Dear Parents,

The willingness to give all that one has is the central theme of Sunday’s readings. The truly generous do not look for reward as the example of the widow. Jesus does not praise the widow because she is poor. There is no nobility in poverty. Jesus praises her for being generous and he indicates how the poor teach the rich about what really matters in life. The message for the Church from this Gospel story is that it must never exploit the religious fervour of the poor to build up its own resources. Pope Francis is emphasising that the flow must be the other way if we are to be authentic Christians.

This reading is appropriate when we reflect on Mission Month and Catholic Missions. Our school community has come together to pray for those in need, to consider their life situation and to donate money. We have been able to raise more than enough money to supply a community with access to water and we hope to be able to raise more as we complete our fundraising this week.

RECONCILIATION
We keep the students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our thoughts and prayers. Ceremonies will be held over the following two weekends.

SPORT UPDATE
Congratulations to all students involved in the Kanga Cricket event on Friday. From all reports, the children were terrific team members who showed great sportsmanship. Congratulations to the year 5/6 girls who won their match. Thank you to the parent support on the day with supervision, scoring etc.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION PHOTOS
A reminder the Year 6 graduation photos will take place next Monday morning (Monday 9th December). We ask that all students are dressed in their summer school uniform.

NO HAT, NO PLAY
A reminder that all children are required to wear their school hat during recess and lunchtimes. Staff will be directing children without school hats to sit in the shaded area next to the Tennis Courts. Please ensure that your child has a clearly named school hat.

EDUCATION BOARD
During last night’s Education Board meeting the fee structure for next year was approved. Next year’s fees will be as follows:

- **Annual Tuition Fee:**
  - 1 child $1425
  - 2 children $1845
  - 3+ children $2013

Annual tuition fees have risen just over 4% - under the recommended 6% increase.

- **Annual Capital Fee:** $210 per family (includes a Technology Levy of $50)
- **Maintenance Fee:** $50 per family
- **Subject Levy:** $215 per child (which includes a Technology Levy of $50)
- **Excursion Levy:** $60 per child
- **Interschool Sport:** $45 (Year 5/6)

This will cover the Friday morning inter schools, but not other sports events – for example a team progressing into regionals.

- **Book Levy:** $35 per child (this is averaged and will remain about the same as for this year)
- **Camp Yr 5/6:** $270 (Year 5/6 students – approx. to be confirmed)
- **Camp Yr 4:** $130 (Year 4 students – approx. to be confirmed)

SOCIAL SKILLS
Building a Better School Yard Program Term 4. All students took part in the final Building a Better School Yard workshop this term. Each class had a 40 minute session with Catherine Gerhardt from Kid’s Connections. The students in Year 3 & 4 looked at Communication as a key factor in dealing with things that happen on the playground. They explored passive communication, assertive communication and aggressive communication. There is a flyer attached which explains the social skills and strategies taught in the session. The Year 5 & 6 sessions will be shared in next week’s newsletter.

If you would like anymore information see Michelle Seel

CONDOLENCES
Our thoughts and prayers are with Phil Sola and her family on the death of her father over the weekend. Her mother who remains very ill continues to be in our prayers.

WALK NOVEMBER
Terrible start to our walk to school month. We encourage families to use the next few weeks to walk to school.
Building A Better Schoolyard
Term 4, 3-4

The fourth and final installment of our social toolkit of strategies for Year 3 and 4 parents, teachers and students.

There are many ups and downs of school life, and children require support and encouragement to use positive social skills. Kids learn early that life is not fair, not perfect and that conflict has to be dealt with regularly. Keeping in mind, that conflict itself is not really a problem – it is how the child responds to the conflict that can escalate or deflate it.

Building A Better Schoolyard has been about working with the children to build social skills that enables them to deal with conflict and friendship issues. Building social skills encourages resilience and resourcefulness.

Communication is the key to dealing with any kind of conflict and a necessity for preventing or resolving bullying situations. Reviewing assertive communication is one more step in helping students develop skills that allow them to be effective in dealing with conflict situations, whether it is happening to them or they are witnesses. Students have been given strategies for responding to bullies with ICE (Ignore, Communicate, and Exit) and ACT (Assess, Calm, and Tell).

Assertive communication skills can help students deal independently with conflict, state what they need/want in a positive manner (rather than becoming aggressive) and helps them stand up to bullying behaviour if it is happening to themselves, or others.

Assertive language shows the ability to stand up for oneself, express feelings, and exercise their rights while also respecting the rights of others. Assertive behaviour respects self as well as others, equally.

Aggressive behaviour seeks to meet one’s goals by hurting that others rights are more important than theirs.

Passive behaviour allows others more control and it doesn’t meet one’s needs or goals. Passive behaviour says that others rights are more important than theirs.

Students need to practice assertiveness, this can be a tricky skill set to master. Attention needs to be focused on their verbal language, body language and facial expression.

Tips for assertive communication are:
- stand tall
- head held high
- look at the person’s face
- maintain eye contact,
- speak respectfully with a strong, clear voice
- use the person’s name if you know it,
- say what you want the person to do using “I” messages
- remain calm
- Walk away
- Get help if needed

A good recipe for assertive communication is use of "I statements", according to the following formula:

*I feel... when you do/did....and what I would like you to do about it is...*

We want to empower students by having a go at asserting themselves in conflict situation. If kids are always running to an adult or teacher to fix the problem, they are never going to learn what works or doesn’t work – and this is stuff that you are going to need to use forever!

If a child has tried to assert themselves, has used good body language and strong I messages and the behaviour of the other person does not stop – then they must go and find an adult whom they trust to help them. Moving themselves to another area in the schoolyard, is also a smart choice.

Encourage your kids to practice assertiveness at home with their siblings – what a better place is there than where conflict arises all the time! ( or at least that’s how it seems from a parents perspective :)

Making decisions about friendships isn’t easy. It is important that children have the opportunity to explore their own roles in incidences of bullying, conflict and name-calling. Every situation presents itself with a choice. Every friendship will have choices, and those choices we make and how we chose to express them, will have consequences on that relationship.

This term we looked at the concepts of ally and bystander. An ally is someone who will take action, preferably at the time, however if that does not feel safe, they can intervene later by letting someone else know what they saw or experienced. In opposition, a bystander is characterised by inaction, complacency and passive participation.

We also explored the role of an Upstander—this is a positive bystander role that comes to the aid of a target.

Ever heard the term “K.I.M’s”? It stands for Kids in the Middle. These kids witness or know about the acts of aggression; they may want to help, but often do not know how to respond.

- They may worry that if they intervene they may become the aggressor’s next target.
- Bystanders can experience many of the same responses as targets (feel helpless)
- Research suggests that when bystanders take actions that support targets, they have a good chance of being successful in shifting power away from aggressors
- The role of the bystander is critical

Being and ally or a bystander is a choice. We worked through a series of scenario’s in which students were encouraged to explore the role they might take in that situation.

Would they be likely to:
- Ignore the situation and walk away?
- Intervene or mediate?
- Talk to the person in private?
- Seek assistance from a teacher or other adult at the school?

There is no right or wrong answer, and each perspective was investigated and explored for each of the scenario’s presented. It is important for children to know that they do have options and choices in each situation, and the right answer for every child be different.

Being able to see how making a different choice can impact the outcome—that is where the learning comes from.

Pink Shirt Day - A true story of allies was shared with the students. This is an inspiring story of two high school students who turned the tide against bullies who picked on another student for wearing pink. There is power when we work together to take a stand for what is right.
NIGHT MARKET

6.30PM–9.00PM
19 NOVEMBER
CHRIST OUR HOLY REDEEMER
SCHOOL HALL
43 FERNTREE GULLY ROAD
EAST OAKLEIGH

25+ STALLS
BBQ & DRINKS

ENQUIRES: 0431 813 944 OR COHRMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Cancer Council Community Supporter

Christ Our Holy Redeemer Primary School
$50
The amount that pays for a registered cancer nurse with oncology qualifications and experience to support callers to our help line for four hours.

$100
The amount that pays for a media release with the latest cancer information to be translated into ten different languages.

$1,000
The amount that funds research that enables the early diagnosis of cancer.

For 800 Victorians
The amount that funds a nutritional intervention to help post surgery patients to achieve a healthy weight.

$500
The amount that funds cancer education and self-management materials to support patients with cancer.

Every donation counts
What will you do for cancer?

Get involved
Event
Cohr Night Market
When
Thursday November 19th 6:30 - 9pm
Where
Cohr School Hall

Find the latest news, events, fundraisers and ways to get involved

WWW.IWILLFORCANCER.ORG.AU
Supporter Hotline 1300 65 65 85
TERM 4 DATES

**November**
- Thursday 5th  Parents’ Association meeting
- Monday 9th Yr 6 Graduation Photos
- Wednesday 11th Prep Orientation night – Parents 3/4 Excursion
- Saturday 14th Reconciliation COHR 10am; SH 4:30pm
- Wednesday 18th Prep Orientation 11:40am – 1:00pm
- Thursday 19th Night Market
- Friday 20th Yr 5/6 Basketball Gala day
- Wednesday 25th Prep Orientation 11:40am – 1:00pm
  Parents’ Association meeting
- Friday 27th School Closure day
- Sunday 29th Reconciliation certificates distributed

**December**
- Friday 4th Carols in the Park
- Thursday 10th Yr 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner
- Friday 11th Reports, Portfolios & Class information sent home
  PA Christmas Party
- Tuesday 15th School Mass 9:15am
  Yr 6 Assembly 2:30pm
- Wednesday 16th Term 4 ends – children dismissed at 3:30
- Thursday 17th School Closure day

With best wishes

Thomas Coghlan
Principal