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Newsletter No: 10 3rd April 2014

Dear Parents,

It seems like yesterday that I was writing the first Newsletter of the year and welcoming everyone to a new school year. And here we are about to break for the First Term holidays and the important feast of Easter. At this time it is an opportunity to reflect upon the term. Some of the achievements and highlights are:

- ✓ The smooth commencement of the year, especially the manner in which the Preps began
- ✓ Whole school Mass to begin the year
- ✓ Ash Wednesday
- ✓ Level attendance at Parish Masses
- ✓ Preparing and celebrating for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ✓ Use of the symbol of the lantern to light the year ahead
- ✓ 'O' Week activities & team building incursion
- ✓ Use of the song 'Count on Me'
- ✓ Year 5-6 Camp at Sovereign Hill
- ✓ Out of Hours School Care growing and moving to the hall
- ✓ School Sports day
- ✓ Yr 5 & 6 Inter school Sport program
- ✓ Focus on Mindfulness
- ✓ Buddies program
- ✓ Family fish 'n chip evening
- ✓ Parent Association – active and involved
- ✓ Parent Seminar (led by Georgina Manning – Tips to encourage Resilience and Confidence in our Children)
- ✓ Fete Committee – up & running
- ✓ Veggie Garden
- ✓ Parents cooking pancakes on Shrove Tuesday; hot dogs (yesterday)
- ✓ Use of technology (ipads P-2, tablets, laptops, desktops)
- ✓ Progression of skill development with class blogs, Google documents etc
- ✓ 1-2 level learning about the science of life cycles/ following growth of tadpoles
- ✓ 3-4 learning about the science of life/sowing seeds and growing grass
- ✓ 5-6 learning about the science of systems in our world
- ✓ Inclusion of values in social and emotional learning programs

#### PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent/Teacher interviews will be held during the first week of next term – on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (from 3pm – 6pm ~ children will be dismissed at 2:30) and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April (from 4pm to 6pm). Information for each family was sent home on last week giving details about how to make a booking using PTO online. Bookings close tomorrow (Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April).

#### PARENT PROGRAM

A reminder that the school is hosting a Parent Workshop on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of May here at school. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with other parents to assist parents in the (sometimes) challenging job of being a parent.

#### OPEN DAY

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, enrolment applications for next year's prep will open. It will also be our 'Open Day' during which our senior students will act as host and 'tour' guides for prospective parents. Please note that enrolment for existing families will close on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May. This year school tours will be conducted every 30 minutes, commencing at 9:15am

#### FETE COMMITTEE

The Fete Committee will meet **tonight** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 7:30pm. Once again all parents are welcome to come and support our major fundraiser for the year.

#### WORKING BEE

This year there will be two working bees. The dates for these will be:

- **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 8am-9:30am** (opportunity to tidy school grounds before Open Day)
- **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 3:45pm-5:30pm** (opportunity to tidy oval etc before the School Fete)

We would appreciate as many as possible at both of these working bees. It is a great chance to meet new families too. Your maintenance levy will be deducted from the fees by attending one of these working bees.

#### EDUCATION BOARD – AGM Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May

The next meeting of our Education Board will be the Annual General meeting of the Board. All parents are most welcome to attend. There are two parent vacancies on the Board. If you would like to join the Education Board, please express your interest in writing to me by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. In the event that more than two applications are received, an election by way of a simple ballot will be conducted.

#### SPORTS DAY

Congratulations to the children for their enthusiastic involvement with the Sports on Monday. Congratulations to Slattery (Green) team as overall successful team and to Kinnaird (Blue) as the holders of the Team Spirit trophy. I would also like to acknowledge the staff, in particular Sue Tobin and John Killeen for all their work in preparing for the day.

I was thrilled with the high level of parent support – from setting up, judging, marshalling, working in the canteen, cooking the BBQ, packing up ... it was tremendous to have so many parents assisting to ensure the day's success ... THANKS.

I am sending home an evaluation form to gather some information to assist us in future planning. If possible, please return the evaluation form tomorrow.

### RAFFLE WINNERS FOR SPORTS DAY

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – James Montano 1/2SP  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Jean Russo (Thomas Russo's Grandmother) 3/4EP  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Nicholas Franklin 1/2CM

Thank you to Richmond Football Club, Xtreme Air Trampoline Park and Woolworths Oakleigh for Supporting COHR with raffle prizes.

### HOT DOGS

Thanks you to the parents who cooked and organized yesterday's hot dogs – they were greatly appreciated by the children.

### ASSEMBLY

The focus during tomorrow's Assembly will be on Easter. We will participate in a special prayer service. Parents are very welcome.

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The children will be dismissed tomorrow at 2:30pm for the holidays. Term two resumes on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### VACANCIES FOR 4YO KINDER 2014

Emmanuel Kindergarten is located at 26 Abbeygate Street Oakleigh and has been operating for over 60 years. Currently they have vacancies for 4yo kinder for 2014. Please phone 9569 7117 or email: [Emmanuel.anglican.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:Emmanuel.anglican.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

**Sophie and Charlotte Brewer** star with Luke Hodge in today's Herald/Sun



## TERM TWO DATES

### TERM TWO

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Term 2 commences  
 Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Parent/teacher interviews 3pm – 6pm (children dismissed at 2:30pm)  
 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher interviews 4pm – 6pm  
 Friday 25<sup>th</sup> ANZAC day  
 Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Reconciliation Yr3; Working Bee  
 Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Open day; Parent Information night with Lisa Hughes

### May

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Education Board (AGM)  
 Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Inter School sport (Yrs 5 & 6)  
 Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Reconciliation Yr 3  
 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Yr 5 & 6 'Growing with Grace' program  
 Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Walk-a-Thon  
 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day stall  
 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Parent program with Georgina Manning  
 Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Eucharist Commitment Mass (Yr4)  
 Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Mothers' Day  
 Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Yr 5 & 6 'Growing with Grace' program  
 Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)  
 Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)  
 Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Family Faith Night (P-2)  
 Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)  
 Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Inter School Sport Yrs 5 & 6  
 Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Yr 5 & 6 'Growing with Grace' program  
 Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Parish Council  
 Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Parents' Association  
 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Eucharist 'Talking Mass' 7pm (Yr 4)  
 Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Our Lady Help of Christians  
 Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Yr 3 & 4 'Growing with grace' program  
 Parent/Child workshop with Lisa Hughes – Yrs 5 & 6  
 Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Eucharist Reflection day (Yr 4)  
 Parent/Child workshop with Lisa Hughes – Yrs 5 & 6  
 Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Eucharist Family Workshop 7pm (Yr 4)  
 Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Inter School Sport – Yrs 5 & 6

### June

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Parent/Child workshop with Lisa Hughes – Yrs 3 & 4 (6pm & 7:30pm)  
 Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Reconciliation for Yr 4's  
 Friday 6<sup>th</sup> School closure day  
 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Queen's birthday  
 Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> First Eucharist (Yr 4) 1pm & 3pm  
 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Parish Council & Parents' Association  
 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Education Board  
 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Mid-year Reports sent home  
 Inter School 'Gala day Yrs 5 & 6  
 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Combined schools mass (Sacred heart & COHR) at Sacred Heart  
 Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Term 2 ends (children dismissed at 2:30pm)

With thanks

Thomas Coghlan  
Principal

## **EASTER REFLECTION** Richard Leonard SJ.

A man was driving along the road when he saw the Easter Bunny hop into his lane. He swerved to avoid hitting the bunny, but couldn't do so. The basket of eggs went everywhere. The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman saw the man and pulled over. 'What's wrong?' she asked. 'I accidentally killed the Easter Bunny', he explained. The woman knew exactly what to do. She went to her car, pulled out a spray can, walked over to the bunny, and sprayed the entire contents over the little furry animal. Miraculously the Easter Bunny came back to life, jumped up, picked up his eggs, waved at them and hopped on down the road. Not far away the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around and waved again. He kept doing this for as far as they could see.

The man was astonished. 'What in heaven's name is in that can you sprayed on the Easter Bunny?' The woman showed the man the label. It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.'

For many of our children the bunny and its eggs are the most important thing about Easter. Over the millennia, Christianity has had a gift for domesticating local traditions and festivals, bringing them on board and making them our own. The name Easter comes from the Anglo Saxon spring festival in honour of the goddess Eostre. Her symbol was the rabbit and the giving of eggs were signs of new life bursting forth as winter withdrew. These associations only make sense in the northern hemisphere, but we can see why the early Christians could be so adaptable and inculturated with this local festival.

In both hemispheres Christians celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead. In the New Testament there are two traditions about how the disciples come to know about Jesus' resurrection: the empty tomb and the apparitions of Christ.

The Gospel on Easter Sunday belongs to the empty tomb tradition. On Magdalene's urging, Peter and John run to the tomb, find it empty and come to at least an initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus' corpse in the tomb, as our driver resuscitated the bunny in today's story. Easter Sunday does not celebrate the resuscitation of Jesus, but his Resurrection. We know his 'glorified body' was not the same as his human body because Jesus' presence could be encountered in several places simultaneously and he is reported to walk through walls and to vanish. The link between both resurrection traditions is the importance of Jesus' death. In the empty tomb accounts, as in today's gospel, the writers give us extraordinary details about the grave clothes. In the apparition narratives there are usually references to Jesus' wounds.

Whatever way they came to experience the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew that this was Jesus who actually died and was buried and that their personal encounter was with the one who was crucified.

What God did through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what Christians have done with local customs and festivals ever since: he entered into it, understood it, took it on board, domesticated it and vanquished its power. As a result we believe that God empathises with the full limitations of our human mortality and promises to remain faithful to us in death as he remained utterly faithful to Jesus.

That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all:

'Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!'

**PARENT SURVEY; SCHOOL SPORTS DAY**

I am seeking some feedback on our Sports day that was held on Monday at Davies Reserve.

In the previous few years COHR conducted our Sports at Duncan MacKinnon Reserve in Murrumbreena.

**VENUE**

I/We thought Davies Reserve was:

Not appropriate

Adequate

Excellent

I/We would prefer Duncan MacKinnon

**TIMING & DAY**

I/We were happy with the commencement time (3:30pm)

I/We would prefer the following commencement time:

4:00pm

4:30pm

5pm

5:30pm

I/We would prefer:

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

**COMMENT**

Please feel free to add any comment regarding the Sports day

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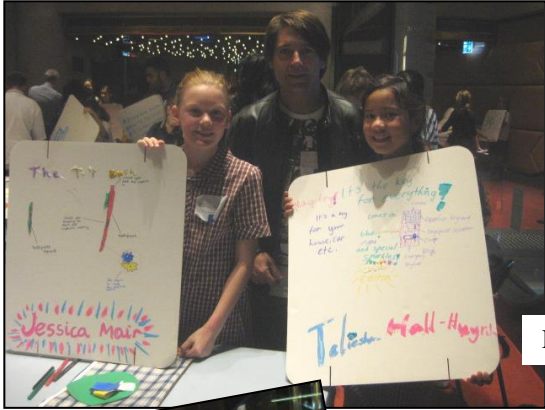
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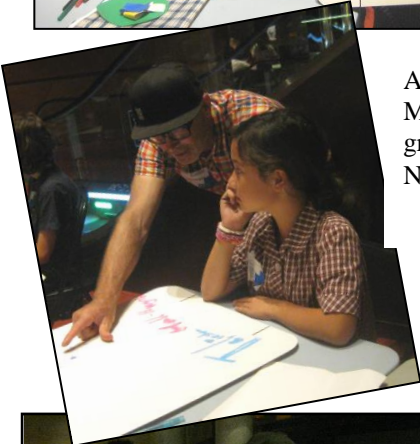
Thanks for your participation.

# agIdeas Excursion



Excursion: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

We participated in activities with internationally acclaimed designers in a workshop. We had to express our ideas on large puzzle pieces that will be fitted together to form a public artwork in the form of a large mural. It was great having designers talk to us about our designs and think about ways to improve them. We had a great day. Many thanks to Ms Karin for organising it and Christine Iverson for helping us on the day. Emily, Luca, Samuel, Will, Fergus, Jessica, Taliesha, Domenic. (year 5/6 students)



After the workshop, we had lunch near Birrarung Marr, walked to Hosier Lane to see the amazing graffiti and then saw some interesting artworks in the National Gallery at Federation Square.

