Dear Parents and Children,

On behalf of the school staff I would like to welcome all children and parents back for the 2013 school year. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and that you all feel well rested and ready for the year ahead.

A special welcome to all of the new families who have joined our community this year! I'd also like to welcome back all of our staff and I know they are looking forward to working with you and your children over the course of the year.

Welcome to our new staff Giulia Ferella (prep), Veronica Jack (middles), Lisa Cadman (seniors) and welcome back to Kathy Zakic (juniors) who returns to our staff on a part time basis from Maternity Leave. Sarah Daly has also returned to us for this term to teach a unit of music to all of the children across our school.

I'm confident that each of these teachers along with all of our staff will make wonderful contributions to our school community and to the education of your children.

Our L.O.T.E. program will be heading in a very exciting direction this year with the appointment of Liz Finlayson as our L.O.T.E. teacher. This year Liz will be running an Italian immersion program where the children for Year 3-6 will learn about the richness of the Italian culture. Their studies this year will include history, cooking, special celebrations, visual arts and performing arts.

As always there are a number of housekeeping items that need to be shared at the beginning of the year. Our Newsletter will be published online on Tuesday afternoons. A hard copy will be sent home on a weekly basis if you place a request through the office. The Newsletter is the weekly communication that our school has with you as parents and I encourage all families to find a few minutes each week to keep up to date with school news, protocols and events that are happening around our school community.

We will hold a School Assembly every Wednesday morning at 8:50am (weather dependent). This will be an opportunity for us to gather together to share a prayer/reflection and an additional opportunity to share news from around our school. The school yard is supervised from 8:40am in the morning and after school until 3.45 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and until 3.30 on Wednesday afternoons.
A reminder that both before and after school care is available through Camp Australia. Please be aware that outside the supervised hours you have your children on the property at their own risk. If on the odd occasion you are running late collecting your children just notify the office and your children can wait near the office until they can be collected.

I have also attached a copy of a document called Let's Talk It. This is the protocol that I would encourage you to follow with regards to any concerns or issues that you may have.

All schools at drop off and pick up times are busy places. The safety of all of our children relies on every parent/grandparent taking great care at these times. Just a reminder that the ‘drop off zone’ at the front of the school is not a parking area! When stopping in these areas you should not leave your car. Please ensure that at all times you use the school crossing to model road safety. Be a great example to your children!

“Your children may not listen to you; but they are always watching you.”  
— Robert Fulghum

If you wish to collect your child early on a hot day, please feel free to do so. When collecting children from school please sign the children out from the School Office.

Looking forward to a wonderful year together.

Alan S.

Principal

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT.....

From time to time in any school parents may have a concern or an issue about school life which they may need to resolve. The following steps outline the appropriate process to follow if you find yourself in this position.

STEP ONE

Speak to the class teacher or specialist teacher concerned about your issue or problem. (If it is important make an appointment so that teachers are not interrupted during valuable class time). Simple matters can usually be sorted out at this level.

STEP TWO

If you are unable to find a satisfactory solution to your problem make an appointment to see the Principal to discuss the matter further.

Please note:

At no time is it acceptable for a parent to directly confront a student as a means of resolving the issues they have.

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.
St Oliver’s Saff 2013

Parish Priest                  Fr Paul Connell
Principal                     Alan Sweeney
Deputy Principal/Learning and Teaching  Mary Kearney
Wellbeing/Leadership Support  Libby Sheedy
Religious Education           Trish Segrave .4

Prep H                        Shelley Hackett
Prep F                        Giulia Ferella
JC                            Caryn Inglis
JL                            Kathy Lalor .8/Kathy Zakic .2 (Th)
JD                            Anne De Cata
JR                            Clare Rayner.8/Shan Marshall.2 (F)
MD                            Nadia Glann
MJ                            Veronica Jack
MM                            Marie Maguire .8/Liz F .2 (Th)
MS                            Susan Mitchell
SC                            Lisa Cadman
SH                            Helen Sims
SM                            Marita Mannix
SS                            Sue Carey .8/Jaki O’Halloran .2 (F)

Music                         Sarah Daley (P-6) (M,T)
P.E.                           Jaki O’Halloran (P-6) (M,T)
I.T.                          Sue Leighton (P-6) (M,T)
LOTE                          Liz Finlayson (3-6) (M)
Bounceback                    Libby Sheedy (P-2) (T)

Curriculum Support
Junior Literacy Coordinator /Reading Recovery  Barbara Olanda
Literacy                       Trish Segrave .4
Numeracy                      Sue Leighton .2
Bounce Back                   Libby Sheedy .2
Creative Thinking             Jaki O’Halloran .2

Library                       Kerrie Weller
Administration               Sylvia Van Meel
                            Katherine Darmanin
                            Bernie Ryan .4 (T,W)
Teacher Aides                Kerrie Weller
                            Sylvia Van Meel
                            Tash Zampogna

Maintenance                  Peter Dea

Positions of Leadership
Religious Education          Trish Segrave
Information Technology       Sue Leighton
Literacy                     Susan Mitchell
Mathematics                  Helen Sims
Sport                        Marita Mannix
School Community             Nadia Glann
CONFIRMATION INFORMATION MEETING
There is a parent information meeting for the children in grade six who will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation this year. The meeting is for both the parents and the children and will be held in the church on **Monday 11 February at 7pm**.
This meeting an important part of the preparation for the sacrament and either one or both parents may attend along with your child.
On the night there will be information regarding the Sacrament itself and details of the celebration of **Confirmation on Friday 15 March at 7:00**. If you are unable to attend this meeting please let your class teacher or myself know as there will be hand outs on the night.
If there are any parents who will be able to assist with the sewing of the **Confirmation Banner** could you please contact me as soon as possible.

Ash Wednesday is 13 February. The students in grades 3-6 will be attending Mass at 11:45 and parents are welcome to attend. The students in the junior grades have a paraliturgy at 2:15 in the multi-purpose room and parents are welcome. The grade prep students will receive the Ashes on Friday at a prayer service.

STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS
On **Sunday 3 February** the staff of St Olivers were presented to the parish community at the 10:30 mass. They participated in a commissioning ceremony that focused on their commitment to educate and support the children at school throughout 2013. This was a wonderful opportunity for the wider community of St Olivers to witness the vision and dedication we have here at our school.

Trish Segrave          Religious Education Coordinator

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CONFIRMATION</strong> (grade 6)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11 February</td>
<td>Confirmation Parent Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12 February</td>
<td>Grade 6 Reflection Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 3 March at 10:30</td>
<td>Commitment Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 15 March at 7:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sacrament of Confirmation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20 March at 11:45</td>
<td>Whole School Liturgical Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>FIRST CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION</strong> (Grade 3)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22 April at 7:00</td>
<td>Parent Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 27 May at 7:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sacrament of Penance</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 3 June at 7:00</td>
<td>Middle J &amp; Middle S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sacrament of Penance</strong></td>
<td>Middle M &amp; Middle G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5 June at 11:45</td>
<td>Whole School Liturgical Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION</strong> (Grade 4)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22 July 7:00</td>
<td>Parent Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 25 August at 10:30</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sacrament of Communion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 8 September at 10:30</td>
<td>Middle J &amp; Middle M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sacrament of Communion</strong></td>
<td>Middle S &amp; Middle G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13 September at 11:45</td>
<td>Whole School Liturgical Celebration &amp; Communion Lunch</td>
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Welcome back to a new school year.

I hope that everyone has had a restful and enjoyable holiday. I would like to especially welcome all our new prep families and other new families to our school.

Next week our ‘What’s Happening around the levels’ section of the newsletter will commence. Each area (prep, junior, middle and senior) will contribute a short synopsis of the teaching and learning foci in their level for that week, as well as any special events that may be occurring.

We will also be sending home a curriculum overview in the next few weeks that will provide an outline of the term focus in all curriculum areas.

Home school links are a valued aspect of school life at St Oliver’s. We acknowledge that parents are the primary educators of our children and we anticipate that this ongoing communication will assist you in supporting your child on their journey through school.

Mary Kearney
Deputy Principal / Teaching and Learning Coordinator

ICT NEWS

Tuesday Feb 5th is Safer Internet Day.

Cybersafety is very important at St Olivers and as part of our WOW week activities classes will be signing their Digital Citizens Pledge and working on activities from ACMA-Australian Communications and Media Authority. Your child will bring home a Student Code Of Conduct Agreement to be read, discussed, signed and returned to school.

Together we will all work to make our school a cyber smart school.

Sue Leighton
ICT Coordinator
Welcome back to 2013. As you are well aware the year is off to a great start with our WOW Week already seeing class/school rules established, watching out for each other and watching out for ourselves, meeting our new buddy for 2013, revisiting cyber safety agreements, implementing our BOUNCE BACK acronym and ensuring we are sustainable and sunsmart.

Please keep an eye on the school notice board that is outside lower middle senior building. Often parent seminars or community events are posted for families to attend.

Moreland council is holding their annual ‘Movies in the park’ event in February, please check the notice board for details or visit www.moreland.vic.edu.au ph 9240 1111.

Community Support Group
At St Olivers we run a community support group for food to support families in our school in times of need. I would like to get this up and running again this year, it has been a fantastic program that gave many of our school families much needed assistance. The program is voluntary and I had many families that I could call on. It involves preparation of a meal once a term for a family of five that I can place in our school freezer. The meal needs to be labeled with ingredients and the date it was prepared. It can then be dropped off at the office and we will ensure it is used for families in our school community. It often works out to be that you provide one meal per term. Please let me know via email or a note of your availability this year. Your support is truly appreciated. The families you support are extremely grateful.

Michael Grose Insight
This week’s “insight” deals with hassle free drop offs. Many children and parents battle to say goodbye to their children in the morning. The quicker the parent moves away the more quickly your child settles. We find if you are waving many times and giving many hugs this only delays the inevitable. Children need to know its goodbye and you will be there to pick them up at the end of the day. Michael Grose has some great strategies to help all of us in these difficult circumstances.

Dear Parents,
A couple of reminders regarding sports dates for this term. **This year our school sports will be held on Friday the 22nd March (week 8) from 9am-1pm.** Further information regarding the running of the day and parent helper forms will be sent home in the coming weeks.
For parents of Senior students, our Interschool sports program commences on Friday 22nd February at 9:30am. A detail note will be sent home will all relevant information, later this week.

Marita Mannix
Sports Coordinator
FAMILY DETAILS UPDATES
For the safety of your children, it is important that we have accurate student & family information, particularly home, work and mobile numbers of both parents and emergency contacts. If there are any changes to any of these phone numbers, please let the office staff know as soon as possible or alternatively return the slip that was sent home.

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

ICT NEWS
Tuesday Feb 5th is Safer Internet Day
Cybersafety is very important at St Olivers and as part of our WOW week activities classes will be signing their Digital Citizens Pledge and working on activities from ACMA- Australian Communications and Media Authority. Your child will bring home a Student Code Of Conduct Agreement to be read, discussed, signed and returned to school. Together we will all work to make our school a cybersmart school.
Sue Leighton

LOST PROPERTY
The lost property is located in a cupboard outside the Sick Bay. If your child is missing any items of clothing we would encourage you to check this area. To ensure there is not such a collection of lost property in the future, please ensure your child's clothing is clearly labeled.

SCHOOL BOARD
Wednesday Feb 13th at 7.30pm

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE
*EMA application forms need to be completed each year. They do not automatically carry forward from previous year. A fresh application has to be made. We encourage all card holders to apply for this benefit.*
Application forms are available from the school office. The allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must: a) be a parent or guardian of a primary of secondary school student up to the age of sixteen, and b) be an eligible beneficiary of Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit or Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent as at the first day of Term 1 (29th January 2013) for the first instalment and the first day of Term 3 (15th July 2013) for the second instalment. Also part of the eligibility criteria is that applications must be completed and returned to the school office by the due day, which is 26th February 2013 for First installment & 31st July 2013 for Term 3 second instalment for those who have not applied in 1st Term. You will be notified of the total payment per primary school child per year in due course. First installment is 70% and will be paid in March and second installment is 30% and will be paid in August. Please be advised that the application must be made in person at the school office and the Centrelink card must be shown at this time. On application you will be provided with any further details. We would encourage all families with a health care card to apply for this benefit as soon as possible. Late applications cannot be processed.

PASCOE VALE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB is looking for you!
Come join our friendly, family focussed sports club. Keep fit. Meet new friends. Play like your football hero. We have great local facilities that provides for : Auskick, Under 10's thru to U16's & Youth Girls.
Check out our website at: pascoevalesc.org.au and come to our Registration Day this Sunday 10th February 2013 from 10am-2pm.

CANTEEN  Diane Tabone  0423 596 221

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Canteen Manager</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th Feb</td>
<td>Adriana Cartwright Maria Cologna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th Feb</td>
<td>Helen Curran, Rhonda Ferraro, Marita Pascoe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11th Feb</td>
<td>Samantha Merlo Antoinette Garito</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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The canteen will re-open on Thursday 7th Feb
School Banking has arrived at St Oliver Plunkett School!

The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program is here! St Oliver's School Banking days are **Tuesdays. We currently have 110 bankers--- well done students**

**PARENT ASSOCIATION 2013**

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 or sales which go directly back to the school in the form of books, sports equipment, subsidizing excursions and camps, graduation and communion parties and paying the computer lab building loan. All of the efforts are done in the expectation of keeping our school fees at a low and giving our kids a wonderful educational experience. As well as fulfilling our commitments to the list above we have focus plans. Last year it was to raise money for class sets of ipads and tablets to assist the children with mobile technology. We achieved our goal and raised $32’000 for this.

Fundraising events in 2013 include mother’s & father’s day stalls, kids disco, sportsman night and the Fete. In order for these events to run successfully we need parent helpers/volunteers and donations. If you can spare one evening a month (Wednesday) to attend meetings and help at functions we would greatly appreciate it. Our next meeting (AGM) is scheduled for this Wednesday 5th Feb 7.30pm in the staffroom.

**Businesses of the week**

Businesses on our website this week are Incite, Indulgence Design, Insulation & Skylight Services, Jack & Daisy, Jim’s Fencing and Kip McGrath. For information on the businesses please check out the school website or refer to the St Oliver's Business Directory

**Preloved Uniform Program**

A donation basket is located in the school office foyer. All donations need to be clean and have no rips/tears. Preloved uniform will be available for purchase on the last Wednesday of term 1 alternatively if you need something earlier please contact Georgie 0405435770

**FETE NEWS- Date to book on the calendar……Sunday October 27th 2013.**

Thank you
Parent Association
Making school drop-offs hassle-free

“One common transition challenge occurs at school-drop-off time. Some kids are passive resisters on a deliberate go-slow. Others more actively resist their parents’ efforts to get them to school with tears, tantrums or tiredness.”

There are a number of trouble spots for parents, and they have one thing in common. They all occur around a child’s transition from one activity or place to another.

Transitions from play to dinner time, television to bedtime or from bed to the breakfast table are common battlefields for parents. Kids want to do one thing, yet family requirements mean that they have to do something else.

A battle can ensue with children dawdling, whining or refusing point blank to budgé! Parenting is always hard work at these times.

One common transition challenge occurs at school-drop-off time. Some kids are passive resisters on a deliberate go-slow. Others more actively resist their parents’ efforts to get them to school with tears, tantrums or tiredness.

Children’s tears at drop-off time play at the heart strings of compassionate parents, particularly those who feel guilty about leaving their child. Tantrums are another way children keep parents busy and their complaints about being too tired indicate that perhaps an earlier bedtime is in order.

Usually it’s children in the early years of primary school who present most difficulty at school drop-off times. Essentially these drop-off problems are separation issues that can easily be resolved by supportive teachers and some tough love parenting.

It’s worth remembering that a developmental task for children is to separate from their parents, so that they can benefit from being around other adults. Parents who resist this imperative, allowing their child to cling to them are doing their youngster a disservice.

If dropping kids off at school in the morning is a problem here’s a few ideas that may help. Your aim as a parent is to establish a new pattern of behaviour for your child in the morning, particularly as you approach the school gate or classroom door.

1. Go through the morning and drop-off routine with your kids. Make sure everyone knows what’s expected. Work out your jobs and those that the kids need to do then stick to this arrangement. For instance, it may be your job to make school lunches but it’s up to kids to put them in their bags.

2. Drop kids off, turn around and go: If you have a child who likes to keep you busy each morning with tears or tantrums then you may have to take the ‘tough love’ approach. Say goodbye using a firm voice, turn around and leave. Don’t look back. Most kids settle down at school within five minutes of being dropped off. Parental lingering only makes matters worse for children and teachers. Teachers are experienced at helping kids settle into the school routine, so allow them to take over.

3. Reaffirm their efforts later: If your child begins to go off without tears or tantrums after a long period of difficult departure then make a bit of fuss when you see them later in the day. Don’t go overboard with tangible rewards or bribes. Parental recognition, genuinely given is a huge driver for most kids.

4. Wean your child off you: If your normal habit is to drop your child off at the classroom door each morning, try saying goodbye at the school gate every now and then. The aim is to make your child less, rather than more reliant on you.

If problems continue then it’s worth consulting your child’s teacher or welfare coordinator, carefully outlining the issue. Be prepared to be coached on this issue, trusting the approach that your school advises.

Teachers generally have experienced this type of separation anxiety before and understand when it’s within children’s capacities and when they may need extra help to cope. It makes good sense to trust their judgement. From my experience, it’s usually spot on!

Published by Michael Grose
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For more ideas, support and advice for your parenting challenges visit:
www.parentingideas.com.au
Future Junior Football Stars

The Pascoe Vale Junior Football Club is looking for you!
Join our very friendly, family focussed sports club.
Keep fit. Meet new friends.
Play like your football hero.

Registration Day
Sunday 10th of Feb (10am-2pm)
Raeburn Res, Landells Rd, Pascoe Vale.
*$290 for 1 child OR $510 for 2 or more
*(includes sponsored apparel & entry to presentation night for parents & child)

We have great local facilities that provides for:
Under 10’s thru to U16’s & Youth Girls

Check our website at:
pascoevalesc.org.au