From the Principal...

Dear Parents and Children,

We hope that all of the families and staff enjoyed our WOW week get together last Thursday evening. Thank you to Libby Sheedy and our staff for organising the week of activities across the school.

It was unfortunate that our inconsistent Victorian weather led to our first Wednesday Assembly for the year being postponed. Our Assemblies occur at 9.00am on Wednesday mornings weather permitting. If postponed we move our Assembly to 11.30am on the same day (once again weather permitting). If we cannot hold the assembly on Wednesday the children’s reflection is moved to the Friday at 11.30am.

Many of you would be aware of the anonymous phone messages that have been sent to a number of schools across Victoria/Australia. Be assured that our school has both evacuation and lock in protocols that would be enacted if we were ever the target of any such calls. In a case where a call was received our processes would ensure the safety of all students and staff, notification to the police or appropriate authorities followed by notification to all parents when deemed appropriate by the police to do so. As a school we will be practising our evacuation procedures later this week and our lock in procedures next week.

Hopefully the authorities can trace the source of these calls and prosecute the instigators who are causing so much distress to many school communities.

All families will receive a note tomorrow with details regarding the Parent/Teacher Background Interviews (Prep-6) that are being held across the school Tuesday 16 and Thursday 18 February. These interviews are an important opportunity to meet with your child’s class teachers in order to discuss your child’s needs and set agreed goals for the year ahead.

This Wednesday evening the Parent Association will be holding their first meeting for the year in the Staffroom at 7.30pm. The meetings are held in staffroom and all parents are welcome to join our group and offer your skills and expertise to this wonderful supportive parent group.

Please be aware that next Friday February 19 is a student free day. Please mark this in your diary.

Regards

Alan Sweeney
Principal
CONFIRMATION

Thank you to the parents and children who attended the Confirmation Parent Evening. Any parent who was unable to attend, could you please see myself or the class teacher for the Confirmation pack that was given out on the evening.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is 10 February. The students in grades 3-6 will be attending Mass at 11:45 a.m. and parents are welcome to attend. The students in the junior grades have a paraliturgy at 2:15 p.m. in the church. The grade prep students will receive the Ashes on Friday 12 February at a prayer service in the hall.

Trish Segrave
Religious Education Coordinator

LEARNING AND TEACHING

As your child’s greatest role model and teacher we value the importance of your involvement in their education and your knowledge of their experiences at school. Parent – Teacher communication enables us to work together to achieve your child’s full potential.

Each week in our newsletter the teachers include a brief outline of what the children will be doing in each subject area. Hopefully it provides you with an overall picture of your child’s week and opportunities to discuss and reinforce your child’s learning.

A reminder that Parent Teacher interviews are on Tuesday and Thursday of next week. These are background interviews and are a great opportunity to discuss information about your child, any concerns or questions you may have regarding your child.

Liz Finlayson
Learning and Teaching Leader
SENIORS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Our unit is called ‘My Mission in the faith community’. This week we will learn about Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday before attending Mass. We will also continue learning about important Saints by note taking after watching various film clips about their life.

WRITING: We will focus on setting up our Writer’s Notebook structures this week. Students will continue writing a Narrative written last week by editing for meaning and grammar. They will also begin working on their own personal writing goals. We will conduct a spelling inventory to gauge words students already know. As a class we will explore planning narratives.

READING: We will continue reading and responding to our new serial novel ‘Wonder’ by RJ Palacio. Students will read their own books, focusing on using thinkmarks to record interesting quotes or words. We will model a response making possible predictions about text events.

MATHS: Our focus for Maths is Number and Place Value. Children have been placed in groups according to their pre-test and will work on various place value concepts including, odd and even numbers, reading and representing numbers, ordering numbers, recognising the value of digits, rounding, greater than and less than. Our extension group will be looking at representing numbers in the millions and decimals.

INQUIRY: This term our Inquiry Unit is called “Eureka”. After completing a pre-test last week we will begin learning about colonisation.

REMINDERS:
Just a reminder... If students can bring in two tissue boxes each into the classroom that would be great. Thank you to those who have already done so.

MASS: Senior D will be attending Mass next Thursday 18th of February. All parents are welcome to join us!

SCHOOL CLOSURE: Friday 19th of February is a school closure day for all students.

SPORT: Our first game is this week against Coburg West at home. ALL SPORT NOTES NEED TO BE RETURNED ASAP.

MIDDLES

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Our unit is called ‘Meeting God Through Prayer’. This week we are looking at what prayer means to us and will begin discussing different types of prayer.

WRITING: We will continue to focus on setting up our Writer’s Notebook structures this week. Students are encouraged to bring in seeds from home to work on. They have been writing and editing their own recounts.

READING: We will continue reading and responding to our new serial novel ‘Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing’ by Judy Blume. Students have had an opportunity to borrow books from the library and will continue reading their own books, focusing on using their thinkmarks to record interesting quotes or words. We will model a response making connections to themselves, another book or a character or something in the world around them.

SPELLING: We will be looking at our spelling goals for the year and many of the different strategies we will be using to become better spellers including using dictionaries to help spell difficult words.

MATHS: Our focus for Maths is Place Value. Children will work in their maths group focusing on skip counting, using place value charts, expanded notation, bundling, odd and even numbers and number lines.

INQUIRY: This term our Inquiry Unit is called “St Ollie’s Rules”. We will start by discussing what it means to have a fair go, as well as make a list of rules and laws that we know.

Just a reminder... If students can bring in two tissue boxes each into the classroom that would be great. Thank you to those who have already done so.
JUNIORS

We hope each family has had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and everyone is looking forward to an exciting year!

RELIGION: This week we are exploring our unit ‘Lent and Holy Week’, as we enter into the liturgical season of Lent, which lasts for forty days. We will discuss the significance of Shrove Tuesday and as a tradition, make pancakes with the children. We will also take part in a paraliturgy and receive the ashes on Ash Wednesday.

READING: During reading sessions we will be establishing home reading practices. We will also explore ‘good-fit’ books and the three ways that we can read a book.

WRITING: We are investigating a variety of transactional text types, such as postcards, letters, emails and text messages. We will explore the audience, purpose and structure of these text types and have the children experiment with writing their own.

MATHS: We are revising different aspects of place value by making, reading, writing and ordering numbers. We will use various materials to explore the place value of numbers such as ten frames, M.A.B blocks and icy pole sticks.

INQUIRY: We will begin our topic of ‘TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More!’ by discussing what it means to be a good team, as well as being involved in tasks that require the children to work together, negotiate and problem solve.

SPECIAL REMINDER: In Term One all students need to bring and wear their school hat during recess, lunch and sport lessons. Sports uniform should be worn by all Junior children on Tuesday and Friday and Specialists will be on Tuesday. Can each child also bring two boxes of tissues please and thank you to those who have already done so.

PREPS

The preps have had a great start to their first year of school. They have settled in well and are enjoying learning.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Our unit is called ‘Praying to Jesus The Good Shepherd’. This week we will be listening to the story of the Good Shepherd through Godly play and learning how to make the sign of the cross. The children will also be discussing Shrove Tuesday and making yummy pancakes. On Friday, the prep children will come together for a special Ash Wednesday liturgy.

READING: The children have been learning the sounds/letters through the Jolly Phonics program using actions, songs and identifying words with these sounds. This week we will be revising all the letters we have learnt so far: s, a, t, i, p and n.

WRITING: The children have been introduced to the concept of writing through thinking. We are learning that we can show our thinking through writing and drawing.

MATHS: Our focus for Maths will be NUMBER. We will read the story, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and discuss what he eats for the 1st five days. We will be learning to write the numbers 1-5 and identify these.

REMINDER. . . .

- Please remember to bring your child’s reader bag and Jolly Phonics book to school each morning. Please give your child two boxes of tissues to bring to the classroom. Thank you to those who have already done so.
WOW Week Family Night
Last Thursday evening was a great way to mark the start of the school year with many families getting together to welcome many of our new families. A big thankyou to everyone for their time and energy in making our night such a wonderful occasion.

PARENTING INSIGHTS
Each week in our newsletter I like to include some parenting advice. Michael Grose is an expert in parenting strategies and his insights are always a great read. This week Michael’s insight is “10 Confidence building strategies every parent and teacher should know”.

Please click here to access this link.

REMEMBER UPDATE RE: ASTHMA PLANS
Thanks you to all families who have updated their asthma plans. It is important that all families update these plans yearly. A photo and a doctors signature is not required. Plans (orange) are available in the office foyer. Management of first aid is a high priority at St Olivers, please give this your immediate attention.

RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY
At St Olivers each year we celebrate Ride to school day. This year we will celebrate this day on Friday 4th March. Stay tuned for details of this day and in the meantime make sure your bikes are ready to ride to school, helmets found, tyres pumped as we approach Our Ride to School Day. Further information in next week’s newsletter.

Libby Sheedy
Wellbeing leader
WELCOME BACK ALL TO ANOTHER FUN FILLED YEAR OF SPORT!!

Term 1 will be a busy term for Sport. Seniors will begin Interschool Sports this Friday 12th February. Games will begin at 9.30am sharp and finish at 11.30am. This year the Coburg District will be continuing with the new timetable for sport. This is due to the large number of schools in our district. The schools are split into 2 divisions: Division 1- Large schools and Division 2- Small schools. St Oliver’s is part of Division 1- Large schools. The children will be playing a 4 week round robin in term 1 only. More details about this are located in the permission note that went home to the seniors last week.

COBURG DISTRICT TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

This event will be held on Wednesday 17th February. In order to be nominated and to compete at this event, players are required to play competition tennis for a club outside of school hours, or be at a very good standard. I will be asking students to come and see me today about nominations.

COBURG DISTRICT SWIMMING TRIALS

These trials will be held on Tuesday 16th February. In order to nominate and compete at this event, students are required to swim for a club outside of school hours, or be at a very good standard (squad). I will be asking students to come and see me today about nominations as well.

The Coburg District will be running trials for Soccer, Basketball, Football and Netball throughout the term for State teams. This is open to all children however is done after school hours. Each school in our district can only send 5 students per sport. Further details will follow soon.

Many Thanks,

Cecilia Garden
Sports Coordinator
STATE EDUCATION ALLOWANCE
Applications for the Camps, Sports and Excursion annual payment (CSEF) of $125.00 are now available from the school office.
To be eligible for this payment, a parent of 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 the first day of Term two:
1. Hold a Centerlink Health Care Card, Veterans Affairs Card or Pensioner Concession Card
2. Be a temporary foster parent
Applications are due by the 26th February 2016

FAMILY DETAILS UPDATES
It is important that we have accurate student & family information, particularly home, work and mobile numbers of both parents and emergency contacts. Please inform the office if there are any changes to any of these details.

SUNSMART POLICY
A reminder that all children as part of the school summer uniform children are required to wear their SCHOOL broad rimmed HAT during recess and lunch times, as well as during physical education/sport lessons, during terms one and four. NO HAT, NO PLAY!

ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES
These classes commence at Coburg Primary School, 98 Bell Street, Coburg on Saturday, 13th February 2016 from 9am to 11.30am. Students from Prep to Year 12 are welcome. The tuition fee for the year is $200.00 per student. Application forms are available from the school office or for further enquiries please phone 9898-4707.

CANTEEN

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Staff Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11 February</td>
<td>Kim King</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12 February</td>
<td>Sandra Cutajar Franca James &amp; Michelle Sheehan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15 February</td>
<td>Nina Contarino Melanie Hatch</td>
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Please click HERE for a copy of the Canteen Menu

Please direct enquiries to Di Tabone dtabone@ozemail.com.au or 0423 596 221
PARENT ASSOCIATION

CLICK HERE FOR THE CURRENT PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL BANKING.....TUESDAY
The reward system for 2016 includes
- Flying snake Tail & wildlife writer set (term 1)
- Mud Splat Handball & Outback Pat Bag Tag (term 2)
- Backtrack Eraser Pen & Jump/Skip Rope (term 3)
- Bush Fly Fan & Wriggly Glow Worm (term 4)
We are always looking for helpers with the school banking program. If you are able to volunteer your Tuesday mornings (2 hours) to help process these transactions please contact Diana Capuana on 0419 331 966 or Lisa Guarino 0403 300 469

PRELOVED UNIFORM PROGRAM
A donation basket is located in the school office foyer. All donations must be clean and have no rips. The second hand uniforms will be available for purchase at our last assembly for term 1

GRADE 6 JUMPERS/SHIRTS
We hope to accept delivery of the Grade 6 jumpers/shirts within the next 2 weeks. A delivery date should be locked in very shortly and we will notify the families as soon as we can. Thank you to Naomi Bank for organizing this apparel.

PARENT ASSOCIATION 2016.....AGM is tomorrow night
The Parent Association is a group of parents (mums & dads) who organise fundraising events to raise money for the children’s needs at school. Throughout the year we hold various events, profits from which go directly back to the school in the form of books, sports equipment, subsidizing excursions, camps, graduation and communion parties. All of the efforts are done with the expectation of keeping our school fees low and giving our kids a wonderful educational experience.

Having said all that we need MORE PARENT HELPERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If we do not gain more volunteers this year, it will be a bleak future for this parent driven organisation. Please be aware that without a Parent Association, our sense of community within St Oliver’s would decrease and our school fees would significantly increase to maintain the high level of standard in equipment and services already provided.

Our meetings are conducted on the second Wednesday of every month during the school term only (about 8 or 9 times a year) from 7.30pm till 8.30pm, in the school staffroom. Our AGM is scheduled for this Wednesday 10th February. This is the perfect meeting to discuss our potential events for the year. Possible fundraising at St Oliver’s in 2016 include mothers & father’s day stalls, kids disco, sportsman night, Bunnings BBQ, Bogan Bingo Night and Funde Voucher booklets. We are open to new ideas and welcome them. We look forward to seeing you there.

PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES 2016
- Feb – Wednesday 10th
- March -- Wednesday 9th
- April – Wednesday 13th
- May – Wednesday 11th
- June – Wednesday 8th
- July – Wednesday 13th
- August – Wednesday 10th
- October – Wednesday 12th
- November – Wednesday 9th including Xmas planning and dinner
The annual meeting for volunteers and those wishing to become involved in St Oliver's parish Children's Liturgy will be held on:

**Monday, 15 February at 7.00pm**  
**St Oliver’s Parish Centre**  
*(next to the church)*

This will be a short informal meeting to plan our Children’s Liturgy Program for 2016. At the meeting we will explain how this very successful program works at the 10.30 Sunday Mass and show some of the resources and assistance available, especially for any new volunteers. We will also be filling in the roster for the year so you will have the chance to choose your preferred dates.

If you are able to attend the meeting please RSVP to Aislinn Breen on 0402 182 642 or aislinnbreen@hotmail.com

If you have helped in the past but are not able to this year, please let Aislinn know.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you there. Thanks again for your commitment.

Aislinn Breen and Joanne O’Sullivan  
*Children’s Liturgy Co-ordinators*
Welcome back to the new school year! We hope you have all enjoyed the holiday break and are excited for a fantastic new year. After having a great holiday ourselves, we are back on board and excited to see familiar faces returning – as well as some new faces. To help get your family back into the swing of things, here are some tips that you might find handy for easing your children into After School Care. Tips for easing you kids into After School Care: 1. Give your child as much advance warning as you can that they’ll be coming to After School Care. 2. Pop into the program with your child to meet our Camp Australia team and find out what kind of activities they can look forward to. 3. Speak with the Camp Australia Coordinator if your child is nervous, and let us know how your child felt after their first visit. 4. If there is something in particular your child would like to play when they are in our care, encourage them to tell us know or you can give us a call. We’re here to make after school care visits the best experience possible, if you have any questions about the program – feel free to drop by, meet the team and see what happens in After School Care first hand. We look forward to seeing you soon. The Camp Australia Team. Program Details To find out more about our program and to register and book visit www.campaustralia.com.au

From all of the team at Camp Australia we wish you a fantastic 2016 and we look forward to seeing you and your family in the program soon.

JOIN THE Fun
Don’t forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Clubs these school holidays. Use the Holiday Club Finder on the website to find the nearest program: www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs

Healthy Snacks
Afternoon tea is served daily. Menus are tailored to children’s tastes, developmental and nutritional needs. Afternoon tea includes a selection of yummy sandwiches and fruit. Children may also engage in fun cooking activities.