Dear Parents,

This Sunday’s Gospel reading (Lk 24: 13-35) is the story of the journey to Emmaus, made by two of Jesus’ disciples just after the events of his death and resurrection. It is actually one of my favourite Gospel readings. This story is thought to be the best parallel we have in the New Testament to our weekly celebration of the Eucharist. Luke, however, reminds his, and our, community, that even though they, like us, are prevented from seeing Jesus, they can still have a life-changing experience of his presence.

The story of the road to Emmaus is a perfect model for our Christian life. It reminds us first of all that none of us walk the journey alone. Even when we don’t recognise his presence, Jesus joins us in the everyday realities of life. The breaking open and interpretation of scripture is essential to making sense of our life experiences and through the celebration of Eucharist and table fellowships we are nourished to not only continue the journey but to share the good news with others.

RECONCILIATION
Congratulations to the Yr3 students who made their first Reconciliation last weekend – the remainder will celebrate the sacrament this weekend.

WORKING BEE
I would like to thank everyone who attended the working bee last weekend to help maintain our school grounds. Some of the jobs we worked on include weeding gardens, cleaning drains, upkeep of the oval area and a general tidy up around the school. We are also grateful for volunteers who helped set up and cook our BBQ. It was wonderful to see a community of people working together and sharing in each other’s company ... ‘many hands make light work!’

OPEN DAY
We welcomed a number of visitors to our school yesterday for the Open Day. Thank you to our senior students who led guided tours. I would also like to acknowledge parents who assisted with the refreshments in the Hall.

EDUCATION BOARD
A reminder that the Annual General meeting of the Board is tonight at 7:30pm in the staffroom. All parents are most welcome to attend.

WALK-A-THON
Our annual Walk-a-thon will be held on Wednesday 7th May. You would have received a permission notice that needs to be returned to school allowing students to participate. There is also an accompanying form to help raise money - the funds raised will be combined with the Fete profits to improve the Oval.

This will also be a Hot Dog lunch day. Forms were sent home yesterday with a return date by Monday 5th May.

INTERSCHOOL SPORTS
This Friday we are scheduled to play Amsleigh Primary School in the morning. Netball and Boys’ Soccer will be played here, while Football, Girls’ Soccer and Voleystars will be played at Amsleigh. Parents are very much welcomed to assist the teams. If you are able to assist, please let John Killeen know of your availability.

FAMILY WEEK
Throughout Week 3 of this term, we will celebrate Family Week. This is an annual event run by CatholicCare. The theme this year is: ‘It takes a village to raise a child and rays of giving’
This theme acknowledges that families and communities are at the very heart of CatholicCare’s vision and to highlight the importance of family in society.

To commence Family Week, the school has organized Harts Coffee Cart to be at school serving coffee from 8:30am until 10am on Monday morning – 5th May – see you for a coffee!

We will pray together in a school liturgy on Wednesday 7th May. All families are warmly invited to join this special prayer celebration.

The Mothers’ day stall will be held on Thursday – see information over the page.

As part of our Family Week focus we are hosting a Family Faith night for our Prep families (Thursday 8th May or Thursday 15th May) and for our Years 1/2 families on Wednesday 14th May.

EUCHARIST COMMITMENT MASS
The Eucharist Commitment Mass for Year 4 students intending to receive their First Communion will be held on Sunday 11th May at 11am.

GROWING WITH GRACE
This program, conducted by Lisa Hughes, will commence with our Year 5/6’s next Monday. The 5/6 program will run over three successive Mondays.

CHESS
The Chess lessons have commenced in the 3/4 Level. Lessons will be on Mondays this term.
SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE
A second hand uniform sale will be held on Friday 2nd May (tomorrow) before and after morning assembly.

MOTHERS’ DAY STALL
Children will be able to purchase a special gift for their mother at the Mothers’ day stall next Thursday 8th May. The cost of presents ranges from $2 - $8. Please bring a bag to carry your gifts home safely. There will also be a raffle on the day with tickets at 50c each. The raffle winners will be drawn on Friday at assembly.

Assistance is needed on Wednesday from 2pm to wrap and display gifts and on Thursday from 9am to sell.

With best wishes,

Thomas Coghlan
PRINCIPAL

EXCELSIS FUNDRAISING CONCERTS
Excelsis, the choir that sings for the 11am Mass at COHR on the first Sunday of each month and for the 9.45am Mass at Sacred Heart on the fifth Sunday of each month, will be giving two fundraising concerts in May. Highlights will include Vivaldi’s Gloria, Duruflè’s Ubi Caritas, traditional pieces of African chant, a number of Welsh favourites and many contemporary arrangements of well-known hymns.

Please support the choir and the great work they do. For tickets please book online.

Concerts and booking details are:
7.30pm, Saturday 17 May Christ Church, South Yarra
http://www.trybooking.com/ESVN
2.30pm, Sunday 18 May Sacred Heart, Oakleigh
http://www.trybooking.com/ESVK

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
This weekend is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together, to rediscover each other and focus on your relationship in a very positive way. There is no group sharing.

Forget life’s tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together in the first place.

Your marriage deserves that kind of attention.

Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. 2014 weekend dates: 13-15 June, 15-17 August and 21-23 November in Melbourne.

Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

For further information and bookings: Contact Marianne & Marcel Van den Bronk (03) 9733 0997 or Email vicbookings@wwme.org.au

EMMANUEL KINDERGARTEN OPEN DAY
Emmanuel Anglican Kindergarten will be holding their Open Day on Saturday 3rd May from 10am – 1pm.
26 Abbeygate Street Oakleigh
Phone 9569 7117 for more information.

TERM TWO DATES

May
Thursday 1st Education Board (AGM)
Friday 2nd Inter School Sport (Winter competition for Yrs 5&6)
Saturday 3rd Reconciliation (Yr 3)
Monday 5th Family Week commences
Tuesday 6th NAPLAN Yrs 3 & 5 – Writing & Language conventions
Wednesday 7th Walk-a-Thon
Thursday 8th Mothers’ day stall

Friday 9th Prep Growing in Faith 7pm

Monday 10th Eucharist Commitment Mass

Tuesday 11th Mothers’ day

Tuesday 12th NAPLAN Yrs 3& 5 – Reading

Thursday 13th NAPLAN Yrs 3 &5 – Mathematics

Monday 16th Conclusion of Yr 5/6 Growing with Grace program

Tuesday 17th Parish Council

Wednesday 18th Parents’ Association meeting

Thursday 19th Yr 4 Eucharist ‘Walk through Mass’ 7pm

Friday 20th Biggest Morning Tea

Monday 23rd Yr 3/4 Growing with Grace program

Tuesday 24th Yr 5/6 Workshop – Growing with Grace 7pm

Wednesday 25th Fete meeting

Thursday 26th Yr 4 Eucharist Reflection day

Friday 27th Yr 5/6 Workshop – Growing with Grace 7pm

June

Wednesday 4th Yr 3/4 Parent/child workshop: Growing with Grace 6pm & 7:30pm

Friday 5th School closure day

Monday 9th Queen’s birthday holiday

Sunday 15th First Eucharist 1pm & 3pm

Wednesday 18th Parents’ Association meeting & Parish Council

Thursday 19th Education Board

Friday 20th Mid-Year reports sent home

Yr 5/6 Inter School Sport Gala day

Disco

Wednesday 25th Combined schools Mass (COHR & Sacred Heart) 11am at Sacred Heart

Friday 27th Children dismissed at 2:30pm for holidays
THE WHITE ELEPHANT STALL

Will be at our FETE again in 2014!
We need your donations to make it a success.
Please bring your pre-loved Books, DVD’s, brick-a-brac, CD’s, homewares, toys, etc to school from next week 5th May.
There will be a container in the school foyer for small unbreakable donations, and Gab Dunn will be available to collect donations on Monday and Friday mornings and afternoons.
For further information call Gab on 0422577607
Coughs, Colds and Asthma

Coughs, colds and the flu are one of the most common triggers of asthma. The common cold is caused by an upper respiratory tract infection and is a common illness for children and adults in Australia. As we approach the colder months, here are some tips to keep in mind to prevent and reduce the spread of coughs, colds and the flu:

- Avoid coughing and sneezing on or near others and wash your hands thoroughly to prevent the spread of disease.
- If your child is not feeling well, it is recommended that they stay home and rest, to reduce the spread of infections and to speed up their recovery process.
- Everyone should have the annual flu vaccination to ensure they are protected from this disease. You or your child may be eligible for the free flu vaccination. Details about who is eligible can be found here and can also be determined by your doctor.
- Prior to purchasing any medications or herbal and natural remedies, you should seek the advice of your doctor or pharmacist as some medications can react with asthma medications. Such as Aspirin, Ibuprofen/Naproxen (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications), Beta Blockers tablet and eye drops (used for high blood pressure and glaucoma), and ACE inhibitors (used to control blood pressure).

Stay warm this winter!

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au