Dear Parents and families,

Last Sunday was the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, in the church’s liturgical year. Last weekend’s Gospel reading from Luke tells of the call of the first disciples. Jesus persuaded Simon to cast out his nets, even though the men had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. The fishermen netted so many fish that their nets began to tear and they needed a second boat to help them take all the fish back to the shore. When Simon saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus, declaring his sinfulness and unworthiness to be associated with Jesus. Jesus responded by saying, “Do not be afraid. From now on it is men you will catch.”

Jesus came so that all people will know and love God. Jesus helped people to know and love God by preaching the Good News of God’s love and by helping and healing them. Just like Simon and the disciples we too are called to spread the Good News of God’s love. Jesus wants us to follow him and to gather people too.

Are there ways in which you are already sharing in the task of being a ‘fisher’ of others? In what ways are you being asked to ‘put out into deep water’? You might like to spend some time this week reflecting on being ‘caught up’ in the net of Christ and what that means for you.

This week we welcome Maureen Thornton to our staff. Maureen will take over the cleaning duties from Isabella Grace. We thank Isabella for her hard work over the last 2 years ensuring our classrooms and toilets were always spick & span. We wish Isabella all the best with her studies at Wagga Wagga.

Wishing you all a wonderful week! Cynthia
It's a girl!
The Decker family welcomed Willa Rita to the family last Friday. Warmest congratulations to Kim, Az, Axel, Colt, Jagger & Ariat on their new daughter and sister. I’m sure you will all have lots of fun together!

Water Fun Day
Our Water Fun Day will be held on Friday 22nd February. We really rely on parent helpers to run this day. If you are able to help out, please fill in the reply slip that was attached last week and return to school. Students will leave school and walk to the pool at 11:30am. There will be a BBQ lunch for sale - $1 for a sausage in bread with all proceeds going to Project Compassion. Students will need to bring their own snacks and plenty to drink. Students will be dismissed from the pool at the end of the Water Fun Day if their parents are there to take them or if a written note has been received from parents to say they can go with another parent or walk home. Any students not dismissed from the pool will walk back to school with the teachers. We look forward to a great day! **We ask that toddlers stay out of the little pool during the Water Fun Day.

Southern Mallee Lakes Swimming carnival
This carnival will take place on Friday 15th February at the Hopetoun Pool, commencing at 10am. Nominations for this are being finalised. Students come to school as normal, in their sports uniform, and we will walk to the pool at 9:30am. Please ensure your child has a couple of drink bottles and plenty of lunch and snacks for the day. Please note that there is a $2 entry fee for all adults. This money goes towards the running costs of our sports association and ribbons that are awarded to students and will give you a program of events for the day. Permission notes for those attending were sent home last Friday and need to be returned tomorrow. Thank you to those parents who are able to assist with timekeeping, starter or handing out ribbons at this carnival. **We ask that toddlers stay out of the little pool during the carnival.

Pool Fees
The Hopetoun Swimming Pool Committee charges students who have not paid an annual membership to the pool. Thank you to those who have paid, if you are not a member could you please forward $10 per student to school as soon as possible so payments can be finalized with the Treasurer.

Beginning of School Year Mass
Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year will be held on Sunday 3rd March at 9am. It is expected all students and families will attend. This is an excellent opportunity to welcome our new students and staff member to our school community. Extended family members and parishioners are welcome to join us for this special celebration. Morning tea will follow Mass; please bring a plate of morning tea to share. Unfortunately not every child is able to have a role during our Mass but where possible a child from each family will be given a role. (All Foundation students are in the opening procession). We look forward to seeing everyone there.
Day Reminders

Friday 22nd February
Water Fun Day 11.30am students walk to pool, sausage sizzle $1 each

Thursday 28th February
Parent Meeting 2pm

Friday 1st March
Clean Up Australia Day 9am, bring old runners/boots & spare socks

Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Eucharist
Parents of students in Grade 4 and above who consider their child to be ready to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, and who are willing to support their child through the required preparation program, will begin preparation for their First Reconciliation this term. Parents of these children are required to attend a parent information session on Wednesday 27th February at 7:30pm to explain the program.

Please note that children must be baptised Catholic to receive these sacraments.
Please register your attendance with Cynthia cmaiden@sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au
The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place towards the end of Term 1.

Primary School Nurse Program
The Primary School Nursing Program (PSNP) is a free service offered by the Department of Education and Training to all children attending primary schools in Victoria. Primary School Nurses visit schools throughout the year to provide health assessments, predominately for Foundation students. A parent questionnaire was sent home last week with Foundation students, thank you to those who have already returned them. A reminder that these are required to be returned to school by February 21st.

Clean Up Australia Day
We are taking part in Clean Up Australia Day on Friday 1st March. Students will leave school at 9:00am to walk to the Lake, returning by recess. We need a couple of parents to assist. Please let us know if you are able to help. Could students please bring an old pair of runners or boots and a spare pair of socks to school as some will be cleaning up along the water’s edge. As a Catholic school community we are called to care for our environment and ensure it’s sustainability for future generations. Participating in Clean Up Australia Day is one small way we can do this.
Permission notes are attached today.

Parent Meeting
Our first parent meeting will be held on Thursday 28th February at 2pm in the Community Room. All welcome!

Help needed:
If anyone is free to bag up pie warmer containers could you please pop into the library and take control of the big box of pie warmer containers. Thanks!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS?

Room 1
This week we started our Chinese lessons. May is our teacher this year. After a few technical difficulties the students enjoyed meeting the teacher and hearing a little about Shanghai and the Chinese language.

Extra homework will start this week, Jolly Phonics will be handed in daily but other homework will be handed in every Friday and handed back ready to go Monday.

We have also started our Integrated Studies program; the students have started with discussing what makes up a healthy lifestyle. This will continue in more depth once our swimming program is completed.

Our Literacy program is coming along nicely with each student participating with activities in both reading and writing. I would like to thank Marilyn who has started to volunteer in the classroom during this time.

More exciting things to come, enjoy the week.

Miss Rowles

Room 2
Our first measurement topic this term is Length. The learning focus for each group has been as follows:

Circles: We are learning how to measure, order and compare the length of objects using metric units. Students in this group have been measuring in metres, comparing lengths and then ordering them from shortest to longest or longest to shortest.

Triangles: We are learning how to use a scaled instrument to measure and compare lengths. This group have been learning how to use a 30cm ruler, ensuring they start at zero and not the end of the ruler. They have been measuring to the nearest centimetre.

Squares: We are learning how to measure in a combination of length units. Students have been measuring the length of objects that are longer than 1 metre and recording the same measurement in different ways e.g. 1m 37cm, 137cm, 1.37m.

Rectangles: We are learning about the relationship between metres, centimetres and millimetres. These students have been learning and practising their converting skills between metres, centimetres and millimetres.

Pentagons: We are learning how to solve problems involving units of measurement. The Pentagons have been practising converting measurements in order to solve word problems about measurement.

If you have the need at home to be measuring objects or rooms it would be great if you could give your child the opportunity to assist in order to practise their measuring skills. It is an important skill that is needed frequently in our everyday lives but especially in certain careers such as building.

Miss Maiden

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING
Congratulations to the following students who received awards at assembly last Friday:

**Room 1:**
- **Ellerdy:** for being kind, well done for being so kind
- **Colt:** for fantastic factual writing and a fabulous piece of work

**Room 2:**
- **Luca:** for reaching her goal of elaborating on important events in recounts
- **Axel:** for displaying good decoding strategies with tricky words

**Playground raffle winners:**
- **Jenna:** for friendly play with others
- **Coco:** for helping younger students

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**Star of the Week**

**My Family:** Mum, dad & Dakota

**My Pets:** Bootz the Cat, Gus, Memphis & Digger the black kelpies

**My Favourite Food:** Red velvet cupcakes

**Hobbies:** Play with my cat and my toy baby dolls

**My Friends:** Mia, Ayana, Breanna & Popi

**When I grow up I want to be a:** doctor and a cat vet
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 email or phone the school prior to 10am on the day of absence otherwise you will be contacted, or if a scheduled absence 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 docket
A reminder that any purchases for P & F from IGA must be put on the P & F account (not school account). Dockets 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 $10.00 for 50 containers.

Grounds Roster February: N Seipolt & M Webster
Wills & Powers of Attorney
Information Session
The Murray Mallee Community Legal Service is delivering a general information session to the local community covering:

- Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Medical Treatment Decision Makers
- Advance Care Directives

The session will cover brief information about wills with the focus being on Powers of Attorney and changes to legislation in March 2018 regarding Medical Treatment Decision Makers and Advance Care Directives.

Please join us to learn more about planning for your future

Wednesday 27th February
5pm
Hopetoun & District Neighbourhood House

Please RSVP to Cindy by Monday 25th February
Ph: 5083 3408 or email info@hopehouse.org.au

Please note: Individual legal advice cannot be given at the session.