Dear Parents

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS - Thursday Feb 28 & Friday March 1

As a part of our ongoing school improvement journey we are, this year, undergoing an external school review. This review is conducted by an independent external reviewer with expertise in school improvement. This process is a component of the School Improvement Framework, a process undertaken by all Catholic schools that promotes a four-year cycle of school improvement.

The School Improvement Framework has two purposes:

- to satisfy legitimate expectations of government and sector authorities about accountability for the outcomes of schooling
- to assist schools and teachers to improve student learning outcomes. This year St Olivers is in our fourth year of the cycle which involves the external review.

The framework promotes an evidence-based inquiry approach to planning within the school. It requires schools to incorporate ongoing monitoring and evaluation of student outcomes to ensure continuous school improvement and to regularly reflect upon questions such as:

- How are we going?
- How do we know?
- What would we like to achieve?
- What do we have to do to achieve these outcomes?
- How will we know whether we have achieved what we want?

This week, on Thursday and Friday the staff will be working with representatives from the Catholic Education Office on the above criteria across the 5 spheres of schooling – Education in Faith, Learning and Teaching, Leadership and Management, Wellbeing and School Community. We will be preparing a Self-Reflection Report that will be the core document to drive the external review. This process will enable us to celebrate our achievements over the past four years and to provide direction and evaluate the extent to which we are achieving the standards to which we aspire.

Kind Regards,

Deputy Principal
As mentioned in ‘From the Principal’ section of this week’s newsletter we are undergoing an external review this year. The School Improvement Framework (a four year cycle of school improvement) highlights the expectation that the Catholic School Vision is firmly embedded in our policies and practices and underpins all that we do at St Olivers.

Our school closure days this week will provide the opportunity for staff to reflect on our current practices, celebrate our achievements and look to future improvements. As a component of this process we will be revisiting our Vision Statement to ensure that it is alive and permeates through all the spheres of schooling (Education in Faith, Learning and Teaching, Leadership and Management, Wellbeing and School Community). Given that our Vision Statement is one of our core documents, we would share it with you, and over the next few weeks we will unpack each statement and reflect on how that statement is alive at St Olivers.

Mary Kearney  Deputy Principal / Learning and Teaching Coordinator

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**St Oliver’s Vision Statement**

*We at St Oliver Plunkett Parish Primary School see ourselves as part of a Catholic Faith Community which strives to:*

- Lead children as they grow in relationship with God by promoting the message of Jesus and the Gospel Values through prayer, scripture and relationships with others

- Provide a learning environment where self esteem is nurtured, where differences are respected, and where a sense of welcome pervades the school

- Foster positive and supportive relationships between students, parents/guardians, teachers and the wider Parish Community

- Ensure that students have a broad and comprehensive education which equips them to be life-long, independent and active learners

- Cater for the individual needs of all our children through a varied curriculum that recognises learning as a continual and developmental process*
What’s happening around the levels...

**SENIORS**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** This week students will continue to develop their understanding of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and how they are present in our everyday lives.

**WRITING:** Students will be discussing and then setting their writing goals this week. They will also continue on with developing seeds and producing their personal writing.

**READING:**

**MATHS:** The students will continue to work independently on the place value grid as teachers focus on the needs of small groups within the class. The activities focus on reading, writing, expanding, rounding and ordering whole numbers, negative numbers and decimals.

**INQUIRY:** Students will be investigating people from different backgrounds who have made significant contributions to Australian society. They will then present these findings using a variety of presentation strategies.

**Just a reminder...**

- Grade 6 students: please return your Confirmation cards & calico ASAP
- Subway lunch is this Wednesday
- We are looking for a parent or grandparent to come in and share their migration story with us. If you are able to do this, please contact your child’s classroom teacher.

**MIDDLES**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Our unit is called ‘The Holy Spirit in our lives’. We will be finishing off our unit this week and beginning our next unit on Lent and Easter.

**WRITING:** We will continue to focus on setting up our Writer’s Notebook structures this week. Monday is our new SEED DAY! Students will be writing up a report on the interviews they ran on our excursion last week.

**READING:** We will continue reading and responding to our new serial novel ‘Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing’ by Judy Blume. Students will be introduced to the Focus on Emotions sheet where they need to identify different emotions experienced by characters throughout their books.

**SPELLING:** We will be looking at –ed at the end of a word.

**MATHS:** Our focus for Maths will be statistics. Students will be beginning to collect some data and draw up a bar graph.

**INQUIRY:** Our Inquiry Unit is ‘The Culture Club’. We will be beginning the Investigating part of our unit where students will be choosing a culture they would like to research from around Melbourne.

**Just a reminder...** We need two packets of tissues from each child so the students need to bring them in as soon as possible.
JUNIORS

RELIGION: This week we are completing the unit ‘Baptism - Welcome To God’s Family. The children will be demonstrating their understanding of Baptism and the associated symbols in a variety of ways such as role play, 3D materials and the use of words and pictures.

READING: During reading sessions we are continuing the routine of the ‘shared big book’ and guided reading sessions. The children are continuing to participate in a variety of learning centre activities and focussing on working cooperatively together.

WRITING: This week we are further investigating and revising the structure of different genres. During modelled writing, we are looking at ‘Who am I?’ and catalogue poem examples.

SPELLING: We will be continuing to look at onset and rime patterns and build a class word list with the sound an (fan, man).

MATHS: This week Junior C and D will continue to explore the concept of length by measuring a variety of items. They will then order these items from longest to shortest. Junior L and R will be measuring the capacity of a variety of objects and also ordering them from smallest to largest. Both groups will then discuss and record their findings and understandings.

INQUIRY: The Juniors are excited about their new unit ‘Cultures Galore’. Following on from the discussion about the various cultures found in Australia, each class will choose four cultures to study. The children will then record any information they know about these cultures using words, pictures and relevant statements.

PREPS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: This week we will be listening to the story ‘Where is God’ and then drawing a picture about what they already know in connection to Jesus and the Church.

WRITING: The children will be writing sentences using the letters they have learnt in Jolly Phonics.

READING: The children will continue their Jolly Phonics letter sounds. This week the letters are: m and d.

MATHS: Our focus for Maths will be NUMBER. We will be looking at the numbers 1 and 2 in symbols and written form.

INQUIRY: The children will be continuing to discuss safe and unsafe situations they come across at school and at home.

Just a reminder… Some parents have had concerns about children not finishing their lunch. Please be mindful of not to provide too much food – an adequate playlunch is a piece of fruit and a healthy snack and a sandwich for lunch, again with a healthy treat.
ITALIAN NEWS
With the summer days so hot and the tomatoes red and juicy, the ‘Sauce Making Season’ is upon us.

We are planning to have our own tomato sauce making day as part of our Italian lessons on Monday March 18.

If you are able to help by providing any of the equipment needed for the day it would be greatly appreciated.

We will need:
- A mouli / potato ricer
- Extra large pots
- Bottles
- Bottle cap press
- A contact for a tomato supplier

Liz Finlayson
Italian Immersion Teacher

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to represent their class on the Student Representative Council.

Class
- PH Sienna Fragapane
- PF Charlie Prattico
- JL Molly McGregor
- JD Sarah Lazzaro
- JC Isabella Longano
- JR Ben Pascoe
- MM Hamish McGregor
- MG Ava Steinicke
- MS Anthony Manduca
- MJ Zavier Veneziano
- SC Natalie Scully
- SH Zavia Lingenti
- SS William Conlon
- SM Joshua Ressia
Challenge your family and friends to get active in 2013!
The 2013 Premier’s Active Families Challenge provides a great opportunity for all Victorian families to get active and enjoy the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. So grab your family and friends and register today to do 30 minutes of physical activity per day for 30 days between 4 March and 14 April 2013.

It’s fun and it’s free to participate, and just by registering you’ll receive:
- 20 free YMCA passes per family or team
- 15% discount at Rebel Sport
- one hour free tennis court hire at Melbourne Park or Albert Reserve
- one free child entry to the Melbourne Aquarium
- one free child entry to the National Sports Museum and MCG Tours.

You’ll also:
- have a chance to win great prizes, including iPads and Rebel Sport vouchers
- get regular tips and ideas on ways to keep your family active throughout the Challenge
- be able to nominate your school for the chance to win between $350 and $1000 in Rebel Sport vouchers as well as a coaching clinic with high-profile athletes.

Sign up today at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge or call 1300 463 684

Michael Grose Parenting Insight
‘How much should parents push their kids’. Dr Yvonne Sum believes we need to find a balance where we can inspire from the inside out.

St Olivers Ride 2 School program
Here at St Olivers we have a very active and healthy Ride 2 School program. Walking, riding or scootering to school is strongly encouraged and supported by our Active Travel Monitors who greet you at the gate each morning. This year our middle school children have taken on the role of clicking passports at the gate and they are very dedicated and we congratulate them on taking on this important role in our school. For our new families passports are available at the gate and the monitors will write your child’s name on the back of the passport. Each time you walk, ride etc to school your passport becomes fuller. Walking part way is ok too. Once a passport has been fully clicked the monitors hand them to me and a certificate is presented at our Wednesday assembly.

Once a month we participate in a state wide ‘Hands Up’ count to monitor the way in which children travel to school. This is a Bicycle Victoria initiative and it is alive and healthy here at St Olivers.

For more information talk to our monitors on the gate each morning or have a chat with me.

Libby Sheedy Wellbeing Coordinator
**SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Just a reminder to get website permission forms back to class teachers so we can start updating photos and assemblies on St Oliver's website. If you have lost the form you can download a new one from the school website.

Any concerns about the form please contact me

Nadia Glann  
School Community Coordinator

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**SPORTS NEWS**

**ESSENDON FOOTBALLERS VISIT**

Last Tuesday morning the senior students were fortunate to receive a visit from Essendon footballers Kyle Hardingham & Ariel Steinberg. The footballers shared with the students how they set their long and short term goals, nutrition, training and other interesting facts about themselves. Our senior students were very engaged in this session and asked many fabulous questions.

Marita Mannix  
Sports Coordinator
GENERAL NEWS

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!

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.

STUDENT AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students
Julia Bongiovani, Sienna Rumoro, Larissa Caroselli, Ewan McGregor, Jack Sollo, Connor Cometti, Julia Polidori, Jack Capuana, Isabella Longano, Oscar Hubbard, Alec Kafritsas, Georgie Denes, Amelia Rizzo, Mia Brazzani, David Gennaccaro, Giulia Palmarella, Claudia Goundar, Katya Ferreira, Julian Citino, Olivia Ramondetta

MORELAND CITY COUNCIL PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
The Holiday Program will operate from Tuesday 2 April – Friday 12 April 2013. There are 4 venues 8am to 6pm available. For further information contact 9240 2427 or visit the web site at schoolholidayprogram@moreland.vic.gov.au Enrolments are now open. Applications are available at the school office and must be in at the council no later than 5pm on Friday 8 March 2013

CANTEEN  Diane Tabone  0423 596 221

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 February</td>
<td>School closure day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1 March</td>
<td>School closure day</td>
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<td>Monday 4 March</td>
<td>Angela Russo Vita Mezzatesta</td>
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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 135 bankers--- well done students**

**Businesses of the week**

Businesses on our website this week are Just Low Auto Care, Lily's Dance Studios, Lincoln Hair & Beauty, Little Treasures Learning and Melbourne Plaster Linings. 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

**Subway Lunches**

Subway lunch day is this **Wednesday 27th Feb….**

**Sportsman Night**

Due to popular demand we have organized another Sportsman Night….this coming **Friday 1st March….** The last one was a great success and everyone who attended had a fantastic night. RSVP’s are due this Wednesday as we have 2 school closure days at the end of the week. Please see attached flyer for more information

**Cadbury Chocolates**

Every family received a fundraising box of Cadbury Chocolates yesterday. Each box contains 50 chocolates to be sold at $1 each. All unsold chocolates and money are due back to the school office by Wednesday 6th March. If anyone can help by selling more than 1 box please contact Diana Capuana on 0419 331 966

**FETE NEWS**

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

Thank you
Parent Association
How much should parents push their kids?

We need to find a balance where we can inspire our children from the inside out.

Parents today believe that their children need to stand out from the crowd in this highly competitive world. There is nothing wrong in wanting the best to unleash the highest potential in the next generation. If we are not careful, we can create excessive pressure as ‘helicopter parents’ hovering over them in so many areas: academia, sports, performing arts … and even imposing cultural traditions. Just like in *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mom* by Amy Chua.

We can also go to the other extreme and become free-range parents with our offspring dictating the boundaries of their existence. That would not work, either.

**How much should we push our kids?**

We need to find a balance where we can inspire our children to be motivated from the inside out. Each child is different. Read your child. Observe them and you will understand what makes them tick. Some children are more likely to thrive when they are challenged – so you can ‘push’ them more. Others will need more sensitivity.

**Do I follow my or their wishes?**

It depends. The difficult part about parenting is that different circumstances warrant different handling. Read the context. If a situation involves the child making a few mistakes to learn a skill (as they did when they learnt to walk?) then perhaps we can let them approach it their way. A Japanese proverb tells us to, ‘Fall down seven get up eight’. On the other hand, a more complex decision will need more guidance and direction from the parents.

**How much pressure is too much?**

When it’s a constant battle. When it’s no longer fun. When no inner burning desire can be drawn from the child. Once more: read your child.

My daughter, Xian, had been dancing for six years. It was a shock when Xian told me she was quitting ballet. My natural instinct was to activate the ‘Because I said so’ reply – but I stopped myself in time to learn what had changed.

Xian confessed that she was exhausted. Besides ballet, Xian indulged in diverse extracurricular activities and was determined to continue her violin, piano, singing and gymnastics.

She assured me that she loved every minute of ballet and all the other opportunities she had been introduced to. However, she had recently found ballet classes had become a chore. She hadn’t had a break in lessons since she was three and felt leaving for a period would do her good. Her ballet teacher assured me that a couple of years’ break would not do Xian any harm. In fact, it may even help her motivation later.

**When should we listen to our kids?**

Always have an open mind. I am often surprised by the maturity in my children when I stop to listen. If they seem misdirected, by all means use respectful influencing skills to guide them. Always model collaborative engagement over a bulldozing approach!

**What are the signs of pushing too much?**

Simple, stressed-out children and/or stressed-out parents!

There are lots of questions to consider.

In summary, do ...
1. Set clear intentions and boundaries.
2. Come from a willingness to help – support and challenge them to be outstanding in their own right.
3. Use sensory acuity – be observant and present. Read the child and the context.
4. Communicate with care – know when to ask questions or give suggestions.
5. Inspire an inner motivation – light the fire in your kids so they are committed to what they do from within.

We don’t have to continually push our kids. They will prod us lovingly to help us learn about their needs and desires. We just need to be willing to listen.

Dr. Yvonne Sum is a Sydney-based speaker, facilitator and parenting educator. www.dryvonesum.com
St Oliver’s 2013 Chocolate Drive

This year we are selling Cadbury Chocolates again. This is our largest fundraiser for the year so please help the school by selling what you can and have your money back in on time.

This box contains a variety of 50 Cadbury Chocolates that are to be sold at $1 each Total of box $50

All Unsold Chocolates and money is to be returned to school no later than Wednesday 6th March 2013.

For any further queries or if you are able to sell more than 1 box of chocolates please contact Diana Capuana 0419 331 966
Thank you from the Parent Association
ST OLIVER'S

SPORTSMANS NIGHT

FRIDAY 1 MARCH 7.00PM
21 Raeburn Street, Pascoe Vale (Girl Guides Hall)

FEATURING...

Mick McGuane
- 1990 Premiership player
- AFL All Australian 1992
- Copeland Trophy Winner 1992/93
- Hard running on-baller or halfback player

Terry Daniher
- Played 294 games for Essendon (1978-1992)
- Kicked 447 goals
- Premiership captain 1984/85
- Essendon’s Team of the Century
- AFL Hall of Fame inductee 1998

and comedy entertainer

Lehmo
One of Australia's most experienced and well travelled comedians. Currently a host on Gold FM breakfast show and a panellist on Ten's Before the Game. Also a regular The Project.

$35 PER PERSON

INCLUDES
- BBQ Dinner
- Door Prizes

Also on the night
- Memorabilia Auctions
- Raffles
Drink cards can be purchased at the door

SPECIAL GUEST MC

Steve Milne
SEN 1116 radio personality (GBU Crew).

A great night for all dads, brothers, brother-in-laws, friends...

RSVP: 27 Feb 2013. For more information contact: Michael Said - 0418 994 711

Please detach and return to the School office by Wednesday 27 February 2013 along with payment in an envelope labelled “Sportsmans Night”. Cheques to be made payable to “St Oliver’s Parents Association”.

Name: ____________________________ Contact Number: ____________________________
Child's Name: ____________________________ Class: ____________________________
No. of tickets: __________ Amount Enclosed: __________ Cash __ Cheque* __

* A fee will apply for any dishonoured cheques.