Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to a new year of Living and Learning at St Joseph’s. I do hope your Christmas and Holiday was good for you and your family. It is a great time to celebrate a year of achievement and growth as well as a chance to slow down and take stock. We now return with renewed energy and much excitement in looking forward to 2016.

A special welcome to our Preps who attended school for the very first time today in our new MacKillop House facility – just magnificent! Also a big welcome to the many new families through the school who join our community.

School Improvements
Things didn’t grind to a halt here at school in January though with works and maintenance going on throughout. Carpets and windows were cleaned, smart TVs installed, new furniture delivered, synthetic grass laid and a new entry made to the MacKillop House and the Big Ones:
New Car Park – just about completed. The heavy rains have held up progress but sealing will be done asap with line marking to follow.
Adventure Playground – installation begins next Tuesday.

Swimming
Our swim program was cancelled today but we will catch up next week in the lead up to Friday’s Year 3-6 Swim Carnival.
Next Week -
Monday and Wednesday: yr 3-6 Swim Prac
Friday: yr 3-6 Swim Carnival
( carnival program sent home next week )

Staff Appointments
The following appointments were made late in the year in preparation for 2016 –
Tim Harber – LOTE (Italian) and will work in Prep on Thursdays in place of Tan Neyland.
Shane Merkel – PE (Tuesday and Wednesday)

Open Rooms / Team Teaching
This year we have gone from 12 classes to 14.
Class sizes are excellent and our facilities and resources are outstanding. Every class has a partner class which provides our teachers with the opportunity to work in pairs, share the load and combine skills and resources in being able to challenge every child.
Use of our Open Rooms and Team Teaching will be the focus of our Professional Development through the year. I look forward to sharing our work with you.

Afternoon Assembly Starts Monday at 2:45
in the MacKillop Centre
Yr 6 Leaders & Class Prayer
Feb 2: No Assembly
Feb 9: Year 6 Leaders with JUN P-G&J on prayer
ALL FAMILIES WELCOME

Social Skills
Weeks 1&2
Using People’s Names
As a School we promote and reinforce the use of simple but vital Social Skills and Good Old Fashioned Manners.

Live Life to the Fullest in Christ

Paul Arnel

Dates To Remember
A Term Planner is attached. Pop it on the fridge as a guide to the major dates through the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Feb 3</td>
<td>Prep Rest Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Feb 5</td>
<td>Yr3-6 Swim Carnival</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Feb 9</td>
<td>Pancake Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Feb 10</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>Friday, Feb 12</td>
<td>Prep Rest Day</td>
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<td>Monday, Feb 15</td>
<td>Yr 6 Leadership Day</td>
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<td>Beginning of Year</td>
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<td>Mass &amp; Induction</td>
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Prep First Day Photo Gallery Now On Show In Foyer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Assembly: JUN N&amp;K V</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>Assembly: MID T&amp;K</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Prep Rest Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>Prep Rest Day</td>
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<td>18 March</td>
<td>St. Patrick's Day</td>
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<td>19 March</td>
<td>St. Joseph's Day</td>
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<td>20 March</td>
<td>St. Joseph's Day</td>
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<td>21 March</td>
<td>School Board AGM</td>
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<td>22 March</td>
<td>Bulletin</td>
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<td>23 March</td>
<td>Bulletin</td>
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<td>24 March</td>
<td>Full Newsletter</td>
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<td>25 March</td>
<td>Full Newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>Full Newsletter</td>
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<td>27 March</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<td>28 March</td>
<td>FUN RUN</td>
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<td>29 March</td>
<td>FUN RUN</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>FUN RUN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>FUN RUN</td>
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**Term 1 Holidays:** 1st Day of Term 1: Thursday, March 24. 2nd Day of Term 2: Monday, April 11.
WELFARE

"Whatever they grow up to be, they are still our children, and the one most important of all the things we can give them, is unconditional love. Not a love that depends on anything at all except that they are our children."

Rosaleen Dickson
Anthony Brophy
Well-Being Officer

SCHOOL FEES:

- Thank you for informing us of your preferred fee paying option. The families having fees directly debited DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING.
- Could those families who are NOT using the Direct Debit option, PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN YOUR FEES ARE DUE:
  - One Yearly Payment due by 28th February
  - Four Term Payments due in the first 4 weeks of each term
  - Ten Monthly Payments – these are due on the 18th of each month from February to November.
  - Twenty Fortnightly Payments – these commence on Friday the 5th February and continue every second Friday until the 28th October 2016.

If any family would like to commence having their fees directly debited fortnightly or monthly this can be done at any time!

- First Fortnightly Debits 5th February & 19th February
- Monthly Debits take place on the 18th of each month commencing in February, up to and including November.

Fee statements have been distributed today. If you have any queries or concerns about your payment commitments please do not hesitate to come in and speak to Paul. If you have indicated that you are a Health Care Holder we have attached a application for CSEF please return by 5.2.16. If you are not wanting to amend your payment options please do so ASAP. 1st Term and Yearly invoices will be forwarded in the next fortnight with payment options.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE: 2016

To be eligible you must:

- Be the holder of a current Health Care Card or Pension Card (as with EMA)
- Be attending your closest Catholic Primary School
- Live 4.8 or more kilometres from both the school and your nearest bus stop by the shortest practicable route
- Your child is using the free government run buses if available.

If you meet these criteria and would like to apply, please contact the School Office as soon as possible. The Claim deadline for Term 1 is 1st March. It would be best to apply well before that date in case the Dept has any queries regarding your claim.

Following your application, your eligibility is decided by Centrelink and the Transport Department.

VERIFICATION REPORTS

If you haven’t already done so can you please complete and return the reports sent out to you in November last year updating your details and contacts. (New families & preps this doesn’t include you)

If you have any queries, please ring Gayle or Tracey at the office on 5862 1804.

CHILD COLLECTION

A reminder to parents & students that any child meeting their parents in the carpark not outside the classroom must line up with the bus students and walk with the supervising bus teacher to the carpark.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL PLANS

Please ensure that if your child has asthma you have completed an Asthma Management Plan you can obtain from the office. If your child has a severe allergy please ensure that we have the appropriate medicines and that you have notified Therese Chalker of the actions to be taken in order to complete an Emergency action plan.
**BUS NOTES**
Any students at school but not travelling home on the bus, need to fill out a bus note these can be obtained from the office.

**ABSENCE NOTES**
Any child absent from school is required to complete an absence note or a letter from their parent/guardian explaining their absence.

Absence notes have been attached to the newsletter.

**SIGN IN & OUT BOOK**
If you are collecting your child for an appointment and they will be coming back to school, you need to sign the In & Out Book in the foyer at the office.

If you are taking your child out of school early for the day, you need to sign the yellow book in the foyer & then take that to the classroom to hand to the teacher & collect your child.

**CANTEEN ROSTER**
Canteen will commence on the 1st February 2016. The canteen roster from last year will be used for the first two weeks until the new one is drawn up.

**February**
- Monday 1st: Michelle Hender & Denelle Millen
- Tuesday 2nd: Jo Newham & Shanna Milne
- Wednesday 3rd: Jacqui Patten
- Thursday 4th: Kate Bell & Jen Bosse
- Friday 5th: Kylee Mangles & Cathy Nuttal
- Monday 8th: Emilia Morris & Amanda Lukies
- Tuesday 9th: Volunteer & Caroline Waasdorp
- Wednesday 10th: Elizabeth Ruscoe & Andrea Dobson
- Thursday 11th: Kelly Lyons & Kate McGregor
- Friday 12th:

We are now calling for volunteers to fill the canteen roster please see the attached form for more information. It is a great way for new families to meet other parents & become involved in the school.

All lunch orders need to be in a named, brown paper bag or there is a 5c charge for a bag. Zoomer Doopers, crunchas, crackers, moosies & slushies etc need to be purchased from the canteen window after the second bell – not ordered on their lunch order.

**OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE**
Anyone wanting permanent bookings for Before or After School Care contact the office to confirm your days for the 2016 year as all bookings from last year have been cleared.

Please note that we do not take cancellation advice from the children. We ask that you contact the office before 10am as others may be on a waiting list. We do not charge for cancellations of permanent bookings if phoned through before this time, otherwise we reserve the right to charge if you have cancelled late & we have had to employ extra staff or your spot could have been filled.

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

Berdigo Bank has provided us with our School Barking Program and Piggy Bank Passbook Account – Perfect for Primary School Age Savers.

No Account Keeping Fees, No Transaction or Government Fees and No Deposit/Withdrawal Restrictions. – Plus a host of fun games and rewards for our participants.

Opening an account is simple your child can get a pack from the school office. Please follow the instructions within the pack.

If you have any further questions, regarding the packs do not hesitate to pop into the branch at 27 Melville St Nurrukah and ask for Julia or by phone (03) 58623135 or email julie_arbo@bendigoadelaide.com.au.

* School Banking will be every Wednesday Starting 04th February 2016
* Passbooks can be handed in at the classroom before 9.30am each Wednesday
* Existing Piggy Account Holders can participate in the School Banking Program.
  - Bring your book to school to participate in school banking
* Piggy himself will visit at the end of the year to present certificates to our Piggy Bank Passbook Holders
* Birthdays Cards and Gifts annually to each account holder.
CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name ____________________________ School REF ID ____________________________

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname __________________________________________

First name _________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

Town/suburb ________________________________________ State ________ Postcode ______

Contact number ______________________________________

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ - ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ - ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ - ☐ OR

☐ Foster parent*  OR  ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s surname</th>
<th>Child’s first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
<th>Year level</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

• DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

• this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.

• I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

• if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

• information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and / or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child’s school.

Signature of applicant ________________________________ Date ___ / ___ / ___
CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility
To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:
• on the first day of Term one, or;
• on the first day of Term two;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.
* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria
School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date
For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount
The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.
• Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
• Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.
Canteen News

Canteen will be open from Monday 1st February, 2016.

The School Canteen is open each day as follows:

**Monday - Thursday:** Normal menu choices available. Canteen Window is OPEN.
**Friday:** We have a MODIFIED menu for lunch orders. Canteen Window is CLOSED.

Please see Menu attached.

Lunch orders need to be clearly marked on a brown paper bag with the student's name and class and placed in the lunch order tub in each classroom first thing in the morning. Drinks, sandwiches and rolls can be ordered however frozen items and other items on the menu can be purchased through the canteen window after the second lunch bell.

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**CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS - new volunteers welcome!**

Could anyone who would like to do canteen duty this year please fill in the form below and return it to school by Wednesday 3rd Feb. **2015 Parents** - we will assume that if you did canteen last year that you can do it again unless we hear from you. If you would like to change your day, please fill in the form below and return to the office.

A **New Roster** will be out by Friday 12th Feb. Until then, our 2015 roster will be followed for the first 2 weeks.

**February:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1st</td>
<td>Michelle Hender &amp; Denelle Millen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3rd</td>
<td>Jacqui Patten,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5th</td>
<td>Kate Bell &amp; Jen Bosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Elizabeth Ruscoe &amp; Andrea Dobson,</td>
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<td>Kylie Mangels &amp; Cathy Nuttal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12th</td>
<td>Kelly Lyons &amp; Kate McGregor</td>
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**Where:** Kitchen in the Mary MacKillop Centre
**Time:** 11.30am - 2.00pm
**How often:** once a month

New volunteers can be rostered on with experienced Mums and will be guided through the process. The Children love it if Mum (or Dad/Nana/Auntie) is on Canteen Duty.

New Mum's welcome - Please return the slip below & return to the school office. Any queries please contact canteen manager Andrea Boschetti on 0437 127926.

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**PLEASE RETURN TO SCHOOL OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY 3rd FEB**

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

I would prefer to be rostered on with - name: _____________________________

Please tick first choice & cross second choice of preferred day:

1st of the month: Mon__ Tues__ Wed__ Thurs__ Fri__
2nd of the month: Mon__ Tues__ Wed__ Thurs__ Fri__
3rd of the month: Mon__ Tues__ Wed__ Thurs__ Fri__
4th of the month: Mon__ Tues__ Wed__ Thurs__ Fri__
5th of the month: Mon__ Tues__ Wed__ Thurs__ Fri__

Yes/No I am happy to be put down as an Emergency.