Dear Parents

Last Thursday and Friday the staff worked with Craig Carlin (Principal Consultant), Marita Richardson (Learning and Teaching Advisor) and Bernadette Venables (Religious Education Advisor) from the Catholic Education Office on our 2013 review. The review or school improvement framework is an evidence based four year process undertaken by all catholic school.

We were supported by the above C.E.O. staff through an analysis of our NAPLAN Data, our four years of teacher, parent and student surveys and a number of our own internal surveys and audit tools. On these days we reflected on our current practices and look towards forming goals and recommendations for our next four year cycle.

Congratulations to our Parent Association and to Michael Said for organizing last Friday evening’s Sportsmans’ Night. From all reports the evening was a great success for all of the dads who had the opportunity to attend.

Prep Enrolments 2014.

Prep enrolments for 2014 will be opened from Monday April 15. Enrolment applications can be collected from the school office on this day. Completed forms need to be returned to the school by Wednesday, 8 May as our prep interviews will commence on Monday, 13 May.

A reminder that The Newsletter is the weekly communication that our school has with you as parents and we encourage all families to find a few minutes each week to keep up to date with the news around our school community.

Regards

Alan S.
ST OLIVER PLUNKETT’S VISION STATEMENT

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter we are currently going through the process of school review and consequently we thought it valuable to share our school vision statement with the school community. The five beliefs that comprise our Vision Statement underpin all that we do at St Oliver’s. They articulate the school’s purpose and provide us, the whole school community, with common goals and understandings. When undergoing review we will be asked to reflect and report on five spheres of schooling that are embedded in our school vision statement:

- Education in Faith
- Learning and Teaching
- Student Wellbeing
- School Community
- Leadership and Management

The first belief that we strive for at St Oliver’s is to:

*Lead the 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.*

This belief links closely with the Education in Faith sphere as it is embodied in our Religious Education program and basic ethos of our Catholic school identity.

There are many opportunities where children learn that they are loved by God, during class prayer, school/parish masses and family prayer. It is in the small ways – the way we talk and act, that we build a welcoming and respectful community.

In Religious Education classes, children and teachers discuss Jesus teachings and how we practice the values of tolerance and respect each day as we interact with others.

We work towards continuing to develop this belief by having the Religious Education Coordinator work with individual teaching teams to plan engaging and thoughtful units of work and by sharing enriching dialogue in Religious Education at the whole school, classroom and individual levels.

These values are also alive at St Olivers via the implementation of the Social Skills programme called Bounce Back. These classes occur on a weekly basis and are focused on building personal skills such as resilience and positive relationships. The Bounce Back philosophies reinforce the understandings that teachers encourage and model on a day to day basis in their classrooms.

We aim that our approaches to Education in Faith will enable the children to articulate the connections between their life experiences and our faith traditions.

Mary Kearney  Deputy Principal / Learning and Teaching Coordinator
What’s happening around the levels...

SENIORS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: This week students will be read a number of scripture stories and identify how Jesus lived out his mission. They will then identify ways that they can show similar actions in their everyday lives, at home and school.

WRITING: This week students will begin working towards achieving their writing goals which were set last week. We will begin setting up our writing workshops this week also.

READING: As we continue to read our serial reader, The Cay, we explore the developing issues within the text, through the illustrator role and identifying significant quotes.

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 diverse backgrounds who have made valuable contributions to their communities. They will then move into exploring contributions made from specific culture groups within our community.

Just a reminder...

- Grade 6 students: please return your Confirmation cards & calico ASAP
- Please ensure your religion homework draft in presented to your classroom teacher before you begin the final copy.

Click here for a copy of the current Senior Homework Grid

Click here for a copy of the grade five “Person I Admire” project

Click here for a copy of the grade six “Saints Project”

MIDDLES

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Our unit is called ‘Lent and Easter- A Journey of Hope’. We will begin the unit by thinking about different journeys at looking at fasting, almsgiving and prayer.

WRITING: We will continue to focus on setting up our Writer’s Notebook structures this week. We are also looking at our Writing goals we will be working towards.

READING: We will continue reading and responding to our new serial novel ‘Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing’ by Judy Blume. Students will be looking at a text to text connection where they connect what is happening in their books to something else that has happened in another book.

SPELLING: We will be looking at ch words

MATHS: Our focus for Maths will be statistics. Students will tally up the data they gathered and begin to draw up their bar graph from that data.

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. Students will begin their research this week.

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

Click here for a copy of the current Middles Homework
JUNIORS

RELIGION: This week we are continuing with the unit ‘Journey Towards the Cross’ which was begun earlier in the term when we explored the concepts of Ash Wednesday and Lent. We will now pick up this unit again by reading, retelling and reflecting on the story of the Last Supper.

READING: During reading sessions we are continuing the routine of the ‘shared big book’ and guided reading sessions. In our shared reading sessions we will be focusing on the use of words in capital letters and different fonts to help us use expression and add emphasis when reading aloud.

WRITING: This week we will continue to explore and revise the structure of different text types. During modelled writing, we will look at how the story starter cards can be used to inspire our writing and how to write a ‘colour’ poem.

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

MATHS: This week we will be revising and extending our understandings about place value to include making numbers using pictorial cut outs of bundles and ones and MAB blocks. Junior C and D will also conclude their unit of work investigating the concept of length by measuring a variety of items using informal units. Junior L and R will conclude their unit of work investigating the concept of capacity by measuring a variety of items using informal units.

INQUIRY: This week each child will choose one country, from the four shortlisted by their class, and investigate the culture of that country. The children will conduct research using computers, iPads and books to unearth information about their chosen culture such as flag, music, dance, food, clothing and language.

PREPS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: This week the children will be visiting the Church to familiarise themselves with what it looks like and what’s inside.

WRITING: The children will be linking their writing to the books we read.

READING: The children will continue their Jolly Phonics letter sounds. This week the letters are: g, o and u. They will also be revising and blending the letters learnt so far.

MATHS: Our focus for Maths will be NUMBER. We will be looking at the numbers 3 and 4 in symbols and written form. We will also introduce the children to the days of the week song and share what each child does on the different days of the week.

INQUIRY: The children will be talking about the rules they follow at home and comparing these to the ones we have at school.
It’s back…. the 2013 AFL FOOTY SEASON is nearly here and so is our St Oliver’s Community Footy Tipping Competition!

To get your family involved simply log onto: http://www.footytips.com.au/comps/St_Oliver_Plunkett and create a log on.

There is an entry fee of $10 per family which must be paid to the office no later than Friday the 22nd of March (round 1) to be involved. There are great prizes and of course bragging rights of St Oliver’s Tipping Champions to be won.

The entry money will be divided up for prizes at the end of the home and away season!

1st - 50%, 2nd - 30%, 3rd -10% and wooden spoon - 10%.

Enter Now!! Good luck!!

Nadia Glann
School Community 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!

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.

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 sschoolholidayprogram@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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th March</td>
<td>Michelle Pagotto  Imelda Patton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8th March</td>
<td>Sonia Rossi Tina Baltatzis Mariella Pannunzio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11th March</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARENT ASSOCIATION

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 148 bankers—well done students

Businesses of the week
Businesses on our website this week are Laramy Collections, Maripa & Co Lawyers, Matrix Fitness, Mel's Pizza & Pasta, Miss Beauty and Music Suites. 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

Sportsman Night
The St Oliver’s Sportsman Night was held last Friday Night. We had a fantastic response with nearly 100 men attending. A big thank you to Michael Said for organising this event and to Sam Capuana for assisting in securing the sports stars. Please see attached flyer for a more detailed report of the night

Cadbury Chocolates
All unsold chocolates and money are due back this Wednesday 6th March. It is very important to finalise this fundraiser before the end of term 1. For further queries please contact Diana Capuana on 0419 331 966

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

Thank you
Parent Association
Wielding ‘soft power’ at home

Your parenting authority works well with easy, compliant children but teenagers and demanding kids require some pretty nifty communication skills if you are going to win their cooperation.

Many people ask me: “How do I get my kids to cooperate with me?” This question reflects a frustration that many parents have with their ability to influence their children. It’s also indicative of the changing times in which we live where kids don’t necessarily blindly obey their parents, as they did until a few generations ago.

As a parent you have two sorts of power: positional power and soft power.

Positional power is better known as your authority as a parent. Parenting has a huge vocabulary built around ‘positional power’ with terms such as discipline, punishment, child management and behaviour management to name a few.

When I began as a parenting educator 20 years ago the term ‘parenting’ was code for behaviour management. It was mostly about helping parents exert their ‘positional power’.

The second type of power is soft power and is mostly about effective communication. It’s about influencing rather than simply exerting your authority over kids. Interestingly, your authority works well with easy, compliant kids but teenagers and demanding kids require some pretty nifty communication skills if you are going to win their cooperation.

Don’t get me wrong. It’s okay to use your positional power. Kids need to know that someone is in charge. They need parents who feel comfortable in their role.

But relying solely on positional power is hard work. A statement directed at you by a child along these lines: “You can’t make me do anything I don’t want to do!” is a challenge to your position as parent.

When positional power fails, which it inevitably will, you can only rely on soft power to influence your kids. Here’s the rub: there is nothing soft about it because it carries significant weight when all else fails!

Here are five ideas to make you less reliant on using positional power and help build your soft power skills:

1. Get your head around the fact that discipline (there’s that positional power thing again) is not about winning and losing, but about teaching kids how to behave and be responsible for their behaviour. The key to successful discipline with adolescents is to speak to them in ways that don’t threaten their need to feel like they are in control.

2. Choose a role model who wields soft power well and start to copy their way of speaking and acting with kids.

3. Talk about the difference between positional power and soft power with your partner or a friend to help you clarify the differences, as well as find an ally to support you.

4. Make soft power your priority for a week and see how it feels to influence rather than brow beat; to mediate rather than negotiate; to use consequences rather than yell when kids don’t cooperate with your way of thinking.

5. Practice one skill at a time. Read books, blogs and other resources to help you understand more about soft power, then gradually practice and experiment with new ways of communicating with kids.

Next time you speak to your kids in a potentially tricky or challenging situation check to see if you are using positional power to win the situation or soft power to win the kids over to your way of thinking.

Hopefully, its soft power that you are using to win the day!

Great ways to develop your soft power skills with Michael Grose:

1. Subscribe to Happy Kids – Michael’s free weekly email guide.

2. Download our free ParentingIdeas Skills Guide: 10 BEST tips to get cooperation from kids without tears, fears or putdowns.

These great resources are waiting for you at ParentingIdeas.com.au/ParentingIdeas-Newsletter
PREP ENROLMENTS 2014

PREP ENROLMENTS
Will be opened from 15 April, 2013

OPEN DAY
Tuesday 23 April 2013
9.00am to 12.00pm

Enrolment application forms may be collected
from the school office between 9.00am and 3.00pm

Completed forms need to be returned to the school
by Wednesday 8 May 2013 with a non refundable enrolment fee
of $20.00

Interviews for prospective families will commence
on Monday 13 May.

When enrolling your child please provide both original and photocopies of your child’s birth,
baptism and immunization certificate along with an original copy of your rates notice and a
utility bill.
REMINDER: MONEY IS DUE BACK TOMORROW

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
Thank you  Thank you  Thank you

Once again, our sportsman night was a fantastic event. Thank you to everyone who attended. Our numbers doubled last years’ which would not have been possible without dads, brothers, friends and family that came along. Our night got off to a great start with Lehmo entertaining us with his stand up comedy routine which had us in fits of laughter from start to finish. We were then fortunate to have Terry Daniher and Mick McGuane give us a good insight into their football careers. They both spoke in great depth and quality to entertain us throughout the evening. They both stayed on and enjoyed the entire night mingling with the crowd whilst signing autographs and posing for photographs. Thank you to Terry and Mick for supporting the night. We were very fortunate to have sporting guru and SEN personality Steve Milne MC the night and his research into Terry and Mick was outstanding. The night would not have been such a success had we not had the support of all our friends and family that attended, a huge thank you to each and every one of you. Also a big thank you to our sponsors that donated gifts and money for our raffle.

Regards

St Oliver’s Parent Association

A big thank you to our sponsors

Plumb Force  Nelson Alexander Real Estate  Oheas Bakery
Pascoe Pizza  East Coburg Cricket Club
Duncan’s Liquor Pascoe Vale  CMS Meats
La Camera Restaurant Southbank
OSHC NEWS
Camp Australia has opened a before care program which will run daily from 7:00-8:45am. The program includes breakfast, games, active sports and crafts feel free to ask me about it. OSHC has a new Mob. Number. Please call 0431 722 459. thanks

REMINDERS
How to get started before using our programs register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Visit our website to begin www.campaussia.com.au
Once registered you can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day online.
Save on Care You can save 50% or more on Before and After School Care fees with the non-means tested Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343 Monday to Friday.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td>soccer</td>
<td>Games/playground</td>
<td>Lego/building</td>
<td>Free choice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>