Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the extra day’s break over the Labor Day long weekend.

School Photo Day
A reminder that tomorrow (Wednesday 13\textsuperscript{th}) the children from Year One to Year Six will need to wear their full school uniforms as it is School photo Day. Our Prep photos and the family photos will be taken on Thursday 14\textsuperscript{th} March. Full arrangements for both of these days are explained in a note that is being sent home today.

Wednesday’s Assembly Cancelled
Please note that due to School photos Wednesday’s normal Assembly has been cancelled for this week.

Confirmation 2013
Please keep our Year Six Children in your thoughts and prayers as they commence their final few days of preparation for their confirmation celebration this Friday evening commencing at 7.00.

A reminder that our newsletter is the weekly communication that our school has with you as parents. We ask that all families find a few minutes to visit our newsletter either via your email or online on our school website each week to keep up with news around our school community.

Regards

Alan S.
LEARNING & TEACHING

ST OLIVER PLUNKETT’S VISION STATEMENT

In last weeks newsletter I began to unpack our Vision Statement and we looked at how our first belief is alive at St Oliver’s.

This is the second belief in our Vision Statement that we strive for at St Olivers;

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

A child’s self esteem is essential to the success of his/her learning. It is our intention to always be mindful to build on the self-esteem of our students. Children with a good self-esteem believe in their ability to learn and to succeed. They are willing to take risks in their learning and will learn from their experiences without fear of failure.

There are various structures in place which enable us to work towards strengthening children’s self-esteem. We have an active student council which is facilitated by Trish Segrave in her capacity as Student Leadership Coordinator. Representatives are elected from each grade to participate on this council and issues such as fundraising and general student concerns are raised. The SRC meets every three weeks and representatives feed back to their class as to the items of discussion. SRC members are also given the responsibility to present class awards at the Friday school assemblies.

Class awards in themselves are another avenue for us to build on self-esteem. These are presented each week at assembly and are an opportunity to celebrate the individual achievements of children.

The discipline approach we implement across the school enables teachers be positive and affirm our student’s good behaviours. A whole school approach to discipline allows us to work consistently from prep to six and provides the children with a familiar framework whereby they know the rewards and /or consequences related to their actions.

The Bounce Back program also supports our second belief as it provides the opportunity to explicitly explore the importance of respect for others and to be accepting of the different values and beliefs that we all bring to our school community. Anti-bullying strategies are also very heavily embedded in this program.

We aim to provide our students with the skills necessary to make good choices and to act in a respectful manner at all times.

Mary Kearney  Deputy Principal / Learning and Teaching Coordinator

CONFIRMATION FRIDAY 15 MARCH at 7:00

Just a reminder to the grades six parents and students that the stoles need to be ready and worn on the night of Confirmation. Individual photos begin at 5:30pm in the large multi-purpose room and the group photo for all children is at 6:30pm. Please remember to bring the envelope for the photographer. On the night there is reserved seating only for the Confirmation candidates and their sponsors.

Trish Segrave  Religious Education Coordinator
What’s happening around the levels...

SENIORS

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**: This week we will begin final preparations for our Confirmation sacrament. Students will share their homework projects and continue to focus on how the Gifts and Fruits have been presented in the scriptures and their own lives.

**WRITING**: We will begin our workshops and learning about persuasive writing with some oral language activities.

**READING**: The students will work to compare & contrast the differing views of the main characters, Timothy & Phillip.

**MATHS**: Students will complete two more lessons using their place value grid before they complete their post test.

**INQUIRY**: Students will explore contributions made from specific culture groups within our community.

**Just a reminder...**
- Any remaining Confirmation cards & calico need to be returned to school ASAP
- Religion homework is due in on Wednesday.
- This week we play St.Fidelis at home.

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 continue to explore the different events of Holy Week and what they mean.

**WRITING**: This week we have begun or Writing Goal Meetings. Over the next 3 weeks all students will meet one-on-one with their teacher for a Goal Meeting. The students will also be attending a workshop which will address an area of need or the Writing Goal they have set for themselves.

**READING**: We will celebrate finishing our serial novel ‘Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing’ by Judy Blume by creating a class Literacy Quilt. Students will choose an important character or event in the text and explain why it was important. We will also give the students some opportunities to research their Culture Pass project.

**SPELLING**: We will be looking at the rule ‘i before e except after c’. We will brainstorm some words and look at patterns within those words.

**MATHS**: Our focus for Maths will be TIME! We will begin by looking at reading timetables and calendars.

**INQUIRY**: Our Inquiry Unit is ‘The Culture Club’. We will be continuing the Investigating part of our unit where students will be choosing a culture they would like to research from around Melbourne. Students will continue 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. Also, we are beginning time this week in Maths. It would be great if you could do lots of talking about time at home with your children just to reinforce what we are doing in Maths.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the current Middles Homework
RELIGION: This week we are continuing the unit ‘Journey Towards The Cross’. The children will reflect on the characters and remember the events of Jesus Christ’s suffering and death depicted in the Stations of the Cross.

READING: This week during reading sessions we will continue to engage the children in shared reading practices with a focus on substituting similar words to maintain meaning.

WRITING: This week we are exploring how to use a picture stimulus to drive ideas and produce a writing piece. We will also revise the editing process, focusing on the inclusion of punctuation, spelling and elaboration of ideas.

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

MATHS: This week Junior C and D will be looking at the concept of capacity by creating a class poster for this topic that includes relevant language and symbols and finding items in the classroom that hold different capacities. Junior L and R will also begin exploring the concept of length by creating a class poster which includes relevant language and symbols and looking for items in the classroom that can be used as tools for measuring length.

INQUIRY: This week during Inquiry time, we are continuing with the unit ‘Cultures Galore’. The children will continue to use various resources such as, the ‘Myclasses’ page on the St Oliver’s intranet and text books to research their chosen country and record their findings.

PREPS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: This week the children will revise the story, ‘The Good Shepherd’ and complete an assessment piece on who they think The Good Shepherd is like.

WRITING: The children will be linking their writing to the books we read in class and the Jolly Phonics letters.

READING: The children will continue their Jolly Phonics letter sounds. This week the letters are: l, f and b. The 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 5 and 6 in symbols and written form. We will also revise the days of the week and the children will complete an assessment showing what they do on each day of the week.

INQUIRY: The children will be discussing and creating a whole class data chart about the rules they follow when playing. Then comparing these to rules to the rules we have at school and at home.
SPORTS NEWS

School Sports Day

Next Friday, March 22, is the school sports day. A detailed letter is coming home today including program of events, details about children being dismissed and the general running of the day.

We also require parent helpers for the day. If you are available to lend a hand please complete the slip attached to the letter going home today and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

Marita Mannix  Sports Coordinator

Michael Grose Insights

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Please have a read of the attached insight.

Parent Education Evening

This Thursday March 14th, St Aloysius College is hosting a Cybersafety evening. Natasha is the student counsellor and the night will cover “What every parent should know….”

Date: Thursday March 14th
Time: 7.00-8.30pm
Topic: Cybersafety
Venue: St Aloysius College
   31 Curran Street North Melbourne

If you would like to attend please email mcleod@aloysius.vic.ed.au or phone Jodie McLeod on 9329 0411

Ride to School Day

This year National Ride to school day falls on the same day as our school sports so we are making an official St Olivers Ride to School day on the day before. Thursday 21st March will be our 2013 Ride to School day.

All students are encouraged to ride, walk or scooter to school on this day and bike parking areas will be designated. This is always a fantastic day and supported beautifully by our families. To mark Ride to School day a special breakfast will be offered to all our active members.

Help please........If any parents are able to help serve breakfast on this day I would greatly appreciate it.

I am looking at starting breakfast by about 8.10am and finishing by 8.40am. Any donations are always greatly accepted.

Libby Sheedy  Wellbeing Coordinator
SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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

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.

LITERACY CLASSROOM HELPERS’ PARENT WORKSHOPS
Just a reminder that if you would like to be part of our literacy program, we ask that you attend one of the following workshops.

There will be a teacher available to care for any Prep children who accompany Prep to Two parents on Wednesday.

- Prep to Year Two Experienced Parent Helpers’ Workshop
  - Wednesday, 13th March at 9.00 in the Staffroom
- Prep Parents and New Parent Helpers Workshop
  - Thursday 14th March at 9.00 in the Staffroom.
- Year Three to Six Parent Helpers
  - To be advised

Hope to see you there,
Barbara Olanda
STUDENT AWARDS

CANTEEN  Diane Tabone  0423 596 221

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CLICK HERE FOR THE CURRENT PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

School Banking has arrived at St Oliver Plunkett School!

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 Melbourne Legal Chambers, Modern Image, Murrone Brothers Plant Hire, My Wish, Nelson Alexander and N'Joy Cafe. 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

Cadbury Chocolates
All unsold chocolates and money were due back last 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

Easter Raffle
Raffle books for our Easter raffle were sent home today. We are asking each child to donate Easter eggs to the raffle. Each class will have at least 1 hamper prize to win… maybe even more prizes depending on how many donations we get. We also are seeking hamper baskets. If you have any that you can donate please send into the school office. Please see the flyer attached for more information.

Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea
With the wonderful generosity of O'Heas Bakery we have been able to organize a Hot Cross Morning Tea for the parents. This will take place after the last school assembly of the term on Wednesday 27th March. All are welcome.

St Oliver's Business Directory
Later this week we will be sending home application forms for our 2nd Edition of the St Oliver's Buisness Directory 2013/2014. Existing advertisers would have already received their renewal forms. Applications for this edition close on April 30th. For further information please contact bd@sopascoevale.catholic.edu.au

Meeting
Parent Association meeting is this Wednesday 13 March at 7.30pm in the Staff Room. All Welcome!

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

Thank you,  Parent Association
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.
The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Have you ever compared your child’s behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend’s children?

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity.

But it’s hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child’s progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Kids develop at their own rates

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends’ kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. “Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago” is a better measure of progress than “Your spelling is the best in the class!”

Gender matters

It’s no secret that boys’ and girls’ brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood.

Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills. Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths

So your eight-year-old can’t hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour’s child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.

It’s better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also recognise that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child’s performance

As a parent you should take pride in your children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you!

The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as “unconditional love”.

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parentingideas.com.au  parentingideas.co.uk  parentingideas.co.nz

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All rights reserved. For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges please visit our website.
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St Oliver’s 2013 Chocolate Drive

REMINDER: MONEY IS DUE BACK

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 should have been returned to school on **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
LOT OF EASTER EGGS WANTED!!
It is that time of year when we call for

Donations of Easter Eggs (and baskets)
And send home tickets for the

EASTER RAFFLE

Every child will receive a raffle book.
Every class will have their own Easter egg baskets to raffle.
Please send your donations to school via your child’s classroom teacher.

Tickets are 50c each or $5.00 a full book.
Tickets are due back Tuesday 26th.
Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 27th March at assembly

Thanks once again for your support and good luck!!
The Parent Association

NB: We really need baskets too. If you have any baskets please send them to school.

Thanks
**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

**REMINDEERS**

**How to get started** before using our programs register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Visit our website to begin [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.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**

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