Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome everyone to the 2014 school year. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year period. A special welcome to all of the new families who have joined our school community this year. I’m sure that the time your children are enrolled at St Olivers will be enjoyable and rewarding.

Welcome back all of our staff and I’m sure they are looking forward to working with you and your children over the course of the year. A special welcome to our new staff members Cecilia Garden and Robert McKenzie and to Julie Ann Dimasi who returns to our staff.

All reports from the classrooms indicate that the children are happy and settled. As we move through the summer months a reminder that if you wish to collect your child early on a hot day, please feel free to do so. Children leaving early do need to be signed out from the School Office.

There is a great deal of information I’ll share with you over the next few weeks of our newsletter. Please note the following:

**NEWSLETTER**

**Newsletter day will remain on a Tuesday.** The newsletter is available online at our website www.sopascoevale.catholic.edu.au. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email please ensure that your email address is registered at newsletter@sopascoevale.catholic.edu.au. If you are not receiving the emailed newsletter, or if you are unable to access the internet and require a hard copy to be sent home with your eldest child, please contact the office. Copies of the newsletter can be obtained from the office if they are occasionally “lost in transit!”. The Newsletter is the main form of communication that our school has with parents and I would encourage all families to take the time to read it. **Online or emailing is our preferred method for you to receive this information.**

*(Note: this week the newsletter will not be uploaded onto the website until Wednesday as our system is under maintenance today)*

**CAanteen**

- **This year the canteen** will only be opened for lunch orders and window sales on Monday, Thursday and Fridays.
LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN
The school yard is supervised from 8:40am in the morning and after school until 3.45 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and until 3.30 on Wednesday afternoons. Outside these times parents have the children on the property at their own risk. If you collect your children after school and you are running late please notify the office prior to the end of day or try and make some alternate arrangements for the children’s collection. Details of our of our OSHP run by Camp Australia are available on the Camp Australia website and advertised through our newsletter.

ASSEMBLIES
Our School Assemblies are held on Wednesday mornings commencing at 8:50am (weather conditions permitting). This is an opportunity for us to gather together to share news of events that happening around our school.

UNIFORMS
It has been wonderful to see most of the children wearing the correct uniforms. You will be notified by your teachers of the days that the children are required to wear their Sports Uniforms. Children should only be wearing their runners on the designated sports days. We ask for your support to ensure that children wear their summer uniforms on the remaining days of the week.

As you are all aware we have a ‘no school hat, no play out of the shade’ policy at St Oliver’s. This rule exists in most schools to protect children from the damaging rays of the sun. Please ensure that your child has the correct school hat school so that they can enjoy their times when they are out in the yard.

COMMUNICATION
As always we are working in partnership with you to ensure the success of your children. If you would like to speak with your child’s teacher about any concerns we ask that you make an appointment: the teachers cannot give you their full attention during teaching time. Please note that all teachers are committed to meetings Monday and Wednesday after school. Below is a copy of a school protocol we call ‘Let’s Talk About It’. I’ve found that if we all follow this process many of the concerns that you or your children may face can be easily resolved.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING MANY OF YOU AT OUR WOW FAMILY GET TOGETHER ON THURSDAY EVENING.

Regards
Alan Sweeney
Principal

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT....
From time to time in any school parents may have a concern or an issue about school life which they may need to resolve. The following steps outline the appropriate process to follow if you find yourself in this position.

STEP ONE
Speak to the class teacher or specialist teacher concerned about your issue or problem. (If it is important make an appointment so that teachers are not interrupted during valuable class time). Simple matters can usually be sorted out at this level.

STEP TWO
If you are unable to find a satisfactory solution to your problem make an appointment to see the Principal to discuss the matter further.

Please note:
At no time is it acceptable for a parent to directly confront a student as a means of resolving the issues they have
CONFIRMATION INFORMATION MEETING

There is a parent information meeting for the children in grade six who will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation this year. The meeting is for both the parents and the children and will be held in the church on **Monday 10 February at 7pm.**

This meeting an important part of the preparation for the sacrament and either one or both parents may attend along with your child.

On the night there will be information regarding the sacrament itself and details of the celebration of Confirmation on **Friday 14 March at 7:00.** If you are unable to attend this meeting please let your class teacher or myself know as there will be hand-outs on the night.

If there are any parents who will be able to assist with the sewing of the **Confirmation Banner** could you please contact me as soon as possible.

**Ash Wednesday** is 5 March. The students in grades 3-6 will be attending Mass at 11:45 and parents are welcome to attend. The students in the junior grades have a paraliturgy at 2:15 in the multi-purpose room and parents are welcome. The grade prep students will receive the Ashes on Friday at a prayer service in the multi-purpose room at 11:45.

**STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS**

On **Sunday 2 February** the staff of St Olivers were presented to the parish community at the 10:30 Mass. They participated in a commissioning ceremony that focused on their commitment to educate and support the children at school throughout 2014. This was a wonderful opportunity for the wider community of St Olivers to witness the commitment and dedication of the staff at our school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2014 CONFIRMATION (grade 6)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11 February</td>
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<td>Sunday 2 March at 10:30am</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 14 March at 7:00pm</strong></td>
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<td>Wednesday 19 March at 11:45am</td>
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<tr>
<th>RECONCILIATION (Grade 3)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28 April at 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 4 June at 7:00pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle G &amp; Middle J</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 11 June at 7:00pm</strong></td>
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<td>Middle M &amp; Middle S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13 June at 11:45am</td>
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<tr>
<th>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (Grade 4)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21 July 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 31 August at 10:30am</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle G &amp; Middle M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 14 September at 10:30am</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle S &amp; Middle J</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 17 September at 11:45am</strong></td>
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Trish Segrave
Religious Education Coordinator
Dear Parents,

Welcome to our new parents, and welcome back to everyone else! We would love you to be a part of the Literacy learning time in our classrooms - it is a wonderful way to be involved and understand how and what the children are learning. To make sure that all children get as much benefit as possible, we ask that you come to one of our Parent Workshops:

**Workshop One**  
**Tuesday February 11th**  
New Parent Helpers
(if you have a child in Prep but are not able to help in the classroom, or if you are have a child in Prep and are an experienced Parent Helper, you are still most welcome to attend as I will also include some ideas for helping your child at home).

**Workshop Two**  
**Tuesday February 18th**  
Experienced Parent Helpers

**Workshop Three**  
**Tuesday April 29th**  
Year Three to Six Parent Helpers

Hope to see you there.

**Supporting Literacy Development**

‘It improved my spelling a lot!’; ‘It helped me improve my reading’; ‘The session should go for longer!’ ‘I found it interesting that letters make different sounds in English’; ‘I have changed my thinking. I didn’t look forward to it at first . . . but now I understand and I’m glad I’m doing it’. These are just some of the comments children have made about the various programs that we have to support children as they come to grips with the tasks of reading, writing and spelling.

Parents too have seen their children grow not only in skill level, but in confidence - this is very important because it will empower the children to increase the time and effort they put into reading and writing . . . and that is what is needed to develop any skill.

As we are all aware, each child has his or her own strengths and challenges, each one learns best in differing ways, in differing time-frames and in differing situations. Children may need a little extra support to achieve their best at varying times and in varying areas in their journey through primary secondary and tertiary education, and at St. Olivers one of the ways we try to provide this is through small group or individual sessions such as ‘Reading Recovery’, ‘Sunshine Works’ and ‘Making A Difference’. Being part of a small group means that there are more opportunities to speak and be heard, more opportunities to participate actively, and more opportunities to be fully engaged in the learning tasks.

Parents are offered the opportunity for their child to participate in a small group or individual program if the child’s teachers, together with the School Literacy Team, consider the child may benefit. If you would like to know more please speak to your child’s teacher or to me, and we will be very happy to discuss the programs with you.

Barbara Olanda (Literacy)
ST OLIVER'S WELCOME EVENING
No doubt you have all marked this Thursday in your diary. It is a great opportunity to catch up with old and new families. The weather is looking good and cool casual clothes are the attire recommended. Throughout the day the children will attend a dance workshop where lots of fun and new dances will be learned. In the evening, families will get the opportunity to see their children dance and join in the fun. Shenanigans are the band that will lead us and we will kick off at 5.30 through til 7.30. BYO Drinks, dinner, seating, rugs etc.

ASTHMA & ANAPHYLAXIS ACTION PLANS
Parents of a child with asthma should have received a ‘Victorian Asthma Foundation, Asthma Action Plan’ if your plan needed updating. This format is an approved Action plan for schools and will be familiar with staff. It will alleviate the various formats that have been received previously. Please return the form in the envelope provided. If you have not received a form, please contact the office.
If you have a child who is diagnosed with anaphylaxis or has some type of allergy to certain foods (e.g. nuts, dairy, eggs, etc), could you please organise a current ‘Action Plan’ that can be given to the school. Some plans we have at present need updating. Your doctor should have a blank form for you to complete. Most doctors will assist with this form. Please date all forms handed in to school.
If a photo could be attached to the form, it would be an advantage for quicker identification.
If you have concerns regarding your child’s health requirements, please see me or someone at the office.

TRANSITION 2015
St Kevins College Toorak is offering a Scholarship Program for students interested in attending in 2015. Academic Scholarships will be offered to boys of academic potential whose parents value the type of education offered by the College.
The examination will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 9am to 12noon.
Parents interested in registering their son can use the online registration process at www.stkevins.vic.edu.au. A registration fee of $140 is payable on-line at the time of registration.
Applications close on Friday, February 14, 2014.

St Aloysius College North Melbourne are conducting a range of open morning and tours to assist families in selecting the appropriate school for their daughter.

A reminder that the closing date for enrolments into Catholic Secondary Schools for 2015 is Feb 28th 2014.

Dental Services in Moreland
Merri Community Health Services offers dental services to children and eligible adolescents at their Brunswick site. There is no waiting list for these services. The dental service is free for families with a Health Care Card or Pension Card. For families without a relevant concession card the cost is $31 per appointment. All children up to grade 6 can be seen by this service. Adolescents from Year 7-12 must have a relevant concession card.

Libby Sheedy
Wellbeing Coordinator
FAMILY DETAILS UPDATES
It is important that we have accurate student & family information, particularly home, work and mobile numbers of both parents and emergency contacts. Please inform the office if there are any changes to any of these details.

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!

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE
EMA application forms need to be completed each year. They do not automatically carry forward from previous year. A fresh application has to be made. We encourage all card holders to apply for this benefit.

Application forms are available from the school office. The allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must: a) be a parent or guardian of a primary of secondary school student up to the age of sixteen, and b) be an eligible beneficiary of Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit or Veterans Affairs (TPi) pensioner or be a foster parent as at the first day of Term 1 (28 January 2014) for the first instalment and the first day of Term 3 (14 July 2014) for the second instalment. Also part of the eligibility criteria is that applications must be completed and returned to the school office by the due day, which is 26th February 2014 for Term 1 being First instalment. Term 3 closing/return date is 30 July 2014 for Second instalment or for those who have not applied in 1st Term. You will be notified of the total payment per primary school child per year in due course. First instalment is 70% and will be paid in March and second instalment is 30% and will be paid in August. Please be advised that the application must be made in person at the school office and the Centrelink card must be shown at this time. On application you will be provided with any further details. We would encourage all families with a health care card to apply for this benefit as soon as possible.

CANTEEN

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<tr>
<th>Thursday  6 February</th>
<th>Maria Cologna</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday  7 February</td>
<td>Sandra Cutajar Ruth McColl Michelle Sheehan</td>
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<td>Monday  10 February</td>
<td>Samantha Merlo Betty Fazzari</td>
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**Please Note: If there are any parent/s that are able to help on Thurs 20th & Thurs 27th March could you please let me know Thanks DI 0423 596 221**
CLICK [HERE](#) FOR THE CURRENT PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**SCHOOL BANKING AT ST OLIVER PLUNKETT SCHOOL**
St Oliver’s School Banking days are Tuesdays. We are currently seeking volunteers to help run this program. If you can help out on Tuesdays from 9am till 10.30 am please contact Georgie 0405 435 770

**PRELOVED UNIFORM PROGRAM**
A donation basket is located in the school office foyer. All donations must be clean and have no rips. The second hand uniforms will be available for purchase on the last Wednesday assembly for each term. If you require this service beforehand please contact Georgie 0405 435 770 to arrange an appointment

**BUSINESSES OF THE WEEK**
Our featured businesses will begin next week. The applications for placing an advert in the 3rd edition of the St Oliver’s Business Directory will be available shortly.

**ST OLIVER FAMILY FAVOURITE COOKBOOK**
We still have a few copies of the cookbook. If you would like to order or need further information please contact:
Franca James 0413 909 964

Thank you
Parent Association
OSHC NEWS

Welcome back OSHC children and families. We hope everyone had a good break.
Staff look forward a exciting term I.

Thank you.
Gowri.

REMININDERS

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

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY
Decorate paper mache boxes Dress ups Form creation Bubble blowing Felt hand bag
Science experiment Cooking - Juniors Iron on beads Jewellery making

www.campaustralia.com.au