Dear Parents, carers, families and parishioners,

Last Sunday was the 6th Sunday in Ordinary time, Year A in the Church’s liturgical cycle. The readings had the focus of Wisdom. According to Google, wisdom is “the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgement; the quality of being wise.” The longer we live, the more we realise that life experiences open up for us a series of choices. With these choices we chart the path that we will take. We can’t always control our circumstances but we can still make choices about how we will deal with our circumstances. What works for us in one situation may not necessarily work in other similar situations. We need to be wise and discerning in our choices.

One of my favourite prayers comes to mind this week:

*The Serenity Prayer*

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.
*(attributed to Reinhold Neibuhr, 1892-1971)*

**Shrove Tuesday**

Next Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday, sometimes called Pancake Tuesday. Pancakes will be provided for breakfast from 8:30am onwards. A gold coin donation will get students scrummy pancakes to get their brain tuned in for learning! All money raised will go towards Project Compassion.

**Ash Wednesday**

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which is the start of Lent. Mass will be celebrated in our church with Fr Matt at 10:20am. All Grades 1-6 students will be attending. All family members are warmly invited to join us for Ash Wednesday Mass. Ash Wednesday is a day for Catholics, aged over 14 years, to abstain from eating meat.

Wishing you all a wonderful week! **Cynthia**
Taking photos
A reminder to parents to please ensure, when at school events, to take photos of your child/ren only. Please do NOT post photos of other children at school events on your personal social media pages. We thank you for your cooperation in respectfully using social media and doing your bit to keep everyone in our school community safe.

Mary Poppins trip
We are very excited to announce that our Grades 1-6 students are booked in to see Mary Poppins the Musical on Wednesday 8th March at Her Majesty’s Theatre in Melbourne! Our last planned trip like this was to see Shrek but, unfortunately, we went into lock down and remote learning the week before our trip (which then was unable to occur). It will be a very big day, with the bus leaving school at 6:15am and it is estimated we will return around 9:30pm that night.

Students are asked to wear their normal school uniform and take snacks, drink bottle and their lunch. We will provide snacks for after the show and dinner on the way home.

Due to the big day on Wednesday, there will be a late start to school on Thursday 9th March for Grade 1-6 students. School will officially start at 11:30am for Grade 1-6 students, however supervision will be provided from the normal time of 8:30am for those students who need to be at school early.

Please note, Thursday 9th March will be a normal school day for Foundation students, with school starting at the usual time of 8:50am for these students.

We are looking for a couple of dads with a current WWCC to accompany us to Melbourne. If you can help out, please let us know.

This trip is fully funded for all students by catering monies from the Red Cross 40 years celebration last year and donations from the Hopetoun RSL, Hopetoun CWA and Hopetoun Scholarship Fund (carried over from our cancelled Shrek trip). We sincerely thank these organisations for their generosity.

Fresh Fruit Friday
Thanks to those who have offered to prepare fruit for the students for Friday recess this term. Please ensure we have a copy of your current Working with Children Check and you have returned your signed Child Safe Code of Conduct.

Attached this week:
Southern Mallee Lakes Swimming Carnival
This carnival will take place this Friday 17th February at the Hopetoun Pool, commencing at 10am. Nominations have been finalised and permission notes have been released through PAM. Students come to school as normal, in their sports uniform, and we will walk to the pool at 9:30am. Miss Weir will be accompanying the students and Miss Maiden will be recording at the carnival. Please ensure your child has several drink bottles (it’s going to be very hot) 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. We will need parents to assist with our school’s responsibilities on the day. If you can help out, please fill in the google form that has been sent out today. Our school will be sitting together on the west side of the pool on Friday.
**We ask that toddlers stay out of the little pool during the carnival.
Thanks to Mrs Bound from Hopetoun P-12 College for her organisation of the day.

Water Fun Day
Our Water Fun Day will be held on Friday 24th February. Students will leave school at 11:30am and walk down to the pool for the culmination of our water familiarisation and safety program. We really rely on parent helpers to run this day. If you are able to help out, please fill in the google form that has been sent out. There will be a sausage sizzle lunch for sale - $1 for 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. Thanks to Mrs Horman for her organisation of this day. We look forward to a great day!
**We ask that toddlers stay out of the little pool during the Water Fun Day.
We look forward to seeing many of you there on the day. Wider family members are warmly invited to come along and cheer our students on!

Beginning of School Year Mass
Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year will be held on Sunday 26th February at 11am. It is expected all students and families will attend, however we understand if this date clashes with a prior commitment. This is an excellent opportunity to welcome our new students and families to our school community. Extended family members and parishioners are welcome to join us for this special celebration. A shared lunch will follow Mass in the Community Room; please bring a plate to share for lunch. All Foundation students will be in the opening procession. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Parent Meeting
Our first Parent Meeting for this year will be on Thursday February 23rd, commencing at 9am in the Community Room.
Agenda items include:
• Wrap up of New Year’s Eve
• Possibility of funeral catering (further discussion carried over from our last parent meeting)
• 2023 Fundraising opportunities
• Child Safe Briefing for volunteers
Morning tea will be provided. Please RSVP your attendance or apology via the Google Form that was sent out last week (thanks to those who have done so already). We hope many of you are able to make it!
**Random Acts of Kindness Week**

This week we are recognising Random Acts of Kindness Week. Kindness is an incredibly easy and effective way to positively influence the mental and emotional wellbeing of others. The idea behind Random Acts of Kindness is to cultivate feelings of kindness and brighten someone’s day. Every small act of kindness is significant. It may seem like it doesn’t accomplish much but, just like the domino effect, one act of kindness can lead to more positive outcomes. Random Acts of Kindness Day (which is Friday) was initiated in 1995 in Denver and has spread since then.

On Monday, students were given a challenge to undertake random acts of kindness every day this week. This could include Kindness at School, Kindness at Home, Kindness in the Community and Kindness with Adults. We’ve been hearing lots of compliments, seeing lots of helpful students and having the door held open for us at school this week. We hope you are noticing some random acts of kindness at home too!

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**Catastrophic Fire Rating Days**

In September 2022, Australia introduced a new fire danger forecasting system, the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS). A nationally consistent system will more accurately predict fire danger and produce clear, simple messages for communities. Victoria has been using a 6-tier system for fire danger ratings, from ‘Low’ or ‘Moderate’ to ‘Code Red’. The AFDRS will replace the Victorian system this year and uses 4 tiers of fire danger, from ‘Moderate’ to ‘Catastrophic’.

In response to the updated state Victorian Fire Risk register, St Joseph’s is now rated CAT 4. This means that our school must close on days forecast as ‘Catastrophic’, by the Bureau of Meteorology within our designated fire district. The decision to close will be confirmed by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day prior to the closure. Once we have received confirmation of the closure we will contact you directly via SMS before the end of the school day to confirm this.

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**Upcoming Dates**

*Please note the following dates for your calendar*

- Friday 17th Feb SML swimming
- Tuesday 21st Feb Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday 22nd Feb Ash Wednesday
- Friday 24th Feb Water Fun Day
- Sunday 26th Feb Beginning of School Year Mass 11am
- Thursday 2nd March Little Desert swimming
- Friday 3rd March Clean Up Aust Day
- Wednesday 8th March Mary Poppins
- Friday 10th March Pupil Free Day
- Wednesday 15th March NAPLAN commences
- Tuesday 21st March P/T Interviews
- Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th March PSGs
- Thursday 6th April Last day of Term

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**Swimming dates**

Thursday 16th February 11:30am-1pm
Tuesday 21st February 1:45pm-3:10pm
**Friday 24th February Water Fun Day from 11:30am**

Thanks to Sherelle & Kat who are our life-guards for our swimming program. Thanks also to Cherie & Emma who are helping with our swimming program.
Foundation
Because of our swimming program, we are tired and our Maths time is a little interrupted. As a result of this, on a Monday in our Maths time, we have been focussing on geometry and learning about 2-dimensional shapes. We have played 'I Spy' to find given shapes both in pictures and around the room, worked on our colouring in skills by colouring particular shapes a given colour, worked at sorting a range of shapes by certain attributes, for example - straight or curved lines. In the coming weeks, as our routine starts to settle, we will begin learning about the days of the week. Any incidental conversations you can have with your child about what day it is and what they do on certain days of the week will be very useful in these sessions.

How many of each shape can you and your child count and name?

Please don't forget to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Horman

Grade 1/2/3
What a busy start to the term with swimming, maths and art. Tuesday is our allocated maths and art day and we have started the term by looking at the concept of time during our maths sessions. Students are focusing on different aspects such as telling time to o'clock, half past, quarter past, quarter to, 5 minute intervals or perhaps to the minute. To support learning at home, have a look at the clocks around the house or in the car, talk about what time it is with your child, ask them questions such as what time is recess, lunch or end of school. While we focus on the concepts of telling time, we will also investigate how we use time in our lives (calendars, birthdays, events, various seasons).

Challenge: record how many times you ‘use time’ in an afternoon.

Art
We will start the year looking at the colour wheel and focusing on the theme of water. If you have any pictures or photos of water, please feel free to send in or send to me via DoJo. I am looking forward to seeing what amazing pieces the Grade 1/2/3 class will create.

Ms Roberts

Grade 4/5/6
Our Religion concept for this term is Growth. The Strands for this unit are Prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments AND God, Religion and Society. We began our unit by viewing and discussing a clip from Matilda the Musical “When I Grow Up.” We analysed the lyrics, looking at the key words and phrases in the song related to physical growth, social/emotional growth and responsibilities. We’ve shared our experiences about how we cope with challenges as we grow and learn. We watched a snippet from ‘Old People’s Home for 4 year olds’ and discussed how it is important for everyone to maintain their Human Dignity in all stages of life.

With Lent commencing next week, we have spent time this week learning a little more about Lent, in particular how it is a time for Catholic Christians to deepen and renew commitment to their faith, to grow in their faith. We looked at the 3 traditional practices for Catholic Christians during Lent, that is fasting, almsgiving (giving) and prayer. Students can be involved in fasting by abstaining or ‘giving up’ a little luxury during Lent. This is to help them connect with the suffering of Jesus. An alternative way of looking at this is to do more rather than ‘give up’. This might mean giving up free time to help others. Almsgiving, or giving may literally mean sharing money through charity during Lent. It may also include giving of other items or time to others in need. Prayer during Lent is also important. Students have then spent time reflecting on what they can do during Lent and have written their Lenten Promises. We will touch base on these throughout the time of Lent to see how we are going with our promises.

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

♦ **Miah**: Well done again this week Miah. You have listened well to instructions and worked hard, both on the floor and at your table. I am impressed with how you are learning and practicing your new Jolly Phonics sounds each day. Keep up your great work.

♦ **Ralph**: for recognising the sounds that we have been learning when practicing in class.

♦ **Lola**: for being focussed in maths mastery and transferring your learning from last year to this year’s activities. Keep up the great concentration!

♦ **Anthony**: for enthusiastically participating in literacy tasks and activities. You have been very focussed and actively listen to teacher instructions. Keep up the fantastic work!

♦ **Louie**: What a way to start Year 4 Louie, focused, determined and enthusiastic. You are locking in to your learning the first time every time and are working hard until the work is done, particularly in maths and reading. In small and whole group discussions you provide thoughtful ideas and are showing respect for others and their contributions. Keep kicking goals Louie!

♦ **Popi**: for having a growth mindset, approaching all tasks and activities this week with determination and a smile. You deserve a pat on the back for working hard independently, it is fantastic to see you really challenging yourself, especially in Math. A great start to Year 4. Well done!

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**Playground raffle**: **Denzel**: for helping younger students play cricket  
**Ralph**: for playing happily in the sand

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**A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING**
A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING

In this edition of SchoolTV - SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

Whether it is starting school for the first time, moving up to a higher grade or embarking on a journey through secondary school, there is no doubt that any school transition is a very exciting time for children and parents. It means your children are growing up!

However, transitioning is an ongoing process. It can continue long after students have entered their new environment and may encounter difficulties at a number of different stages. These stressors may appear as anxiety and frustration and result in negative or disruptive behaviours. Such behaviours can become problematic making the transitioning process even more difficult for children and parents.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents will learn practical strategies to assist your child during the transition process and reduce stress and anxiety levels.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this edition of SchoolTV and we always welcome your feedback. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to the School Transitions edition of SchoolTV https://sjhopetoun.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/school-transitions
**Bread tags for wheelchairs**
A reminder that our school is a collection point for Bread tags that will be recycled, with the money from this process going towards buying wheelchairs for those who need them in South Africa. Please send in your plastic bread tags so they can be sorted and sent off for recycling. Thank you!

**Cutlery**
A reminder to pack cutlery for your child/ren if they need it for recess or lunch. Thanks for your cooperation with this!

**Reminder**
No school for Foundation students on Wednesdays.

**Brain Break**
Students have a Brain Break at 10am each morning, which includes a fruit snack. Please ensure your child’s fruit snack is cut up and ready to be consumed quickly. Thank you for your support with this.

**Drink Bottles**
A reminder to ensure that your child has a labelled drink bottle with them every day.

**School calendar**
The calendar on our website www.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au has important dates on it for the upcoming school year. Please check this regularly.

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**FIRST AID COURSES**

**Tuesday March 21st 2023**

Gateway BEET, 75 Lascelles St, Hopetoun

**HLTAID011 Provide First Aid - $180**
This course is a nationally recognised course. As per the First Aid in the Workplace Code of Practice and the Australian Resuscitation Council guidelines, first aid skills are renewed every 3 years, and resuscitation skills are renewed every 12 months. This course involves pre-course reading and assessment that must be completed before the course. This can be completed online or with workbook.

**HLTAID009 CPR - $90**
CPR course is a nationally recognised course. It is recommended by the First Aid in the Workplace Code of Practice and the Australian Resuscitation Council guidelines; that resuscitation skills are renewed every 12 months.

**HLTAID011 Provide First Aid (Level II) - $95**
This course is a nationally recognized course. To be eligible for this course you must supply a copy of a current Provide First Aid Certificate which is less than 2 years old. (Mallee First Aid can supply your certificate if you previously completed a course with us.) This course allows you to complete your required annual CPR update and at the same time ⅔ of the full course each year. This unique Continuous Learning Program allows you to continuously update your qualification. This means that you don't need to redo the whole course every 3 years.

Please contact Gateway BEET for enquiries and to book your place.
Ph: 5083 3001 or Email: admin@gatewaybeet.com.au

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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 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 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 $15.00 for 50 containers.

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*Grounds Roster: February – N Seipolt, K Leetham, J Nelson*