Dear Parents and Children,

Senior Camp
Last week we were blessed with the weather for our Senior Camp at Weekaway near Lancefield. I’d like to congratulate the senior teachers for their wonderful organisation and all of our senior children who made our camp so successful. It was most pleasing to see so many of the children encourage their peers as they worked through many of the camp activities.

Many thanks to our teaching staff who volunteered to attend camp. At camp the teachers are on duty from early morning until the early hours of the following morning when the last “excited” children settle to sleep. The care shown for the children by all of the teachers who attended was a great credit to all involved.

Cross Country
Congratulations to all of the children who represented the school at the cross country events on 26th April. Thank you to Marita Mannix, our Sport Coordinator, who gave up her lunchtimes to train our squad for the event.

Assembly this Wednesday
Assembly this week will be held at 11.30 (weather permitting).

Prep Enrolments
A reminder that our prep enrolment forms for 2014 need to be returned to the school this week. Prep interviews will commence next Monday, 13th May.

Mother’s Day Stall
A reminder that the Parent Association have organised their Mothers’ Day stall to be held this Friday. Once again thank all the members of the Parent Association who coordinate this wonderful opportunity for all of our children to purchase a special gift for their mums.

We are also inviting Mothers to an afternoon tea on Friday to be held in the staffroom. Invitations have been sent to all mums and the response has been very healthy. Nadia Glann, in her capacity as School Community Coordinator is organising this event.

On behalf of the entire staff we hope all our Mums have a relaxing and enjoyable day with their loved ones this Sunday.

Regards

Alan S.
EDUCATION IN FAITH

This week Junior R is attending the Friday class Mass at 10:00. Any parents who are attending, please feel free to sit with your child.
The Middle and Senior students are in the process of designing some invitations for the various Masses that they attend throughout the year. If you do receive an invitation please take note of the design, creativity and the names on the wonderful work that is being used.

KIDS VIEW SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

On Monday 6 May the four senior members of the Student Representative Council and eight other senior students attended the Kids View Social Justice Conference at St. Mary’s Primary School Ascot Vale. The conference was run by Catherine Scerri from Bahay Tuluyan in the Philippines. There were 110 students from a variety of other schools present. The students participated in social justice workshops, viewed a theatrical performance by the children from the Philippines and discussed a variety of issues related to poverty and inequality. They explored such themes as:

- What causes poverty?
- How does poverty affect opportunities and dreams?
- What is my role in fighting poverty?
- How can I as a child make a difference?

They will now present their feedback with the children in their class and are very excited about the discussion their experience has generated.

Trish Segrave
Religious Education Coordinator

SOCIAL JUSTICE REFLECTION

Yesterday at the social justice conference Catherine Scerri shared with us some stories about poverty and child labour in the Philippines. I learned that because I have a fridge, running water and a roof over my head I fall into the top 25% of the richest people in the world. It gave us all a chance to realize how lucky we are and thank God for what we have.

By Anastasia Melissas

THANK YOU AGAIN TO THE PASCOE FAMILY WHO REPRESENTED THE SCHOOL AT THE LOCAL CENOTAPH ON ANZAC DAY. WELL DONE BEN AND CAMERON - YOU OBVIOUSLY REPRESENTED THE SCHOOL PROUDLY. THANK YOU!!
**INCURSIONS, EXCURSION, AND SCHOOL CAMPS**

Excursions and incursions are an integral aspect of the learning and teaching process. We believe that both offer children the valuable opportunity to learn outside the formal structures of the classroom. Incursions and excursions are normally linked with the Inquiry throughline – which this term is Earth and Space Sciences. This brings me to the point of upcoming Cosmodome and Science Night experience.

This Thursday each grade will visit the Cosmodome, which will be set up in the school hall, to experience a science presentation based on their current unit. We are also providing a ‘Science Night’ for families to attend. Some families have booked places for one of three shows that will be offered and there will also be telescopes set up in the yard for children (and parents) to explore the night sky – weather permitting!! If you are not attending a show families are still most welcome to come along and share the evening – there will be a sausage sizzle ($2) and soft-drinks, tea and coffee ($1) available for purchase. We also hope to have some art activities for families to participate in so please come and along and enjoy – lets hope the elements are kind to us…

With our Senior children on camp last week it is an appropriate time to share the educational benefit of camp as part of the school curriculum. A school camp provides the Outdoor Education component of the Health and Physical Education domain of AusVELS (National Curriculum). It addresses the development of skills to participate in physical activity and improve fitness; and motivates students to participate in physical activity; risk taking and harm minimisation.

Camps also address the domain of Interpersonal Development, focussing on students’ capacities to work effectively as part of a team and build positive social relationships. Cooperation, team-work and group dynamics are vital elements of a successful camp experience.

These examples are some of the many links to domains identified in AusVELS that relate to an outdoor education program. Outdoor Education has the ultimate goal of creating and maintaining healthy, positive, sustainable relationships between people and the natural environment.

It is also hoped that the absence of television, the inspiration of the simple life and the rewards of physical activity enable students to think about alternative ways of relating to each other and to the environment.

I’d like to thank all the staff who attended camp – being on call for 24hrs a day over a three day period can be somewhat demanding!!! I’d also like to thank the senior students for their exemplary behaviour. Some of the staff were talking about how great it was to see the children urging each other on with some of the more challenging activities, and supporting each other – especially when faced with such trepidation as the flying fox!!!

Listen to your child share their experience of their incursion or excursion or camp. It is a valuable educational experience and an excellent learning opportunity.

Mary Kearney  
Deputy Principal / Learning and Teaching Coordinator
Footy Tipping Update!
Congratulations to the Pascoe family who are just holding on to the lead after Round 6!

Mothers Day Afternoon Tea
Thank you for the great response to this Fridays afternoon tea. Just a reminder if you would like to attend please get your RSVPs into class teachers no later than Wednesday. We look forward to enjoying a cup of tea with all of you hard working and dedicated mums in the staffroom from 2:30 – 3:30 Friday afternoon.

Nadia Glann
School Community Coordinator

Winter Interschool Sport
A reminder to all senior students and their parents that our Winter Interschool sports commence this Friday 10th May. This week we play against Pascoe Vale South at home. Games commence at 1pm and conclude around 2:45pm. If there are any parents who able to assist with the coaching/ scoring of our soccer, netball or football teams, could you please contact one of the senior teachers. All students playing football and soccer are required to wear a mouthguard and will not be able to play without one.

Marita Mannix
Sports Coordinator
What’s happening around the levels...

SENIORS

RELIGION: This week we begin our new religion unit called, New Beginnings. Our focus for this week is looking at grief and loss and sharing our personal experiences on this topic. Students will also reflect on the stories of new beginnings of well known people in the midst of grief and loss.

WRITING: Students will draft a piece of writing reflecting their camp experience. We look also continue to develop of persuasive writing skills, spending time evaluating our written pieces and identifying how we can improve our writing pieces.

READING: Students continue to work on developing their note-taking skills by watching a number of different videos on the solar system.

INQUIRY: As a whole class students will put together a model on the oval representing the scale of the solar system. In groups they will then begin a design brief for their own model of the solar system.

MATHS: In Maths this week, students will be working on their problem solving skills using a variety of strategies to assist them with these processes.

Just a reminder...
- Winter Interschool sports begin this Friday at home against Pascoe Vale South
- Homework is due this Thursday 9th May.

Click here for a copy of the current Seniors Homework

MIDDLES

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Our unit is called ‘Forgiveness and Healing’. Students will examine the four stages of forgiveness. This is where we admit we are wrong, we say sorry, we are forgiven and then we are reconciled.

WRITING: This week we will continue looking at planning and then drafting a great Persuasive Writing piece. Students will see a model of a draft of a persuasive piece and they will then get the opportunity to write one. We will also resume workshops with the students and they will begin attending goal meetings with their teachers.

READING: We will continue our new serial novel The Magician’s Elephant by Kate Di Camillo. Students will be completing a practice NAPLAN test and we will look at the different types of questions there are literal, inferential etc. We will also focus on the RIDER strategy which helps students visualise what they are reading about.

SPELLING: This week students will look at when we use then and when we use than. We will also have some grammar lessons covering tense, talking marks and exclamation marks in preparation for NAPLAN.

MATHS: We will begin working on 2D and 3D shapes. Students will look at the differences between 2D and 3D shapes and what the features are.

INQUIRY: Our Inquiry Unit is ‘To the Moon and Back’. We will continue to look at visual images of space and Earth’s rotations. We will look at how and why day and night are caused.

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
**RELIGION:** This week during Religion, we will continue our unit ‘Easter’. We will use Godly Play characters to retell the story of Pentecost and discuss and record words to describe how the disciples were feeling/behaving before the Holy Spirit came. The students will then describe how the disciples felt/behaved after the Holy Spirit appeared.

**READING:** During reading sessions this week we will continue to engage the children in shared reading practices and further revise the structures and features of information texts. As we read the texts, we will look at the use of photos to support the text and have the students add their own descriptions to describe the photos.

**WRITING:** In Writing this week, the children will focus on creating paragraphs from their own researched information about a particular animal and use modelling to add extra information to their research sheet. During this week, the students will also draft and publish a special message to their mothers for Mother’s Day.

**MATHS:** During Maths this week, the children will continue to consolidate and add to their skills in solving addition equations by playing the addition trading game and focusing on strategies that can be used to work out challenging problems. These strategies can include drawing tens and ones when concrete materials can’t be used, counting on from biggest number, doubling and using appropriate resources.

**INQUIRY:** This week we continue our new Inquiry unit ‘Earth and Sky’. In a game of ‘I Spy’, the students will identify landscape features and objects in the schoolyard. They will record these observations in four columns – something in the sky/something that grows/something made by people/something far away. This Thursday, the Junior classes will participate in the school-based Cosmodome Incursion where they will focus on observable changes in the night sky and on the local landscape.

Special Note: There will a Mother’s Day stall on Friday. We wish all our Junior Mother’s a lovely Mother’s Day this Sunday.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the current Junior Homework
GENERAL NEWS

ALL STAR BOOK FAIR
Our annual Book Fair is being held in the school Library this Thursday 9, Friday 10 & Monday 13 MAY from 8.30-4pm. All welcome! Please come along, support the school and grab a bargain or two. All purchases will benefit our school as it will enable our library to continue to grow.

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
All children are encouraged to wear their SCHOOL HAT during recess and lunch times, as well as during physical education/sport lessons.

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.

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.


SCHOOL BOARD
The next School Board meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday May 8.

STUDENT AWARDS
Emily Holub, Sarah Belia, Ava De Santanna, Cameron Pascoe, Rebecca Asta, Savio Sada, Paris Tortul, Jack Capuana, Angelina Mantarakis, Jonathan Fazzari, Eloise Merlo, Rhys Gravina, Maddison Jokic, Giovanni, Piperno, Oliver Perini, Alana Capuana, Jacqueline Skouris

CANTEEN  Diane Tabone  0423 596 221

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<tr>
<td>Thursday 9 May</td>
<td>Sonia Guzzardi, Michelle Pagotto</td>
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<td>Friday 10 May</td>
<td>Georgie McElligott, Jodie Keane, Annitta Siliato</td>
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<td>Monday 13 May</td>
<td>Michelle Sheehan Sanda Cutajar</td>
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<td>Tuesday 14 May</td>
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PARISH NEWS

The St Oliver’s Parish brings the Blessed Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to the parishioners’ home for one week, so that families may say the Rosary together. The Rosary is an important prayer that Our Lady herself requested be recited daily. Our Lady said this to the three children in Fatima, Portugal in 1917, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. I would like to encourage young families to welcome Our Lady into their homes and into their hearts and to teach their children how important it is to pray the Rosary.
School Banking at St Oliver Plunkett School!

St Oliver’s School Banking days are Tuesdays.

Term 2 Competition ……Win a share of the Dollarmites’ treasure by saving in Term 2 of School Banking.
The Dollarmites have found some amazing treasure on Savings Adventure Island and both your child and school could win a share of it in Term 2 just by saving.
First prize is a $5,000 family adventure holiday to anywhere in Australia, with $500 spending money. Plus, the winning student’s school will also receive $5,000 to spend as they wish. What’s more, there are 25 Runners-up Kid’s Adventure Packs, worth over $700 each, to be won. Each adventure pack includes a Wii U, night vision goggles, a waterproof camera, walkie talkies and a Razor eSpark electric scooter!
For you chance to win, students need to simply make three or more School Banking deposits during Term 2. To find out more, talk to your School Banking Co-ordinator or visit commbank.com.au/adventureisland

Things to know before you Can:

Businesses of the week
Businesses on our website this week are Star 21, Stonegate Wealth Solutions, Subway and Sussex Designer Kitchens. 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 term. It is very important to finalise this fundraiser. For further queries please contact Diana Capuana on 0419 331 966

Trivia Night
The invitation will be sent home in the next couple of days. Book in the 1st June and gather some friends/family for a great fundraising night for our school. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Mother’s Day
The Mother’s Day stall will be held on Friday 10th May. Please see attached flyer for more information

FETE NEWS- Date to book on the calendar……..Sunday October 27th 2013.
Click HERE to find out how to be a sponsor and advertise at our ‘Funtastic’ school fete.
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.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.

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www.campaustralia.com.au
ST OLIVER’S
MOTHER’S DAY STALL

The Parents Association will be holding the Mother’s Day stall on Friday 10\textsuperscript{th} May.

Gifts available are varied and priced between $1 and $8

Please make sure your child’s money is secured in a purse or wallet and we are requesting that the children bring a plastic carry bag.

A raffle will also be held on the day and the students will be able to buy tickets in the morning.

Thank you
Dear St Oliver’s Families

You are invited to come along to

St Oliver’s Trivia Night Fundraiser

Hosted by Sebastian Dworkin from ‘Trivia Buffs’

WHEN: 1st June 2013
WHERE: Hadfield Community Hall
       88 Middle St
       Hadfield 3046
TIME: Doors Open 6pm
      Fun Starts 7pm
PRICE: $15 per person
CATEGORIES: General, Movies, Songs/Dance, Faces and Sport
FORMAT: BYO Drinks & Supper
         Silent Auctions
         Great Prizes & Giveaways
         A night of fun & laughter

It’s a great night out and a great way to support your school.
Organize a group of 8 to 10 friends/family and contact us to reserve your table.

For further information & bookings contact
Georgie McElligott 0405 435 770 or
Diana Capuana 0419 331 966
It’s called Mother’s Day, not Parent’s Day

Mothering is different to parenting. Being a mum is emotional, instinctive and a job for life!

There’s a massive difference between being a mum (or dad) and being a parent.

‘Parenting’ is a twentieth century term that suggests that raising kids is a gender neutral activity. It’s a managerial, almost scientific term that has given rise to a huge industry. In Western countries, millions of parenting books and magazines are sold each year, parenting columns appear in most newspapers, and new television series appear every year focused on the modern notion of parenting.

The problem is that when we refer to ‘parenting’ we tend to remove the heart and emotion from the task. We obscure the fact that it is mothers and fathers who are doing the child-rearing, rather than mere parents.

Parenting means different things to different people. For many people the term ‘parenting’ is code for behaviour management – particularly taming toddlers and their close cousins, teenagers. A broader and more thoughtful definition includes teaching kids positive values and attitudes, developing a range of skills that equips them for adulthood, and ultimately preparing kids to be parents themselves one day.

I often point out to audiences in parenting presentations how being related to our kids can stop us from being great parents. We all know how our neighbour’s kids should be raised, but somehow it’s harder to raise our own. That’s because the hopes and dreams of motherhood (and fatherhood) can somehow get in the way of rational decision-making.

Mothering is emotional and instinctive

And that’s the thing. Being a mother is not always rational, as parenting is often made out to be. There is a great deal of emotion attached to the role of mother. This emotion drives you to fight hard to protect your children, work assiduously to right any wrongs on their behalf, and exhaust yourself looking after their physical and psychological well-being.

Being a mother is instinctive. In the information age we need to be careful we don’t deny the intuitive nature that mothers bring to their child-rearing. The nature of mothering infers nurturance, protectiveness and longevity. Mothering is relational rather than rational. You may grow out parenting by making yourself redundant but mothering is something you never grow out of. You are a mum for life.

Kids want their mothers, not their parents

Kids of all ages say, “That’s my mum!”

They don’t say, “That’s my parent!” (They may say that when they are annoyed or embarrassed by you, but that’s another story.)

Boys and girls of all ages generally love their mothers unconditionally, whereas they merely put up with their parents, particularly during adolescence. They can live without their parents, or so they think, but deep down they know they can’t live without the one person who has a blind spot for them, overlooking all their faults. That person, of course, is their mother.

When kids of all ages get into emotional difficulty or their life becomes too hard, they generally go looking for their mums. They only look for their ‘parent’ when they want some money, or want someone to get them out of a jam!

Raising kids is about mothering (and fathering) ... rather than parenting. That’s why we have Mother’s Day (and Father’s Day) rather than Parent’s Day.

I hope you have a good one!

For ideas to help you be a great mum subscribe to Happy Kids my weekly email guide at Parentingideas.com.au.