Dear Parents and Children,

Confirmation

Congratulations to all Year 6 students who celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation last Friday evening. Monsignor Greg Bennet and Father Paul co-celebrated the mass and the children were a credit to all families, their teachers and to the school. Thank you to Trish Segrave, our Religious Education Coordinator and to our Senior teachers Marita Mannix, Fiona Brugaletta, Julie-Ann Dimasi, Sue Carey and Jaki O’Halloran for all of their work in preparing the children.

Senior Camp

Good luck to the all of the Year 5/6 children who are heading off to camp at Arrabri Lodge tomorrow morning. Our camp program provides our senior children with an opportunity to participate in outdoor education activities in a wonderful camp environment.
**No School Assembly this Wednesday**
As the senior children will be leaving for camp on Wednesday we will not hold our normal Assembly this week.

**Before and Afterschool Care program**
Our on site before care program commenced in February. All parents need to be aware that the before school program is running as a trial program. Over the next three terms we will need to gauge if the expressions of interest for this program actually translate into regular attendance. The long term future of before school O.H.S.C. **does** depend on the program being fully user pay or cost neutral. The current before school program commences at 7.30. If you feel that you would be better serviced by a program that commences at 7.00 a.m. please communicate this information to Camp Australia. Camp Australia will then assess if there enough interest for the program to commence at this time.

**Parent Association**
Many of you will recall the main focus of the Parent Association’s fund raising last year was to improve our I.T. structure across the school. Late last year the Association donated $20,000 to our school that allowed us to replace 17 of the old computers in the children’s classrooms. The Association also makes an annual donation to the school that allows us to keep the costs of the program for all families as low as possible. Many thanks to all of our families for continuing your magnificent support of our Association’s fund raising efforts.

**Family Football Competition**
Last week Fiona Brugaletta, our Community Coordinator, sent home a letter to all families inviting them to join in a school football tipping competition. If you interested in joining please register on line as per the letters instructions or if you have any questions contact Fiona at school. Registrations will be open for a few weeks but the first game of AFL is this weekend so if you are interested in participating in a friendly tipping competition against other families please register as soon as possible.

Regards

Alan Sweeney
Principal
WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND THE LEVELS

SENIORS

This week in Seniors we will:

- complete assessment pieces on the Confirmation unit in Religion
- assess Addition and Subtraction in Maths
- participate in our Confirmation Paraliturgy
- and prepare for Camp!

A few Camp reminders... The students need to arrive at school by 8.40am on Wednesday and leave their bags behind their class cone in the South Yard (weather permitting), otherwise we may need to use the hall. They can then go to their classroom for their teacher to mark the roll. We expect to depart St Oliver’s at approximately 9.30am and arrive back at school on Friday by 3.00pm.

Remember to:

- sign in any medication your child is taking
- pack morning tea and lunch for the first day
- bring a refillable water bottle

We’re looking forward to a great few days at Arrabri Lodge!

MIDDLES

WRITING: We will model a recount for the students. We will work through planning, drafting, editing and publishing. Then students will continue independent writing during Writer’s Notebook time.

READING: We will continue the ‘The BFG’. We will introduce the reading activity called a SWOT. In a SWOT the students focus on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats a character displays to achieve their goal. The children will continue to read and respond independently during our Reading Routine.

SPELLING: Our meaning focus for the week will be homophones and identifying words containing tt will be our visual focus.

MATHS: This week we are beginning addition. We will be stressing the importance of using mental strategies to help solve addition effectively.

INQUIRY: During our Inquiry Unit we are working with our buddy grade to produce a poster, role play, powerpoint or other activity to build a presentation they will share with other students in the school.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: In our topic ‘Alleluia- He is Risen’, we will look at the two different Resurrection accounts in the Gospel and discuss similarities and differences in the stories.
**JUNIORS**

This week in the Juniors, we are covering the following:

**RELIGION:** continuing our topic ‘Lent and Holy Week’ by exploring the story of the Poor Widow and reflecting on its message of what it means to really give. We will also be involved in an Easter Presentation given by the OAC Ministries on Wednesday.

**READING:** engaging the children in shared reading practices with a focus on substituting similar words to maintain meaning

**WRITING:** continuing to compose, revise, edit and publish individual recounts

**SPELLING:** building word lists with the sound *all* (call, ball) and continuing to revise the Jolly Phonics songs, actions and sounds

**MATHS:** continuing to explore addition by making, recording and illustrating addition stories and using informal tools to measure length

**INQUIRY:** continuing to build up an understanding about the groups we belong to in our unit ‘Working and Playing Together’. Each junior grade will work with children in a middle grade to come up with an interesting way to illustrate/ explain a situation in which we can play fairly and cooperatively at school.

**PREPS**

**WRITING:** We will continue to use our Writer’s Notebook to model and encourage different levels of thinking. Our writing focus will be spacing between each word in a sentence.

**READING:** In Jolly Phonics this week we will continue to focus on blending. In addition to this, we will introduce chunking. The Big Book focus for this week is identifying the name/sound of letters at the beginning of words.

**MATHS:** We are continuing to practice counting from 1-20 and back through song and rhyme. We will also recap on 2D shapes recording their different features.

**INQUIRY:** As part of Preps action plan from our unit ‘We are Members of St Oliver’s’ we will compose and be practise on a Prep song.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** In Religion we will talk about and discuss ‘Who are the Disciples?’ We will read a scripture from the Bible and discuss the role of the Disciples.
WEBSITE – NEWS AND EVENTS
If you were unable to attend the school’s Opening Ceremony, please take a look at the details in the website’s News and Events section. http://www.sopascoevale.catholic.edu.au
Thank you to those families who have already paid $10 to be involved in the St Olivers Community Footy Tipping – don’t forget to now register online! If you would like to be involved, please get your $10 into the office by this Friday as Round 1 begins this weekend!
Fiona Brugaletta 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 girls in the office know as soon as possible.

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!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Congratulations to the grade six students, their sponsors and their families for a great effort last Friday night at Confirmation. Monsignor Greg commented on how well prepared and reverent the students were. A very special thank you to Kim King who generously gave of her time to sew the banner that looked fantastic.

A reminder for the Prep and Junior parents that the Faith Development Evening facilitated by Paul Spence is on Monday 26 March at 7pm in the large multi-purpose room. If you are attending could you please return your indication form to the class teacher by Wednesday 21 March.

On Friday 30 March at 9am, there will be an assembly where the junior students will re-in-act the Stations of the Cross as preparation for Holy week. It will be a prayerful and reflective time for the children and parents are most welcome to attend.
Trish Segrave Religious Education Co-ordinator

STUDENT AWARDS TERM 1 WEEK 8
Congratulations to the following students:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
Congratulations to the members of the Student Representative Council who helped organize and run the Great Project Compassion Weigh off on Friday. The response by the children and their families to help the many poor people around the world has been fantastic. If you haven’t returned your project compassion box could you please do so as soon as possible. At present the winning class is MH whose contributions weighed 9.25kg. The total amount raised will be published in next weeks newsletter.

PARENT HELPERS IN MIDDLE AND SENIOR LITERACY SESSIONS
The Middles and Seniors have had a great beginning to the new year and would love to welcome parent helpers back into the Middle and Senior grades. Barbara Olanda and myself will be presenting a Parent Helpers session for Middle and Senior parents on TUESDAY THE 27TH OF MARCH. This will be held in the staffroom beginning at 9am. This session is for parent helpers who helped last year and for any newcomers. We will then get a timetable ready for the beginning of Term 2. Hope to see you all there.
Susan Mitchell 3-6 Literacy Coordinator

ST OLIVER’S SPORTS DAY 2012
Parent Helpers: We Need Lots of Helpers for Sports Day
Thank you to the many parents who offered to assist with the running of our school sports which was unfortunately postponed until term 2. Our new date is FRIDAY 27TH APRIL (TERM 2, WEEK 2).
We would appreciate if any parents available to assist on our new date could complete the slip to follow and return it to school ASAP. On the morning of the sports we will hold a short meeting to outline the jobs for the day on the morning of the school sports at approximately 8.35 am at the oval. Parents will receive notification of their offer to assist and the event/s which they will be helping with early in Term 2. If you have any other queries please contact me to discuss these further.
Looking forward to seeing you there.
Marita Mannix

SPORTS DAY HELPERS
I am able to assist on sports day – Friday 27th April 2012
(Please return to Marita Mannix in Senior M)

Name: ___________________________________

Childs name and grade: _______________________________________

I am available from: __________________________________________

PARENT ASSOCIATION
Cadbury Chocolates
ALL MONEY AND UNSOLD CHOCOLATES ARE DUE BACK--- we do have a few extra boxes of
chocolates available, if anyone is able to sell extra chocolates please contact Diana on 0419
331 966 or Georgie on 0405 435 770

Ladies Night
Now that the dads have had a get together, it’s the mums turn. Book the date Saturday 28th April in your
calculators. We have a special night organized for our mums—tickets will be available for purchase at the start of
term 2. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Easter Raffle
With Easter around the corner we have organized a Easter Raffle. We are asking for Easter egg donations from
every child. These eggs will then be gathered into hampers for each class to raffle. All tickets need to be
returned by Thursday 29th March and the raffle will be drawn at assembly on Fri 30th March followed by a Hot
Cross Morning Tea thanks to the delicious donation from O’Heas Bakery. Please see the flyer for more
information.

Grade 6 Jumpers
We have a selection of the grade 6 jumpers and polo’s going cheap. These have slight imperfections in the
printing of the children’s names
Jumpers available in size 16 and size 10
Polo available in size 14
All are available for $10
Anyone interested in purchasing please contact Carol Edwards on 0410 251 073

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
Remember that Olympia from the Commonwealth Bank will be at school Wednesday 21st from 8.30am and
2.45pm if you have questions regarding the school banking program.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Our next School Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28.

ST. OLIVER’S PLAYGROUP
We meet every Wednesday in the portable room from 9.30am till 11pm. All welcome. Come and have a cuppa
and a play.

PASCOE VALE AUSKICK
Boys & Girls register now for the 2012 Auskick season. Registration Day this Saturday 24th March from 9am-
10am at Raeburn Reserve, 27 Landells Rd Pascoe Vale or you can register online at www.aflauskick.com.au by
selecting Pascoe Vale as your Auskick centre. For more information you can contact your Auskick coaches Sam
Scolo 0418 105 863 or Chris Mackenzie 0412 464 823.

CANTEEN  Diane Tabone on 0423596221
*Please note new prices*

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<td>Thursday 22nd March</td>
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<td>Friday 23rd March</td>
<td>Annita Siliato, Lydia Peppas &amp; Michelle Sheehan</td>
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<td>Monday 26th March</td>
<td>Sonia Guzzardi &amp; Giovanna D’Angelo</td>
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March
21 Seniors School Camp
22 Seniors School Camp
23 Seniors School Camp
28 School Closure Day- Contemporary Learning
   School Board Meeting
29 Ride to School day for St. Olivers
30 Easter Assembly at 9.00am followed by parent
   Morning tea
   Term 1 ends - 1pm

April
5 Holy Thursday
6 Good Friday
7 Easter Saturday
8 Easter Sunday
16 Term 2 commences

OSHC NEWS
Camp Australia has opened a before care program which will run daily from 7:30-8:45am. The program includes breakfast, games, active sports and crafts. Feel free to ask me about it. OSHC has a new Mob. Number. Please call 0452 247 952.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
This week we are studying Dinosaurs 😄

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.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.
Cutting of the Ribbon-New Bike parking rails
Yesterday afternoon in the glorious sunshine our middle and senior children witnessed the official opening of our new parking facility. Bernie Finn, member for Western Metropolitan region cut the official ribbon. It was wonderful to see so many bikes being ridden to school and we are delighted to be a Star Rewards School for increasing our active travel rates through a variety of strategies. Keep up the great work everyone.

Help our school win $350-$1000 of sports gear!
Reminder to families to hop online and register to for the Active families challenge. Starts now!
Register online at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge or call 1800 463 684, and remember to include our school’s name when you register.

New South Wales University - ICAS Assessments
The ICAS competitions are on again this year and children from years 3 to 6 are welcome to enter as many competitions as they wish. There are six subject areas that are covered. The Computer Skills paper is the first one and entries need to be in by April 20th. The cost of this assessment is $7.70
Please place your child’s name, class, subject area and amount paid on the envelope and the children can place these in their office bag.
For more information on these assessments please log onto http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/etc/icas/australia

National Ride to School day falls on Friday the 23rd of March. As our seniors will be on camp we will celebrate this day on Thursday 29th March. So get your wheels ready. Pump up those tyres; we are looking forward to lots of bikes and scooters arriving at school on this day.

Community Support Program
Thank you to the families who have let me know they would like to help our school families in this way. A note has gone home letting families know what week you could prepare a meal. If there are other families wanting to help please just let me know in writing so I can pop you on my list for term two.

Libby Sheedy  
Student Wellbeing Coordinator
Kids learn so much through sibling relationships. It’s from siblings they learn to solve conflict and how to maintain friendships, just as they learn about gender from their brothers and sisters.

"Will they ever be friends?"

This was my wife talking as she took a deep breath and waded into the murky waters of another noisy sibling fight in our home. Like many couples in the 1980’s we had three children quite close together, which we’ve since learned tends to increase the likelihood of sibling competition.

Fast-forward two decades it’s pleasing to see that the three siblings enjoy relatively close relationships, often turning to each other rather than their parents when problems and issues arise. Like world peace, family harmony is an admirable concept worthy of aspiration but well nigh impossible to attain. It seems that kids in families are programmed to fight with each other, but parents also have the power to facilitate learning.

When parents take an active approach to helping their children resolve their fights, they are teaching them a valuable life skill as well as reducing the incidence of fighting over the long term. Here are some ideas:

1. MODEL good conflict resolution skills

Kids wear L plates when it comes to solving disputes. Some kids will yell, get abusive or even get physical when they are settling disputes. Show them better ways of sorting out problems by talking things through with your partner, compromising and apologising when you’ve said something upsetting to your partner or your children.

2. Help kids MANAGE their emotions

“Yep, it would make me mad too if someone said that to me.” Usually someone’s feelings get hurt when siblings argue so make sure you recognise their emotions without taking sides. This focus on feelings helps kids develop emotional literacy and promotes empathy in siblings as well.

3. MONITOR sibling relationships

Keep your antenna up for the signs of discord within sibling relationships. Some disputes kids can sort out themselves, but you need to be ready to intervene and assist kids in the peacebrokering, or at least to act as a safety net when one child continually appears on the wrong end of a power imbalance.

4. MENTOR them to sort out disputes

Kids need the chance to sort their conflict out themselves, but sometimes they need a little coaching. Don’t waste time trying to sort out who started an argument. Instead make some suggestions such as taking turns, giving way, bargaining and swapping.

5. Encourage them to MAKE-UP

Kids often get over disputes far quicker than adults. They can be squabbling one minute and cuddling up the next, so it gets tricky intervening sometimes. However there are times when you need to encourage a child to mend bridges with an aggrieved sibling. This can mean kids have to swallow their pride, admit that they may be wrong, make an apology or make some sort of restitution such as doing a special favour. This type of restoration means kids must take responsibility for their behaviours and is a sign of growing maturity.

The sibling relationship will last longer than the parent-child relationship and is just as influential on children’s development as the parent-child relationship. It’s important for parents to foster sibling closeness so that the sibling bonds will stay for life.

Healthy Sibling Relationships

Michael Grose is exploring the wonderful world of Sibling Relationships in his national seminar tour in March. You can also catch it on DVD.
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 Thursday 29th.  
Raffle will be drawn on Friday 30th 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
St. Oliver’s
“Ladies Night”

Want a night off? Want to feel pampered? Want to enjoy some scrumptious food that you didn’t have to prepare?

Well, now you can, with Mother’s Day coming up, St. Oliver’s has decided we need to be spoilt!

So grab your Mums, Friends and Colleagues for a fun filled night.

There will be:

Stallholders (Jewellery, Lingerie, Handbags, just to name a few!)
A Fashion Parade
Finger Food
And much, much more!

When: Saturday, 28th April

Where: Pascoe Vale Neighbourhood House, Prospect St
Time: 7pm
Cost: $15 p/h (includes Door Prize Entry, Finger Food and 1xComplimentary Drink)

TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE FIRST WEEK TERM 2 SO SAVE THE DATE!!!!