Dear Parents,

Grand Parents Afternoon
Many thanks to all of the grandparents who attended our special afternoon last Thursday. I’m sure all of the children enjoyed having so many visitors to their classrooms. Thank you to Fiona Brugaletta in her capacity as School Community Coordinator for organising the day and to all of the school staff who assisted throughout the day.

Staff News
Congratulations to Fiona Brugaletta who has been successfully appointed to a teaching position at St Anne’s Primary School in Sunbury. Fiona has been a teacher at our school for eight years and many of your children will have been taught by Fiona over her years at St Olivers.

School Sportsmans Night
I’m told that the Sportsman’s night organised by our Parent Association was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Once again thank you to Michael Said and to all of the parents who assisted in the preparation and who were able to attend the evening.

2013 Prep Orientation
Thursday we will be welcoming our 2013 preps to St Oliver’s for their Orientation morning. Our prep Orientation morning is an exciting time for all of the children involved as they begin their school journey.

School Board News
Just a reminder that tomorrow tonight is the Annual General Meeting of the School Board.

The aims of the School Board as explained in the Board Constitution are to support, assist and advise the Parish Priest and the Principal in the efficient management and development of the school. The parent representatives on the School Board offer the parent community a formal voice in the decision making process at St Olivers.

The Annual School Board Meeting is an opportunity for all parents to come along to see how your Board works. The meeting commences at 7.30 in the Staff room.

Year Six Graduation Mass
Please note the change of date for the Year Six Graduation mass this year. The date needed to be changed as it clashed with a parish function. The new date of the Graduation Mass is Wednesday 12 December.
School Carols Night

There has been a great deal of work going on behind the scenes and I can now announce that we will be able to hold a school carols evening in our school grounds on Thursday 13 December commencing at 7.00 p.m. We will provide additional information in next week’s newsletter.

Regrouping 2013

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter an important component of our preparation for the 2013 school year is the regrouping of our fourteen classes.

A number of considerations are made when teachers determine the new grades. These include ensuring that there is:

- a balanced number of children in each grade level
- a balanced number of boys and girls
- an appropriate combinations of children
- an appropriate mix of student role models and class leaders
- an appropriate placement of children with special needs.
- a balanced number of social, emotional and academic needs in each class

All of the children are given an opportunity to write the names of friends whom they would like to be in the same class as next year.

It is explained to all classes by their teachers at this time that they attempt to place all children with one of the children’s specific requests. It is important however, for parents and children to understand that the children’s personal requests are only considered in the light of all of the above guidelines and if their individual requests are conducive to improved learning for the individuals involved and the entire class.

If you have any concerns about your child and possible combinations with other children please phone the office to make an appointment to meet with me this week. This is not an opportunity to “go shopping” for specific teachers nor select classmates for your children.

The placement of all of our children in 14 balanced classes is a time consuming and difficult process. Please understand that if you make a specific request re placement of your child there can be no guarantee that your child’s personal request will occur.

The teachers will spend a great deal of time in the week commencing Monday, 26 November, ensuring the classes consist of the best possible balance and requests after this process has been commenced cannot be considered.

Could I also point out that as the children move through their school years, individual children’s circumstances change and the process does become more complex. This means that previous years requests cannot be taken into account.

Regards,

Alan Sweeney
Principal
Hands Up Day
Tomorrow we will have our November Hands Up day. So grab your bikes, scooters or just walk on down to school. Maybe your class will win our monthly trophy for the most active participants. Senior J won the trophy for the month of October………who will it be this month???

Michael Grose Insights – 12 Friendship Skills every child needs. It is so important to assist and support our children in learning how to be a good friend and how to find and retain good friendships.

Libby Sheedy Student Wellbeing Coordinator

Family Mass
A special thankyou to the children and families who attended the Middle Family Mass last Sunday. It was great to see the children leading the prayers in the Liturgy and accompanying the choir with percussion instruments for the final song. No classes will be attending the Friday class Mass due to the senior students participating in inter-school sport. Please see amended roster in diary dates.

Christmas Giving Tree
The local conference of St. Vincent de Paul are planning the distribution of Christmas hampers to needy families before Christmas. Tags naming an item to be purchased for the hamper have been placed on the tree in the church. Please help by taking one tag per item and returning the tags with the items to the church. The parish is also looking for volunteers to assist with the distribution process. If you can help please ring the parish office.

Trish Segrave
Religious Education Coordinator
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: This week we will begin our final Religion unit called Emmanuel- God is With Us. Students will brainstorm all the things they know about Advent to prepare us.

WRITING: We will be finalising our interviews. Students will be choosing one of the My Place characters and be writing up an interview with them. The focus is on European Settlement and the effects.

READING: We are continuing to look at the My Place series and delving into the lives of the first settlers and convicts. We will discuss the qualities of some of the characters from the series. We are also working on some of the Literacy Post Testing over the next couple of weeks.

SPELLING: This week we will be focussing on meaning and looking at words beginning with terra- and tele- and what this means.

MATHS: We are beginning some work on tessellations, particularly flip, slide and turn. We are looking forward to our Measurement Expo next Thursday the 22nd of November. Everyone is welcome, it will be held in the downstairs Middles classrooms between 11:30-1

INQUIRY: This week in “We Come from a Land Down Under” we continue to examine the similarities and differences of each group, Aborigines, convicts, free settlers and marines. The students will be looking at the same event from different perspectives.

Click here to see the Middle’s Homework. Homework is due on Friday November 23.
JUNIORS

RELIGION: This week we will begin our new unit, ‘Advent and Christmas’, by reflecting on the many things we wait and prepare for in our lives. We will also begin to explore the meaning of the advent wreath.

READING: This week during shared reading sessions, we will be highlighting rhyming words and making predictions about the meaning of unfamiliar words encountered in the books read.

WRITING: This week we will be continuing to explore the structure and features of narrative texts to assist us as we write our own narratives. We will also be continuing with independent writing using ideas from story starter cards, seed bags and writer’s notebook.

SPELLING: We are exploring the various ways the sound ‘ir’ can be formed as in: fern, heard, were, bird, word, surf and using various spelling activities to reinforce the correct spelling of these words.

MATHS: We will be continuing our investigation of division by exploring the concept of remainders when sharing items and creating our own word stories to match a given division problem.

INQUIRY: This week we will begin the ‘action’ part of our unit, ‘The Good Old Days’, by discussing the variety of items we can put into the individual time capsules we are creating as a record of life in 2012.

Click here for a copy of this term’s Junior Homework.

PREPS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: We will continue to listen to and read about the story of advent.

WRITING: This week the children will revise conjunctions and how they are used in writing.

READING: The children will be introduced to reading responses and the strategies used to complete a reading response.

MATHS: In Maths we will be revising measurement and comparing sizes of objects.

INQUIRY: The children will recap on the areas covered in the unit so far. They will complete a workbook compiling their thinking.
Grandparents Day
Thank you to all of the grandparents who were able to attend our Grandparents Day last Thursday! The children absolutely loved having you in their classrooms, showing their work and participating in activities with you. We hope that everyone was able to enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with other grandparents in the staff room. We look forward to a bigger event next year!

Don’t forget to check out this week’s Businesses of the Week on the school website! You can find some special deals from businesses in our local area that support St Olivers.

If your child has misplaced his/her homework sheet, you can find a copy in the Homework section of News & Events!

School Newsletter
A reminder that the school newsletter can be emailed to you each Tuesday. Just email the office: newsletter@sopascoevale.catholic.edu.au

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 office staff 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!

JUNIOR WRITERS OF THE WEEK
Over the year we have seen very creative and talented writers emerge in the Junior grades. Each week we will be acknowledging some children who have followed the writing process to develop a piece of work. Congratulations to these children. This work will be displayed outside each of the Junior Grades.

Congratulations to the following children
JL – Jaida Schipano  JR – Sachi Ferrante

STUDENT AWARDS

MORELAND CITY COUNCIL PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
The Holiday Program will operate from Monday 7 January – Friday 25 January 2013. There are 4 venues 8am to 6pm available. For further information contact 9240 2427 or visit the web site at www.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 23 November.

CANTEEN  Diane Tabone on 0423596221

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 22 November</td>
<td>Maria Gennaccaro  Michelle Pagotto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 23 November</td>
<td>Tina Baltatzis  Sonia Rossi</td>
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<td>Monday 26 November</td>
<td>Amanda Pratitco</td>
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Canteen is Closed Monday 10th December.
Instead of special lunch days this year there will be days allocated for icecreams to be at a reduced price.
Last Day for canteen 2012 is Friday 14th December.
SCHOOL BANKING AT ST OLIVER PLUNKETT SCHOOL

St Oliver’s School Banking days are Tuesdays. We currently have 105 bankers--- well done students

BUSINESSES OF THE WEEK
The Businesses that feature in the St Oliver’s Businesses of the Week are Fantabulous Hair & Beauty, Farache Woodturning, Faraci & Co, Fenix Fitness and Fighting Lyons For information on these businesses please check out the school website or refer to the St Oliver’s Business Directory

PRELOVED UNIFORM PROGRAM
The Parent Association is announcing the commencement to our “Pre-loved Uniform Program”. We are asking parents to donate any pieces of uniform that they don’t need. There will be a drop off box located in the school office.

This program is designed to make use of good uniforms without the expensive price tag. Uniforms being donated need to be of good quality…no rips, tears or stains… only donate that which you would be happy to put your own child in.

More details regarding operation days and times will follow in the term 4.

Thank you for your support

MATTEL TOY SALE
Tickets are currently on sale. Please see attached flyer for more information

SUBWAY
Is this Wednesday November 21st.

SPORTSMANS NIGHT
What a night!!!!!! A big thank you goes to Michael Said and Sebastian Giacchi for organizing this event. We look forward to the next one hopefully term 1 2013. A more detailed thank you flyer is attached.

XMAS RAFFLE
Beginning Dec

FETE NEWS- Date for 2013 fete has been selected. Sunday October 27th 2013.
Thank you
Parent Association
Mattel has invited St Oliver’s families to their once a year Distribution Centre Sale. There are the latest toys available at great prices. Toys that Mattel carry are Barbie, Hot Wheels, Avatar, Matchbox, Justice League, Diva Starz, Pixel Chix, Fisher Price and many more.

It's the best way to get organized for Christmas or even buy a few birthday presents.

**Christmas is less than 9 weeks away!!!!!!**

WHEN: Wednesday 28th November
WHERE: Distribution Centre
70 Park West Dr
Derrimut
TIME; 4pm-8pm
TICKET PRICE; $10
NOTE; no children or infants permitted

GET IN QUICK WE HAVE ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE

Fill in the slip below and return to the school office by 22nd November
For more information contact
Naomi Banks 0409 930 833

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**Mattel Toy Sale Order Form**

Childs Name __________________Childs Class________

Contact Phone Number________________________

Tickets Required_______________x$10 Amount

Enclosed$___________
Christmas Hamper
Raffle 2012

All of our classes have been very busy putting together Christmas Hampers. Each class will then take their hamper to another class to be raffled.

The hamper themes for each class are as follows:

- **Kitchen & Bathroom** Junior C, Middle M & Senior B
- **Indulgence** Junior D, Middle D & Senior J
- **Family Fun** Prep H, Junior R, Middle S, & Senior S
- **House & Garden** Junior L, Middle H & Senior M
- **Party/Christmas** Prep D

Some ideas include:

**Party/Christmas**- balloons, party plates/cutlery, party food, napkins, lollies, decorations, puddings, bonbons

**Indulgence**- wine, chocolates, glasses, candles, bath salts, moisturizer, bath oil

**Family Fun**- picnic equipment, movie vouchers, popcorn, Frisbee, beach towels, outdoor games, party food

**House & Garden**- candles, placemats, vase, bbq equipment, garden hand tools, picture frames, chocolates, wine

**Kitchen & Bathroom**- Napkins, Bath Salts, detergents, pantry food, paper towels, condiments, shampoo, conditioner, cutlery

Raffle tickets must be returned to class by **Tuesday 18th December** along with your item for the hamper for your chance to win. Due to the fact that the hampers will be left in the classroom, we ask that all perishable food not be brought in until 17th/18th Dec.

Ticket prices $1 each—5 tickets in a book. Remember you have to be in it to win it. **Raffle will be drawn on Wed 19th at assembly by Santa!!**

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
Thank you from the Parents Association
12 friendship skills every child needs

Friendship skills are generally developmental. That is, kids grow into these skills given exposure to different situations and with adult help.

Kids can be picky about who they play and mix with. Popularity should not be confused with sociability. A number of studies in recent decades have shown that appearance, personality type and ability impact on a child’s popularity at school.

Good-looking, easy-going, talented kids usually win peer popularity polls but that doesn’t necessarily guarantee they will have friends.

**Those children and young people who develop strong friendships have a definite set of skills that help make them easy to like, easy to relate to and easy to play with.**

Here are twelve essential skills that children have identified as being important for making and keeping friends:

1. Ability to share possessions and space
2. Keeping confidences and secrets
3. Offering to help
4. Accepting other’s mistakes
5. Being positive and enthusiastic
6. Starting a conversation
7. Winning and losing well
8. Listening to others
9. Starting and maintaining a conversation
10. Ignoring someone who is annoying you
11. Cooperating with others
12. Giving and receiving compliments

Friendship skills are generally developmental. That is, kids grow into these skills given exposure to different situations and with adult help. In past generations ‘exposure to different situations’ meant opportunities to play with each other, with siblings and with older and younger friends.

They were reminded by parents about how they should act around others. They were also ‘taught’ from a very young age.

**Arrested development**

The NEW CHILD grows up with fewer siblings, fewer opportunities for unstructured play and less freedom to explore friendships than children of even ten years ago.

A parenting style that promotes a high sense of individual entitlement rather than the notion of fitting in appears to be popular at the moment.

These factors can lead to delayed or arrested development in these essential friendship skills, resulting in very unhappy, self-centred children.

Here are some ideas if you think your child experiences developmental delay in any of these essential skills or just needs some help to acquire them:

1. Encourage or insist that kids play and work with each other: Allowing kids the freedom to be kids is part of the message here but parents have to be cunning with the NEW CHILD and construct situations where kids have to get on with each other. For some kids “Go outside and play” is a good place to start!!
2. Play with your kids: Interact with your kids through games and other means so you can help kids learn directly from you how to get on with others.
3. Talk about these skills: If you notice your kids need to develop some of these skills then talk about them, point out when they show them and give them some implementation ideas.

Kids are quite ego-centric and need to develop a sense of ‘other’ so they can successfully negotiate the many social situations that they find themselves in.

As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and can quite easily neglect the development of these vitally important social skills, which contribute so much to children’s happiness and well-being.

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For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges visit: www.parentingideas.com.au

While you are there subscribe to Happy Kids, Michael’s hugely popular email newsletter.
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

REMINDE RS
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.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

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www.campaustralia.com.au