



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Last Friday we had a very meaningful and fantastic **Catholic Education Week Mass** with the school communities of St Paul's, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Merbein, Sacred Heart Mildura and St Joseph's College. Thank you to the St Joseph's College community for providing the magnificent facility for the Mass. A big thank you to Kim, Janice and the leaders from the various schools who helped with the organisation to make the day a huge success. Well done also to the many children from our school who participated in various ways throughout the Mass and to our choir who once again sang beautifully. On returning to school the children had a hot dog lunch that was organised and cooked by Josie Gallace, Natasha Collihole, Megan Sires and Kyah Keogh. Thank you for the delicious lunch.

Last Thursday, our School and House Captains with myself attended the **GRIP Leadership Conference** held in Mildura. Over 250 students from across the Mallee attended this engaging opportunity that provided the direction on how they can grow as leaders.

We are now taking **enrolments** for next year's preps. If you have a child who is due to start school in 2018 (turning 5 years old by 30th April, 2018) please contact the school to get an enrolment pack. Also if there are any of your friends or relations who have a child due to start school next year please ask them to contact the school.

Tomorrow, Tuesday 30th May, we will participate in a **School Closure Day** looking at 21st Century Thinking. Participants will explore essential skills required for a modern society and workplace and how we can promote these skills with our students today.

Congratulations to all involved in the organisation and running of the **Trivia Night**. I would particularly like to acknowledge Peter Manno, Tamara Leamon, Sue Napoli, Christina Everett, Lisa Markham, Rhea Yazici, Jodie Pascoe, Simon Markham and Carmel Manno. This event was a huge success and provided a great social opportunity for parents. It was great to see many from our school community get into the spirit of the night with dressing up, dancing and enjoying the company of others. Thank you to everyone involved in making the night a fantastic occasion. We will include some photos in next week's Newsletter.

Congratulations to our **Grade 4/5** children for their participation in our **Parish Mass** yesterday. The contribution of our students within the Mass was fantastic and it was not unnoticed by many parishioners. Thanks also to the many staff that assisted, attended or helped prepare the children.

It is fantastic to see so many of our students prepare and present speeches for their **class SRC position**. Whilst not everyone is able to be chosen this time around, this is an important experience and rich learning experience in itself. A big congratulation to all students who stepped up and took part. We will share the results at our school assembly this Friday.

I am looking forward to this week working closely with our **School Advisory Council** (Tuesday 7pm). Our next Community Club meeting will be on Friday, 9th June at 9am. All parents are welcome to attend the Community Club meeting.

Mark Gibson

School Calendar

The following dates are scheduled for the near future. Make sure you are aware of the ones that are applicable to you.

MAY

- | | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------|
| Tue | 30 | School Closure Day |
| Tue | 30 | School Advisory Council Mtg |

JUNE

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Sun | 4 | Confirmation |
| Tue | 6 | Regional Cross Country – St Arnaud |
| Wed | 7 | Marimba Band Mildura Eisteddfod |
| Fri | 9 | Community Club Mtg 9am |
| Mon | 19 | Choir Performance – Mildura Eisteddfod |
| Tue | 20 | PSG Meetings |
| Wed | 21 | PSG Meetings |
| Thu | 22 | Parent Information Session – Student Reports |
| Thu | 22 | School Reports Parent Info Session 5pm – 6pm |
| Fri | 23 | Mass for the Needy 10am |
| Fri | 30 | Last Day Term 2 |

2017 School Closure Days

The following dates are confirmed as school closure days. No school will occur on these days.

- 30th May – 21st Century Thinking Curriculum
- 6th November – Report Writing Day



The following students/staff celebrate birthdays over the next week.

4th June – Elijah A

Notes Distributed

The following notices have been distributed over the last week. If you missed them, copies are available from the school office.

Prep/1

No notes sent home

Grade 2/3

No notes sent home

Grade 4/5

No notes sent home

Grade 5/6

No notes sent home

Whole School

No notes sent home

RE & PARISH NEWS

Confirmation: Sunday June 4 is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the church. It is also the day that St Joseph's Parish celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation. Six of our students will be confirmed that day along with other children from our Parish. We ask the school community to pray for these children, that they may receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence and awe. May they also be filled with the fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

GENERAL NEWS & UPDATES

Breakfast Club Roster: **Tuesday** - Sara Napoli, **Wednesday** - Jodie Pascoe, **Thursday** - Christina Everett, **Friday** - Fiona Diamantis.

Major Raffle: Please be selling our tickets for our Major Raffle. We have some fantastic prizes including a Houseboat Holiday. Please try and sell as many tickets as possible with additional books available at the Office. Money raised will go towards our new playground. We will start giving out random prizes at assemblies for those that have returned their allocated tickets.

Student Reporting - Teachers are in the process of compiling the Students' Reports. Report formats are changing in 2017 and we plan to have a Parent Information Session on Thursday 22nd June from 5-6pm. As part of this meeting, parents will be able to collect their student's report and have an opportunity to look at their Portfolio which is a new part of the reporting process. Our 'Parent & Teacher Meetings' will occur in Term Three on Monday 14th August where we will reflect on the student's portfolio, student report and future learning goals.

PSG Meetings: For our funded students who need to attend PSG meetings they will be held on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st June. Information sheets with instructions to book your meeting time is being sent home today. Please contact the office if you have any queries.

Sporting Schools Soccer- During our lessons last week Chris taught students about passing and striking. They practised passing to a partner and aiming at a target. Students also participated in small sided soccer matches towards the end of the lesson.

School Funding - Over the past few weeks, there has been a great deal of information in the media about the Turnbull Government's *Quality Schools* funding package and its impact on Catholic school fees. The package proposed by the Government is a 10-year funding model, which will see significant changes to how Catholic schools are funded in the future. Like the majority of Catholic schools, St Joseph's aims to be open and accessible to all families seeking a Catholic education. That means we aim to be affordable as well. One of the big impacts of the Turnbull Government's funding package is that Catholic school fees will have to rise. This won't happen tomorrow, but over the next 10 years, cuts to school funding will mean fees will gradually increase. Catholic education leaders across Australia have been working hard to make sure the Government and the Opposition understand that our students will be disadvantaged by the funding model. Everything is being done to make sure the Turnbull Government's funding package does not become law. That is where our College community comes in. In coming weeks, please keep an eye out in the newsletter for information about how you can add your voice to help prevent unreasonable fee increases. With your help, we can make sure our politicians in Canberra are listening to Catholic schools.

Marimba Band Mildura Eisteddfod - Our Marimba Band students will be heading off to perform at the 39th Mildura Eisteddfod on Wednesday 7th June @ the Mildura Arts Centre. They are the third section of the afternoon session (which starts at 1:30pm). We will be leaving by bus at 1pm and estimate we will perform around 2pm with a return back to school by 3pm. We are looking for a family with a ute or trailer to volunteer to transport our instruments to and from the venue. If you can help or have any queries regarding this event, please contact Ms Leamon.



**A BIG thank you to all
our sponsors for making
our 80's Trivia Night such
a great success!**

THANK YOU

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS & UPDATES

There were WOW moments in the Junior School this week with the students preparing great speeches in anticipation of being selected to be class leaders. All the teachers were very impressed with the way in which the children prepared and presented their speeches.

The Grade 2/3 girls have been working with Felicity, our Pastoral Care Worker on a special Bounce Back! unit on the topic of Friendly Relationships. The girls have been talking about how to have a friend, you need to be a friend and how friendships can change over time. They have also been working on skills for getting along with others and learning how to disagree respectfully with others. Some of the girls have also been taking advantage of the supervised play activities that Felicity provides in the lunch shed, using this time as an opportunity to put into practice the skills they have been developing. When they have finished this Bounce Back! Unit the girls will be invited to share the message with the other classes.

Last week also saw a very special celebration for someone who works tirelessly in the Junior Unit - So all of us in the Junior Unit and the whole school would like to wish Mrs Cav a very happy 60th Birthday!

We were also very proud of how well our children participated in the Catholic Education Week Mass, combined playtime and hot dog lunch, demonstrating their very best manners in each case!



SENIOR UNIT NEWS & UPDATES

This past week the senior unit have moved onto multiplication in maths and are looking to revise, revise and revise their times tables! We have noticed an improvement in students' mental maths through daily practice of basic skills in EMM and JEMM sessions. We are working hard to complete our RE tasks about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Well done to the students who took them home to continue working and meet the deadline. Last week the school and sports leaders took part in the GRIP leadership conference with Mr Gibson and Miss Lees. They have lots of ideas to implement in our school.

We were very proud of the way our students participated in the Catholic Education Week Mass, especially those children who had a role to perform. Our senior choir sounded amazing! Thank you also to all 4/5 students who attended their class Mass last Sunday.



Techsibition



Winners

Term 2 Week 4:
No. of students who reached individual target
Prep/1W
 17/19
Grade 2/3F
 13/23
Grade 4/5M
 11/20
Grade 5/6H
 19/22



The following students won awards last week:

Grade Prep/1W - Danita - for being a warm and caring member of our class.
Grade 2/3 F - Ricky - for using the story grammar markers in his story writing.
Grade 4/5M - Grace K - for her risk taking and commitment to excellence.
Grade 5/6H - Gabby R - for participating thoughtfully in class and group discussions.
Music - Faith - for showing great perseverance when learning new skills on the recorder.
P.E. - Xavier - for demonstrating impressive striking skills in the mini soccer game.
Digital Technology - Jai & Gabby R - for the caring and considerate way they demonstrated how to use the robots to the pre-school children during Open Day.



Everyone has the Right to be treated in a friendly and caring manner
Junior Unit
Noah - for offering to help others in need.
Senior Unit
Ellesciah - for setting the example for others and being caring to all.

Parenting kids through the challenges of change

By Michael Grose

While change is not always easy to endure, there are some things we can do as parents to help our children cope and hopefully grow from those changes.

The following five ideas will help:



1. Acknowledge feelings

Every difficulty or challenge we face is accompanied by uncomfortable feelings such as sadness, anger and disappointment. When feelings aren't acknowledged, children will either act out or act in. That is, they will either become aggressive, agitated and hurtful or become moody, anxious and depressed. Give kids permission to talk about emotions by talking about your own feelings and your emotional reactions to events. Help children of all ages verbalise their feelings by asking children how they feel in response to different events. *"How do you feel about this?"* is a great way to initiate conversations on an emotional level.

2. Look after yourself (and your partner)

Change is usually stressful for adults. Feelings of anxiety are common in times of uncertainty. *"Will life ever return to normal?"* is a common question. Self-care is essential in times of change. It's hard to parent well when you are stressed, anxious or depressed so do all you can to stick to the building blocks of well-being. That is, sleep well (life's always better after a good night's sleep); get some exercise (to release the feel-good endorphins); actively maintain your support networks (talking about difficulties is therapeutic); get some relaxation (it's important to take your mind off your worries for a time) and pursue at least one interest that you enjoy (fun and play is an antidote to depression).

3. Stay optimistic

Optimism is characteristic of resilient people. I'm not suggesting that you take a Pollyanna-ish attitude that 'everything will be all right'. Instead project the attitude that the current situation may be difficult or that life at the moment may be difficult but you will get through this. *"This too shall pass"* is a powerful resilience concept for kids to experience and learn.

4. Maintain consistency and routine

When disruption appears in your life try to keep things as normal as possible for children. In particular, stick to regular mealtimes; keep bedtimes regular and keep the traditions that kids enjoy and bring your family together. This type of familiarity is comforting for kids, helping them maintain feelings of control, which is something they crave in times of change.

5. Stick together

Resilience is best practiced as a family or community, rather than as an individual so look for ways to bring your family together. Family mealtimes; shared enjoyable experiences and simply hanging out together are the types of activities that build strong families. In times of change and upheaval what we need most is each other.