Dear Parents and families,

The Gospel reading last Sunday from Luke (6:17. 20-26) is where Jesus tells his disciples of the Beatitudes. Our lives are a journey to God. Jesus is telling us the right way to make this journey. He speaks of the importance of living a good life. Sometimes we may be criticised for this but Jesus promises that He will be there to help us make this journey.

Whilst it is not wrong to accumulate material things, we need to remember to share what we have with others. This week, we remember in our prayers the poor, the hungry and those who suffer, and we ask ourselves what can we do to help?

You might like to pray the following at home this week:

Loving God, Give us the strength we need to live as followers of Jesus. Give us the confidence we need to live in a loving, caring way, trusting in your loving presence in our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Southern Mallee Lakes Swimming carnival

Congratulations to all students who represented St Joseph’s School last Friday. Your participation, support of your team members and behavior was outstanding! Thanks to our parent helpers for filling our responsibilities at the carnival; it simply wouldn’t happen without parental help.

Special congratulations to those students who were placed in the championship events.

Macey, Coco, Marni, Taya, Lena, Clay, Lena, Isabella and Leith have all qualified to represent Southern Mallee Lakes at the Little Desert Carnival in Horsham on Wednesday 6th March. We wish them all the best! Information has been handed out to these students today. Please contact the office if your child needs a lift to this carnival.

Wishing you all a wonderful week! Cynthia

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING
Water Fun Day

Our Water Fun Day will be held this 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! Please note the Water Fun Day concludes our Water Familiarisation & Safety Program. Our sports day will revert to Fridays from Friday 1st March onwards.

 Helpers

Lifeguard: Perri Announcer: Rexanne
Marshall: Donna & Cyn Starter: Bruce
Chief Judge: Simon First Aid: Teri
Place ribbons & kickboards for backstroke: Mel, Rachael, Laini, Alex
BBQ: Patto, Sherelle In pool: Noleen, Cathy, Donna
Photos: Cherie

School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council met last night. Agenda items included:
• Induction & Renewal formation for SAC members
• Review of Discrimination & Harassment policy and Email, Internet & Intranet policy
• Pupil Free Day: The SAC recommended to Fr Glynn that Friday 5th April be a Pupil Free Day for staff to attend the second day of Bridges out of Poverty training.
• Shelter quotes: A quote from Andy Graham Welding was accepted to replace the old shade structure over the play equipment and extend it to cover the monkey bars and the slide.
• $4,000 was handed over from the Treasurer of the Working Parties to the school. A big thank you to all parents for the tremendous effort with fundraising already this year.

A reminder that School Advisory Council members are always open to suggestions from families. Please talk to one of the Advisory Council members if you have an idea that you would like considered.

School Advisory Council members: Fr Glynn Murphy, Cynthia Maiden, Patrick Hallam (Chairperson), Mel Seipolt, Shane Roberts, Kimberly Landrigan, Rachael Watson, Julie Grace & Cathy Roberts (Staff Representative).

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 members 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. We look forward to seeing everyone there.
**A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING**

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**No School for Foundation students on Wednesdays**
A reminder to parents of Foundation students that they do not attend school on Wednesdays until after the long weekend.

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**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.

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

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**Parent Meeting**
Thank you:
Carley for bagging up the pie warmer containers; it is greatly appreciated!

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**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.

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**Day Reminders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reminders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd February</td>
<td>Water Fun Day 11.30am students walk to pool, sausage sizzle $1 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28th February</td>
<td>Parent Meeting 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1st March</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day 9am, bring old runners/boots &amp; spare socks</td>
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Room 1
In measurement we have been learning about length. **Foundation students** have compared the length of different objects and have been able to make statements about their comparisons. Some of the language used for length include the words short, shorter, shortest, tall, taller, tallest, long, longer, longest. Parents can support their child’s learning at home by helping them to compare 2 objects side by side and make statements about which is shorter than or longer than e.g. The pencil is shorter than the newspaper. Students have also made ‘cube trains’ of various lengths and compared these to determine which is longer and which is shorter.

**Grade 1 students** have also been making direct comparisons between 2 objects. In addition to this they have also been comparing lengths of chain and ordering them from shortest to longest as well as measuring using informal units such as unifix cubes. They have been using 5 unifix cubes as a basis for measuring and have been comparing objects to the 5 cubes and making statements including the terms “longer than 5 cubes”, “shorter than 5 cubes” and “about the same size as 5 cubes”. Students can practise this skill at home using objects such as paper clips or pop sticks.

**Grade 2 students** have been measuring with both informal units (pop sticks) and formal units (metres). These students have been busy discovering objects in our room that are longer than, shorter than or about equal to a metre. Although students have been using a metre ruler at school they could practise their skills at home by using a tape measure or a piece of string that has been cut to one metre in length.  

**Room 2**
Class dojo is up and running and students of Room 2 have responded well to it. It has been great to see how many parents so far have also joined our class dojo. It is all secure and private so any photos that are put up in the class newsfeed can only be seen by the parents who have connected. If you don’t want your student’s work or photo on class dojo, please let me know.

Homework will be coming home this week. This will include some math, spelling and reading. Students can also work on different math activities through Prodigy on the computer. Parents are also welcomed to link into your child’s account, which enables you to see your child’s progress.

In writing we have started this week working on our narrative writing; its been great to see the great start and effort students are making in their writing.

Congratulations to all those who participated and tried their best in the SML swimming.

If you have any questions don’t hesitate to ask. You can contact me at pflower@sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au or through dojo messages.

**Ms Flower**

Endoreic Short Film Festival
Our Grade 5/6 students will once again be participating in film production workshops, with the aim of producing a short film for the Endoreic Film Festival to be held at Lake Lascelles on April 4th. There will be 2 workshop sessions at Gateway BEET, beginning Thursday 7th March. The other session is on Thursday 14th March. The workshops will run from 1:15pm-3pm.

Permission notes for Grade 5/6 students are attached today.

Our thanks to Murray McKenzie, Community Engagement Officer (Youth) from the Yarriambiack Shire for his organisation of this event.

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

**Room 1:**
- **Harry**: for sounding out the words
- **Popi**: for giving writing a go on your own

**Room 2:**
- **Lana**: for being Dojo Champion earning the most points this week
- **Saige**: for exceptional demonstration of her work in handwriting, earning her pen licence
- **Clay**: for continually completing his reading homework

**Playground raffle winners:**
- **Colt**: for enjoying a friendly game of tennis
- **Jaymon**: for enjoying a friendly game of tennis

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**Star of the Week**

**My Family:** Mum, dad, Harry & Ruby

**My Pets:** Billy, Tom, Bob & Ben

**My Favourite Food:** Carrots & watermelon

**Hobbies:** Cooking cupcakes & cakes

**My Friends:** Jenna, Elderly, Popi, Ayanah & Lexi

**When I grow up I want to be:** a farmer & a gymnast

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*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 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 in-

fo@hopehouse.org.au

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