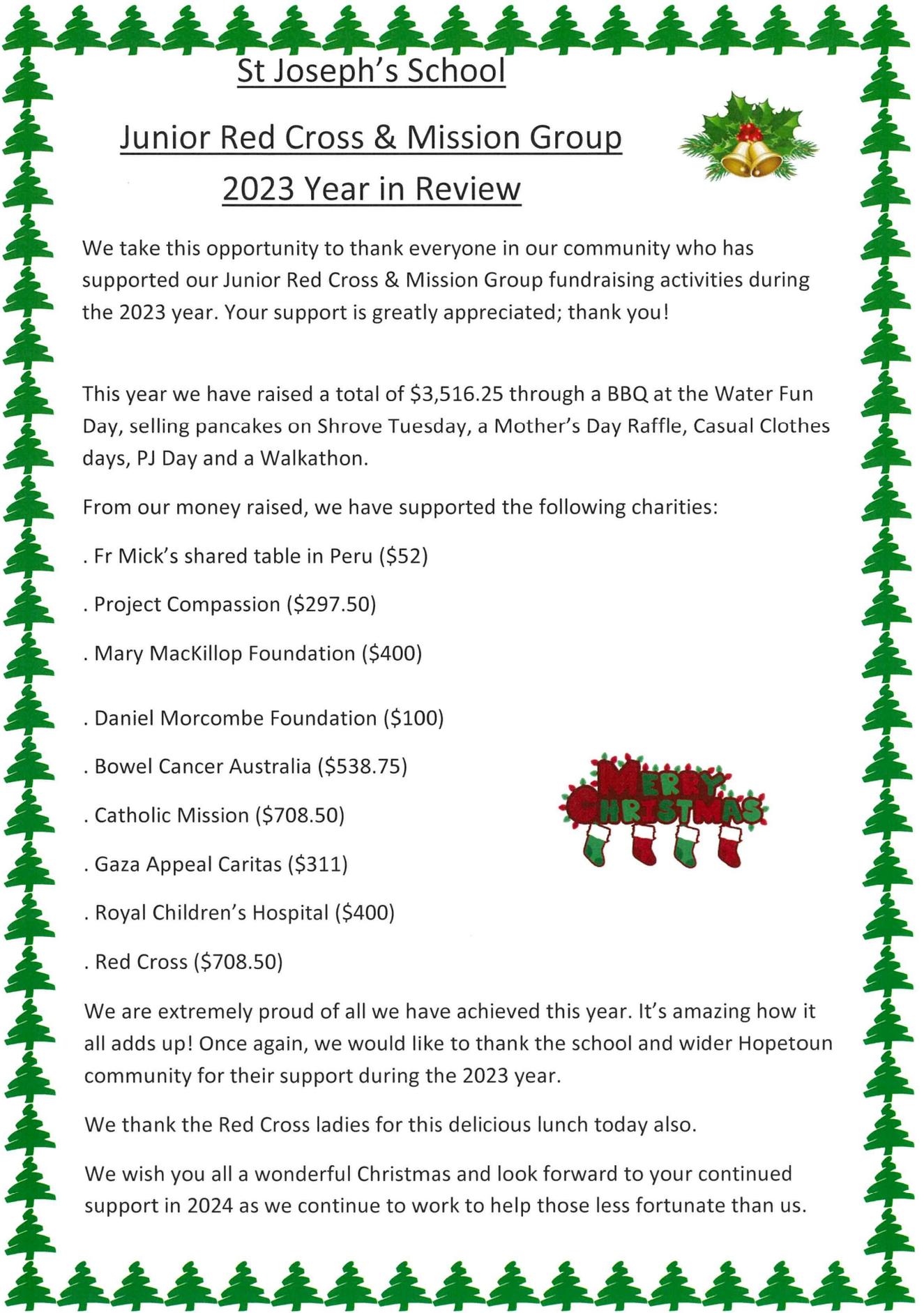


Congratulations to the following students who received awards at assembly last week:

- ♦ *Jarli:* for great moves when practicing dances and joining in singing Christmas songs for the end of year concert.
- ♦ *Ted:* for listening well to feedback and working hard to fix missed sounds in your writing, and also for moving to the floor quickly to get ready for the next activity. Keep up your awesome work Ted!
- ♦ *Jagger:* for the positive and enthusiastic manner you approach all tasks. You have been very focussed on your learning. Awesome work Jagger!
- ♦ *Lola:* for always attempting tasks no matter how challenging with a 'Can Do' attitude and a big smile on your face. Awesome work Lola!

- ♦ *Amelia:* for being an all round superstar! You treat everyone at St Joe's with kindness and respect. You are a deep thinker who contributes to discussions with well thought out interesting ideas. Your contributions to our Wonder discussions have been thoughtful and absolutely spot on. I hope you enjoy the last week of being in Year 5 Amelia and keep working hard!
- ♦ *Cheyenne:* You have been unstoppable this week Cheyenne! Knuckling down and working independently. By setting this high expectation of yourself you have shown yourself that you are capable of anything and everything you put your mind to! You absolutely blitzed the Wonder discussion this week. It was such a thrill watching you complete your "Horses" information report on Google Slides, you superstar Chey!

- ♦ **Playground raffle:** *Wyatt:* for packing up sand equipment before playing another game
Isabelle: for playing cricket cooperatively



St Joseph's School

Junior Red Cross & Mission Group

2023 Year in Review



We take this opportunity to thank everyone in our community who has supported our Junior Red Cross & Mission Group fundraising activities during the 2023 year. Your support is greatly appreciated; thank you!

This year we have raised a total of \$3,516.25 through a BBQ at the Water Fun Day, selling pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, a Mother's Day Raffle, Casual Clothes days, PJ Day and a Walkathon.

From our money raised, we have supported the following charities:

- . Fr Mick's shared table in Peru (\$52)
- . Project Compassion (\$297.50)
- . Mary MacKillop Foundation (\$400)
- . Daniel Morcombe Foundation (\$100)
- . Bowel Cancer Australia (\$538.75)
- . Catholic Mission (\$708.50)
- . Gaza Appeal Caritas (\$311)
- . Royal Children's Hospital (\$400)
- . Red Cross (\$708.50)



We are extremely proud of all we have achieved this year. It's amazing how it all adds up! Once again, we would like to thank the school and wider Hopetoun community for their support during the 2023 year.

We thank the Red Cross ladies for this delicious lunch today also.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and look forward to your continued support in 2024 as we continue to work to help those less fortunate than us.

Child Safe Standards -Hopetoun Diversity and Equity Policy

Policy Statement

St Joseph's Primary School, Hopetoun strives to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive school environment which values the human rights of all students and staff.

The nature of our school community is diverse, drawing from both the rural and town sectors of the Hopetoun district. The socio-economic makeup of the school community is likewise diverse and also fluctuating, representing a wide range of situations and circumstances. The school works with students with diverse learning needs, supporting these students through intervention programs. The school is also active in its support of students living in Out of Home Care and those from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds.

St Joseph's Primary School, Hopetoun is committed to creating a school community where all members of the school community are welcomed, accepted, and treated equitably and with respect regardless of their backgrounds or personal attributes such as race, language, religious beliefs, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation so that they can participate, achieve, and thrive at school.

The full policy is available at

http://www.sjhoptoun.catholic.edu.au/uploads/8/9/4/9/8949668/sjh_diversity_and_equity_policy_2022.pdf

We are committed to continuous improvement in our approach to child safety and wellbeing and welcome feedback from families and members of our school community on ways we can further strengthen our child safety policies, procedures and practices.

If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please contact Chris Robarts.



This month on SchoolTV - Special Report - GAMBLING & YOUNG PEOPLE



The digital era has made gambling more accessible, and certain factors are elevating the risk of problematic gambling among young people. A new grey area is emerging, with smartphones at their fingertips blurring the boundaries between gambling and entertainment, especially within the realms of video games and social media. The current generation of young people are growing up in an unprecedented time and research highlights that a significant percentage of adolescents are involved in gambling activities.

Reports of young people gambling are frequent with many experiencing adverse consequences such as diminished academic performance and strained relationships. Today's youth are growing up in a digital age characterised by constant connectivity, and the gambling industry has evolved significantly during their formative years. Simulated gambling, such as in video games, can further increase the likelihood of teenagers transitioning to real-money gambling and developing future gambling-related problems.

It's crucial to foster open discussions about positive media choices to help children navigate through responsible online gaming and gambling. By encouraging a balanced approach to screen time and promoting alternative activities, will help set some clear boundaries to avoid potential gambling-related issues.

This Special Report provides guidance on how to empower young people to make responsible choices in this digital age. We hope you take a moment to reflect on the information offered, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If this raises any concerns for you, a loved one or the wellbeing of your child, please consider seeking medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report https://sjhopetoun.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-gambling-young-people-au

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Vision Statement

St. Joseph's School is an inclusive community of faith and learning with Christ at its centre. St Joseph's School will educate its students to be of service to society in the Catholic tradition of love, faith and hope.

Mission Statement

As a Christ centred school we celebrate our Catholic beliefs, values, practices and traditions.

As an educational institution we:

- Will support the development of the whole person.
 - Will provide a comprehensive curriculum, which challenges all students in their pursuit of success.
 - Will cater for the varied learning styles of our students.
 - Will be a child safe school by providing a physical and online environment that is happy, safe and welcoming.
 - Will respect the dignity of the individual and value the participation and contribution of all.
 - Will work in partnership with parents, the parish and the wider community.
 - Will encourage our students to make a difference in the local, national and global communities in which they live.
-

HOUSEKEEPING!!

Student Absence from School

A reminder that it is a legal requirement for parents to explain absences from school. We do not need to know 'nitty gritty' details, simply sickness, doctor's appointment or family reasons will suffice. ***Please remember to log on to PAM to complete the notification or email or phone the school prior to 10am on the day of absence. An absence SMS otherwise will be generated. If there is a scheduled absence please advise us in advance.*** Thank you.

Sunscreen

Sunscreen is provided by the school for our students, however we do encourage the children to bring their own sunscreen to school to assist with sun protection. Students are regularly encouraged by teachers to apply sunscreen throughout the day.

Hats

School hats MUST be worn at all times when students are outdoors, except for extremely windy days where hats blow over the fence. School Hats are now \$15.00.

Signing out

Please remember to sign out your child at the office if you need to take them from school during the day. This is not only a legal requirement but also an important part of our emergency management plan.

P & F docketts

A reminder that any purchases for P & F from IGA must be put on the P & F account (not school account). Docketts then need to be sent to school please.

Pie warmer containers

A reminder that students can bring lunch to school wrapped in foil or in a foil container to be heated in the pie warmer.

Pie warmer containers are available from the office for \$15.00 for 50 containers.

Grounds Roster: December- R Burzacott & A Decker



A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Bar Roster- New Year's Eve

Must have current Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA)

Time	Duty	Adult	Adult	
6.00- 8.00				
8.00- 10.00	Serve & fill es-kies	Nick S	Lizzy P	Matt W
10:00- 12.00				
12.00- 1:00	Serve & fill es-kies	Bruce L	Carlie C	Alex W

If you have any questions, please contact working party member;

Cherie Hallam 0418841314

Set up– Hallam, Landrigan, Webster, Seipolt, Puckle, Mill

Clean up– Hallam, Mill, Seipolt

Help Wanted

Students to sell soft drinks and glow sticks on the night, please contact Cherie prior to the event if you are able to help. Thank you!

