

# St Joseph's School Newsletter

Volume 32 No 14

18th May 2022



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## 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 HOURS

## Calendar

Friday	20th May:	Pupil Free Day
Sunday	22nd May:	Mass 11am
Tuesday	24th May:	VRQA audit
Wednesday	25th May:	National Simultaneous Storytime
Friday	27th May:	Catholic Education week celebrations No Buses today
Sunday	29th May:	Mass 9am
Monday	30th May:	Greater Western X-country
Wednesday	1st June:	Ash here for speech Winter Sports (Football/Netball)
Sunday	5th June:	Mass 9am
Monday	13th June:	Public Holiday
Tuesday	21st June:	SAC meeting 7pm
Wednesday	22nd June:	Ash here for speech Family Science Night

Dear Parents, carers, families and parishioners,

Last Sunday was the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Easter season. The Gospel reading from John (13:31-35) reads in part:

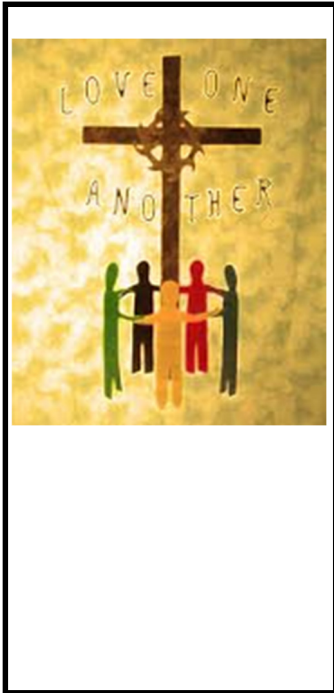
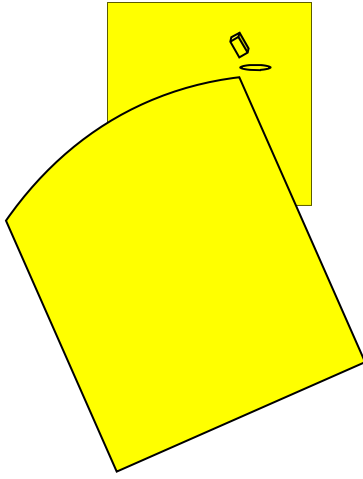
"I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples."

In this text Jesus is not simply telling his disciples that they must love each other, but that they must love as he has loved. The new commandment of love for one another becomes the defining principle and sign of discipleship. It is through this love for each other that people will know that they are followers of Jesus. I love my dog! I love your hair! I love that new song! I absolutely love chocolate! We throw around the word 'love' so casually today that it has almost lost its meaning. Jesus did not use the word so casually. He spoke of love very deliberately and very specifically. Jesus calls us to share in the selfless love that he modelled and to follow his example. The challenge for us as Christians is to act with love towards all people we encounter this week and in the weeks and months ahead.

A reminder that **Friday is a Pupil Free Day**. Students do not attend school on Friday; all staff will be undertaking professional development on Enhancing Catholic School Identity. The day will be facilitated by Gina Bernasconi (CEB). Staff from St Mary's School, Sea Lake will be joining us for this day also. During the day we will develop our understanding of our ECSI standard report and its significance for learning and teaching in our school; establish a shared understanding about what Christian Values Education means and looks like in our school; and establish a shared understanding about what Recontextualisation means and how to ensure we are planning and teaching Recontextualised units of Religious Education. We are looking forward to working with Gina & our Sea Lake colleagues to further our knowledge and understanding of ECSI.

*Wishing you all a wonderful week! Cynthia*

# A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING



Attached this week:

Parenting Ideas-  
Connecting with  
your kids

### **Positive Behaviour Support Training**

On Friday we learnt more about de-escalation strategies and communication to ensure that challenging behaviours are transformed into positive outcomes. Whilst our recent Insight SRC data would indicate staff and parents do not see behaviour as a major issue in our school, our student data is very different! Staff and parents rate student behaviour in the top 25% of schools across all of Victoria. Student data places our school in the bottom 25% of schools for student behaviour. Following on from our professional learning on Friday, staff have decided to survey our students again, based on the survey question from the Insight survey "The behaviour of some students in class makes it hard for me to do my work." Student opinion will be sought on that question, with teachers then probing more deeply to question students about WHAT behaviours specifically makes it hard for them to do their work. Teachers will revisit class norms with their students. It is hoped that a greater understanding of student opinion will help us to address the concerns that they have expressed through the surveys completed last year.

### **Census Audit**

Our school has this year been selected by the Australian Government for the Non-government School's Census Post-enumeration Exercise (PE). The purpose of the Census PE is to validate whether the Census information provided by schools is accurate, complete and reliable, and to ensure that the Census count process has integrity. The Census PE is also the way the Department measures the accuracy of recurrent funding payments, with the outcomes reported to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO). This year about 250 schools are being audited across Australia. Contractors review and assess a variety of school documentation to verify students' eligibility for inclusion in the Census against the schools' Census data and recommend adjustments, which are then assessed by the Department.

This morning we (virtually) welcomed auditors from Bellchambers Barrett to our school. I am very pleased to inform you that there were no discrepancies found in our Census data from last year.



### **VRQA audit**

Next week we undertake our Audit with the Victorian Registrations and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). In Victoria, schools are reviewed to make sure they are meeting the minimum standards and other requirements for registration. In our Diocese, all schools are reviewed as part of their five-year School Improvement cycle. Schools are reviewed against the minimum standards for registration. The minimum standards include: Governance, Probity, Enrolment, Attendance, Curriculum and Student Learning, Care, Safety & Welfare of Students, Staff employment, School Infrastructure, OH&S, Child Safe Standards and Bushfire Preparedness. If non-compliances with the minimum standards during a school review is identified the VRQA provide the school with a non-compliance report. The school will then be accountable for rectifying non-compliances in a timely manner. This process ensures our school maintains its registration, and therefore remains open! As you can imagine, there is a lot of work that happens continually in all of these areas, however a review means extra work ensuring our current documentation is uploaded onto our review portal for the VRQA auditor to access. Thanks to Julie and Donna Wood (our Risk & Compliance Officer) for all their work with this review.

# A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS?

### ***Foundation/1/2***

This term students are writing narratives. Narrative writing tells a story. The basic elements are characters, setting, a plot that involves a problem and events and an ending. Grade one and two students have been focused on learning about how to add detailed characters, events and ideas to make their narratives interesting. They have also continued to include capital letters, full stops and use strategies to spell unknown words. Students are also working on practicing editing punctuation and spelling within their narratives. Foundation students have been learning about writing words and sentences using letters and their Jolly Phonics sound knowledge. They are still busy learning how to form letters correctly and revising Jolly Phonics sounds. Writing narratives is always fun and students have enjoyed using their creativity to develop characters and practice their writing skills.

Writing is an important part of our daily lives however it is a difficult skill to develop and master. You can help your child to develop writing skills at home by providing them with paper and pencils and opportunities to write. Children can write narratives, journals and also write about what they are reading at home. Letters to family and friends can also be a great way to encourage children to write. Any form of writing in our everyday life is great writing practice.

***Mrs Jochinke***

### ***Grade 3/4 & 5/6***

#### **Maths**

During our maths sessions we continue to look at time. We have reviewed analogue clocks, digital clocks, am/ pm notation and some groups have started looking at 24 hour time. In addition to telling the time, students have been using time to read a variety of timetables such as train and bus schedules. We will further investigate calendars in the coming weeks.

Things you can do to support this learning at home: have a look around the house at what clocks are on display and regularly ask questions about time. Discuss which one your child finds easier to read. Ask questions such as what is the time now? In 15 minutes we will go for a walk- what time will it be? The cake needs to cook for 45 minutes- what time will it be ready? I need to be at school by 8:30am and it takes me 15 minutes to get there, what time do I need to leave?

#### **Art - Student Choice**

We have started to collate our ideas and plan individual art projects based on things that inspire or interest us. This could be a pet, a type of transport, a book, an artist, a colour, a material, a sport- the options are endless. Students will have the choice of what their final art piece will look like, but first they need to complete the design section of the project. We are looking forward to seeing the individual final pieces and exploring different techniques students use to create it.

***Ms Roberts***

### Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week 2022 will be celebrated from 22-28 May. The theme for Catholic Education Week this year is “**Share the Good News!**” This theme is based on scripture from the Gospel of Mark - “*Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.*” - **Mark 16:15**

Our communities are beautiful places that can and do enrich the mystery of Christ’s identity and enable his way to be continually raised up in and by community. “Go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole of creation,” is an urgent invitation to our community to comprehend the meaning of Jesus’ life to grasp what this looks like in following and enacting God’s dream for the world. We pray that our communities inspire from within to be people of peace, hope and love in these times of displacement, anxiety and concern for Earth as our common home: to realise each unique community’s intimate connection in proclaiming who Jesus is and what it means to follow in the light of the gospel for these times. Catholic Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate and enhance the reality of this identity, to dialogue with the Catholic faith tradition and the world in which we live to interpret and proclaim the good news.

St Mary’s School Warracknabeal is hosting us for Catholic Education Week celebrations this year on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. We will be joined also by students and staff from St Patrick’s School Nhill and Our Lady Help of Christians School Murtoa.

We will be leaving at 9am and returning at 3pm. Students are to **wear their sports uniform and take their drink bottle, fruit snack and recess snacks**. Lunch will be provided by the parents of St Mary’s School. Our day will begin with Mass, followed by activities based on the theme of Catholic Education Week. We look forward to a wonderful day celebrating our Catholic schools!

### **NO BUSES –FRIDAY 27th MAY**

Please note, there will be no school buses on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May due to a Pupil Free Day at Hopetoun P-12 College. Families are asked to make alternative arrangements for school drop off and pick up on this day. Please keep in mind that we are headed to Warracknabeal on this day, with our bus leaving school at 9am. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.



### Help needed

We are looking for a couple of parents who would be able to set up and clean up for morning tea and lunch on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May (pupil free day). We are hosting staff from St Mary’s School Sea Lake on this day, with a very tight timetable.

If you are able to help us out, please let the office know.

### Important dates for Term 2

- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May: Pupil Free Day (ECSI)
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Catholic Education Week this week
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May: VRQA Audit
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May: Simultaneous Storytime
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May: Catholic Education Week celebrations (Warracknabeal)
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June: Winter Sports (Football/Netball)
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June: SAC meeting
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Family Science night
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June: School Photos *please note change of date*
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June: Last day of Term

# **A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING**



### Education Support Staff day

Monday was world Education Support Staff Day. We took the opportunity to say a big thank you to Janelle, Wendy & Amanda for all they do to support the learning of all our students. We are so lucky to have such wonderful people working alongside us to help our students learn and grow each day. Thank you!



### SAC Meeting

The School Advisory Council met last night. Agenda items included:

- Child Safe Standards: discussion was held on *Standard 1: Culturally Safe Environments* and how the school can meet this standard. Discussion included recognizing key events such as Harmony Day & Reconciliation Week and connecting with local indigenous groups.
- OH & S: The school's recent Arborist report was presented and discussed. A number of trees need some attention, mainly due to storm damage last year. This will be followed up with the Arborist.
- Update from Uniform Working Party: Currently waiting on new uniform samples to arrive for parent and student discussion.
- Insight SRC Data: School Improvement data from surveys completed late last year was presented and discussed. Whilst much of the data indicates high satisfaction of students, parents and staff, one area of concern is around student behavior, from the perspective of the students. Student opinion on this is being sought this week, with class teachers aiming to gain a greater understanding of what behaviours concern students most.

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:* Cynthia Maiden, Rachael Watson (Chairperson), Luke Puckle, Nick Seipolt, Alex Webster, Kim Decker, Donna Horman & Julie Grace.

### Changes to the Child Safe Standards –NEW Standard from July 1st

Standard 1: Culturally Safe Environments

Schools must have:

- A public commitment to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children
- Policies and documentation, including Child Safe Policy, Wellbeing Policy, Code of Conduct and Role descriptions that explicitly state the school has a zero tolerance of racism and expectations that staff and volunteers will act on incidents of racism
- Policies and documentation, including Child Safe Policy, Wellbeing Policy, Code of Conduct and Role descriptions that explicitly state that children will be supported to express their culture and enjoy their cultural gifts



# A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING

## In this week's edition of School TV –Screen Time



As a result of the global pandemic, there has been a noticeable shift in the amount of time people spend on screen-based devices. Families are transitioning back to pre-COVID routines but many are still struggling to re-establish the boundaries and rules around screen use. Some continue to deal with digital conflict and tech-tantrums on a daily basis. The latest research found that 77% of teenagers spend more than five hours on screens per day, but it is important to note that not all screen time is considered equal.

Parents play a crucial role in modelling a positive and healthy approach to using screens and assisting children to navigate the content they watch. It is better to model and mentor screen use, rather than monitor it. Children tend to do more of what they see us do, and less of what we tell them to do. However, it is still important to outline the risks and highlight the benefits of screen use to ensure you keep a balanced attitude. Encourage discussions around the issues that people experience in monitoring their screen time and be honest about your own difficulties.

Parents need to remain firm in their approach to managing screen time. Excessive screen time can be detrimental to a child's overall wellbeing. Ensuring the correct privacy settings are in place is vital to prevent children from being inadvertently exposed to inappropriate content or online predators. Parents need to also be mindful of the potential impact screen time can have on a child's social, emotional, educational, behavioural, and even physical domains.

In this edition of SchoolTV, care-givers will be provided with a range of guidelines and strategies to help manage screen time at home. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this month's edition, and we always welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to this month's edition

<https://sjhopetoun.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/managing-screen-time>

**Nude Food Day**  
**EVERY**  
**Thursday**

### School calendar

The calendar on our website [www.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au) has important dates on it for the upcoming school year. Please check this regularly.

Day	Reminders
Friday 20th May	Pupil Free Day
Friday 27th May	Catholic Education Week celebrations, sports uniform, drink bottle, snack & recess
Wednesday 22nd June	Family Science Night

**A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING**

# ★ ★ Star of the Week ★ ★

What is your favourite thing to do & why? Swimming because it's really fun in the summer when it's hot.



What is your favourite snack; when & why do you eat it? Mango when it's really hot and it's amazing food.



If you were invisible for a day, what would you do? Steal mum's credit card and go shopping!



**Ava**



If you could pick any name for yourself, what would it be & why? Grace because it's a really nice name.

**Grace**

Would you rather have the power to talk to animals or control the weather? Control the weather so it's hot every day.



Nobody on earth can ever love you more than your parents.

What are you thankful for? My parents and my life.

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

- ♦ *Ariat:* for participating actively during Chinese lessons.
- ♦ *Daisy:* for independently completing reading activities in set time.
- ♦ *Ava:* for taking on the strategy of solving the eights multiplication fact by using the 'double, double method' and assisting others in learning this strategy. Great work Ava!
- ♦ *Emily:* for her awesome expression as she reads. Your reading has become so much better now that you are using more expression and tone as you read. Great work Emily!
- ♦ *Dakota:* for undertaking all tasks this week with impeccable manners and attitude. You are productive during your reading group time and encourage all group members to contribute with kindness. You are a fun player of 6 square showing resilience and a positive attitude. We enjoy watching you enjoy spending your breaks being active and setting a good example of how to conduct yourself whilst playing. What a superstar you are Dakota!

Playground raffle: *Jaymon:* for organising great games for younger students  
*Dakota:* for encouraging others in 6 square



## A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING



## Connecting with your kids



Most of us get a bit "judgy" when we see a parent staring at their screen rather than engaging with their kids at the park or the shops – or worse, in a restaurant. And if a parent publicly berates their child, it often sends shivers down our spine.

Even though we are almost all guilty of it from time to time, it's like there's some intrinsic mechanism inside us that loads up on guilt each time we see a parent do something that impacts or severs the connection that they share with their child. We know it's a concern and we draw back from it – and then we remember we do it sometimes too, and the parent guilt sets in.

I think it's because connection is not a luxury item. It's an essential: for your relationship, for your child's wellbeing, and for their future.

### What does a positive connection between parent and child look like?

Life Education Learning Manager, Lisa Woodward, says that positive connections are all about love, caring, nurturing, and safety. "In a positive parent-child relationship, family members feel safe and connected to one another."

"It's also about being in the moment with your child", adds Derek McCormack, Director of the Raising Children Network. "It's in a day-to-day setting, having quality time with your child whenever you can. Spotting the opportunities and making the time is really important."

And from my perspective? We run our economy on dollars, and we run our relationships on connection. If there's no dollars in the bank, we're financially kaput. If there's no connection in the relationship, we're relationally broke.

### There are great benefits

The benefits of positive connections between parent and child are significant and wide ranging says Woodward.

"Children learn and thrive when they have strong, loving and positive relationships with their parents and carers, and it's the foundation for a child's development physically, emotionally, and socially."

Connection also helps develop important skills needed for a child's future. "Strong relationships set the child up for success in their lives, they are more confident and resilient, better able to regulate their emotions, make friends and connections with others, and do better at school."

### Connections will change over time

As your child develops, your relationship with them will too. This is normal. "For example, your pre-teen might no longer want you around at the park with their friends, even though your child used to love playing there with you. This doesn't mean that the connection is not still healthy and positive," explains Woodward.



# parenting \* ideas

McCormack says one of the key principles of a positive connection is communication.

When your child is younger the opportunities for communication are really there any time you want but as a child grows you will need to look out for them more actively and make time for them.

"As your child becomes a teen, communication can be more of a one-way street and involve tuning into feelings and being a support for them," he explains.

## How to achieve positive connections

"Positive connections are based on time together, being present, and building trust and respect", says Woodward. For example:

### Make moments together matter

Booking in "quality time" doesn't guarantee positive, bonding time. We may have the best intentions but sometimes these special times will not work out the way we had intended. Often the best conversations happen in the car, at bedtime, or when doing things side by side, like washing up or walking the dog. These moments give you the chance to communicate positive messages with smiles, laughter, eye contact, hugs and gentle touches.

### Tune in to your child

Tuning in to your child and thinking about what's going on for them shows them that you care about the things that matter to them, which is the basis for a strong relationship. This could be noticing what your child is doing and commenting or encouraging them. For example, with younger children it might be talking about the Lego creation they are building, or the picture they are drawing.

### Nurture trust and respect in your relationships

Be available when your child needs support, care, or help. For example: giving them a hug when they fall over. Stick to your promises. If you've agreed to help them with a school assignment, make sure you follow through.

Value your child and their opinions. This could be showing interest in the things that interest them. Or listening without judgement when they express an opinion different to yours.

### Label emotions and listen

Let's say you notice your child seems upset, instead of saying - "Are you ok?", try something like "I notice you seem a bit down - do you want to talk? Or maybe we could just hang out for a while and watch a show together?"

## In closing

To a child, love is spelled t-i-m-e. That connection helps on a personal level but also by teaching key skills such as communication and resilience.

It's important to remember that the connection will change and evolve as children do. But at the heart of it all is communication and that your child feels safe, secure and respected.



### Dr Justin Coulson

Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel 9's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families podcast. He has written 6 books about families and parenting. For further details visit [www.happyfamilies.com.au](http://www.happyfamilies.com.au).

## **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 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: May- L Puckle**



# **A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING**