Dear Parents and Children,

Night with the Stars

We were truly blessed with the weather last Thursday night with our school Cosmodrome incursion and all of the other ‘stellar’ activities. Congratulations to Sue Carey, Mary Kearney and the senior team and all of our wonderful parents, children and staff who were able to attend the evening. Many thanks to the McElligott’s and Ruby and Charlie Prattico’s grandfather, Stewart Southam for bringing their telescopes to the evening.

Prep Enrolments

This week Mary and I are meeting with all of the families who have enrolled their children to attend our school in 2014. Enrolment forms for 2014 are still available through the school office.

Mother’s Day Stall

Many thanks Lina Pitruzzello and all of the parents who organised and assisted at last week’s Mother’s Day stall. Many thanks to Nadia Glann, our School Community coordinator who organised last Friday’s special Mothers’ Day afternoon tea.

NAPLAN

Good luck to our year 3 and year 5 students who are beginning their NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) testing. Today the children will complete the Language Conventions and Writing tests, tomorrow they will complete Reading and on Thursday Mathematics. If your child is absent on any of these days ‘catch up’ tests will be administered on Friday – please contact your child’s classroom teacher if this applies to you.

Regards

Alan S.
EDUCATION IN FAITH

This week Prep H is attending the Friday class Mass at 10:00. Any parents who are attending, please feel free to sit with your child. The Junior Sunday level Mass for this term is on 2 June at 10:30am. Please make a note of this date as the Junior students will be very involved in leading the Liturgy on this day.

TERM 2 FUNDRAISER

Part of the Religious Education Program at St. Oliver’s focuses on social justice issues that promote the full human development of every person according to the gospel values of Jesus Christ. This term we will be collecting non-perishable food items for The St Vincent de Paul Society that services the Pascoe Vale area. Each class has a basket that we are hoping to fill and have overflowing. Please make sure that any items sent in are suitable, non-perishable and have a valid use by date. We are also collecting second hand and new blankets to provide warmth during the cold winter months ahead. A container for the blankets will be located in the office area. The members of the Student Representative Council are at the forefront of the organisation and are keen to make a difference. We look forward to your support.

Could all items be returned by Wednesday 5 June.

Trish Segrave
Religious Education Coordinator

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Testing at St Oliver’s

Currently the staff are preparing to write semester one reports. These will go home at the end of the term and will provide comprehensive feedback as to each child’s progression through the Domains of Learning and stipulated in AusVELS (national curriculum).

At St Oliver’s we use a range of different testing practices to identify what a child knows. This practise helps teachers in their weekly planning. At the beginning of the year teachers complete a range of differing tests to determine a child’s English and Mathematics knowledge. Throughout the year ongoing testing occurs which allow teachers to measure each students learning, and to give direction towards the content of teaching. Formal assessments

At the moment our grade 3 and grade 5 students are taking part in the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) tests.

Today the students are participating in the Language Conventions and the Writing components of the testing regime. Tomorrow they will complete Reading, and on Thursday, Mathematics.

The formal ‘testing environment’ in which the children will be immersed is one that students are not familiar with. Many of the processes and procedures are new to the children. The tests are of a “pen and paper” nature, which is a small component of the school’s teaching and assessment strategies.

It must be remembered that these tests provide a “snap shot” of your child’s performance on a particular day. Teachers will use the NAPLAN results as one of the contributing factors in planning the teaching and learning experiences for individual children.

If you have any questions about the NAPLAN testing please feel free to talk to your child’s classroom teacher or to myself.

Mary Kearney
Deputy Principal / Learning and Teaching Coordinator
What’s happening around the levels...

SENIORS

RELIGION: This week in our Religion unit, New Beginnings our focus will be to share newspaper, personal or well-known stories of people who have experienced hope and new beginnings in the midst of loss and sadness.

WRITING: We will finalise our persuasive writing this week. All students will refocus on their personal writing goals, attend workshops relevant to their goal and continue with their personal writing.

READING: This week we will begin our new serial novel, “The one and only Ivan”, by Katherine Applegate. Students will make predictions about the text using surface, below the surface and core level thinking.

INQUIRY: In their chosen groups, the students will continue working on their design briefs for their model of the solar system.

MATHS: The students will complete a pre-test on Shape this week and make a variety of shapes using matchsticks and plasticine and discuss their attributes.

Just a reminder...
- Winter Interschool sports this Friday is at 9.30am against AIA, Coburg.
- This Friday’s Soccer games will be played at Hosken Reserve.
- Naplan is on this week: Language Conventions – Tues at 9.15am
  Writing – Tues at 11.30am
  Reading – Wed at 9.15am
  Maths – Thurs at 9.15am

Please ensure that the students are well rested and have a substantial breakfast each morning, to ensure they are well prepared.

- Homework: Please assist your child with managing his/her homework each week to ensure it is completed on time.

MIDDLES

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Our unit is called ‘Forgiveness and Healing’. Students will look at the sacrament of Reconciliation and what the different parts are. They will also look at how we celebrate forgiveness liturgically eg. The sign of peace.

WRITING: Welcome to NAPLAN week! The Year Threes will be completing the Writing NAPLAN piece on Tuesday. The Year Fours will also complete this piece. For the rest of the week the students will be focussing on the different types of sentences- simple and compound. We will continue with our Writing Goal Meetings as well.

READING: The students will complete the Reading NAPLAN on Wednesday. For the rest of the week we will continue our new serial novel The Magician’s Elephant by Kate Di Camillo, looking at important quotes from the text.

SPELLING: The students will be completing the Language Convention NAPLAN on Tuesday morning.

MATHS: We will continue working on 2D and 3D shapes. Students will be examining nets and making the 3D shapes throughout the week.

INQUIRY: Our Inquiry Unit is ‘To the Moon and Back’. This week we are focusing on shadows and how shadows are made. We will talk about how shadows move and in which direction they move. Why might this happen?

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
JUNIORS

RELIGION: This week we will begin our new unit ‘Love One Another’. We will use picture story books and songs to help us reflect on our own experiences of what ‘Love’ looks like, feels like and sounds like.

READING: During reading sessions this week, we will continue to link the structure and language features of what we are reading in a range of information texts, to our information reports that are taking shape in writing.

WRITING: This week we will be continuing to compose our information reports and will move on to the editing and publishing stages of our work.

SPELLING: We will be continuing to look at onset and rime patterns by building a class word list with the sound op (top, stop) and involving the children in a variety of activities to help reinforce the spelling and meaning of the words generated by the class.

MATHS: During Maths this week, we will be reading and solving addition word problems. We will look at strategies such as locating key words, numbers involved and rereading to identify the process that is involved.

INQUIRY: As we continue with our unit ‘Earth and Sky’, we will identify and classify a group of objects into natural and man-made objects. We will make predictions about which objects will change if left outside open to the elements.

Click here for a copy of the current Junior Homework

PREPS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: We will be starting our new unit “The world around us”. We will be discussing and appreciating all the things that God has created.

WRITING: This week we will be discussing writing about the weather.

READING: The children will be working in small groups completing various reading activities. The teacher will have 2 focus groups in this session.

MATHS: In Maths we will be finishing our unit on Length and completing an assessment piece.

INQUIRY: We will be continuing our weather Journal and creating a weather word wall.
Mothers Day
Thanks to all the mums who came on Friday to the afternoon tea. I would like to also thank the Senior students that helped in the planning and set up of the day. Thanks An, Britney, Josh, Andre, Giulia, Laura, Ruby, Sophia and Thomas for your input and help.

Michael Grose Parenting Insights
Helping students get ready for Naplan.....A good read to help you help your child to be settled on Naplan day
Libby Sheedy
Wellbeing Coordinator

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Regular exercise like walking with your child not only helps them (and you!) beat chronic problems like obesity, heart disease, behavioural and mental health issues and diabetes. It also gives you a great opportunity to teach your child safe ways to behave around roads and traffic.

Remember, Active Kids are Healthy Kids so get planning your own Walk Safely to School Day journey for Friday 24 May 2013!
For more information visit: www.walk.com.au

Nadia Glann
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 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.

STUDENT AWARDS
Nicola Gravina, Rithika Subin, Clara Faraci, Thomas Whitchurch, Ivy Hopcraft, Jack Cook, Carla Whitchurch, Celeste Barravecchio, Giulia Giacchi, Maxine Ong, Ben Pascoe, Luca Vecchiarelli, Danni Pecar, James Astuto, Zander Cappello, Karina Walsh, Cooper Siliato, Eva Cartwright, Alex Di Blasi, Loredana Bufalino, Britney Cham, Cameron Bell, Chiara Guarino, Thomas Cartwright, Kiara Ferreira Antonio Spataro, Lucas Apostos

CANTEEN  Diane Tabone  0423 596 221

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<td>Thursday 16 May</td>
<td>Jo Conlon &amp; Maria Cologna</td>
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<td>Friday 17 May</td>
<td>Angelina Kalessoglou &amp; Fil Coviella-Izzard</td>
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<td>Monday 20 May</td>
<td>Monica Bongiovanni Lisa Barker</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, Lucía, 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.
CLICK HERE FOR THE CURRENT PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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


Businesses of the week
Businesses on our website this week are Rocky’s Tile Laying, Room 2 Design, Pascoe Vale RSL Pascoe Vale Seafoods and Pitstop Barber. 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 was sent home last week. 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
Last Friday the Mother’s Day stall was held. A special thanks to the mothers of the Parents Association who volunteered their morning to help run this event. A special thanks to Jack and Daisy Cafe, C&A Printing and Simone Perele Lingerie Direct who donated prizes for this year’s raffle. Remember to support the local businesses that support us

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.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

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www.campaustralia.com.au
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
Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You’ve probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely a child’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids. The impact of a parent’s explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard.

As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in his stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. **Take your cues from your child:** If your child doesn’t worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.

2. **Focus on doing their best & trying hard:** Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

3. **Listen to any concerns they have:** If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a ‘get over it’ response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.

4. **Give them some relaxation ideas:** Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. **Help them retain their perspective:** One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.