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Dear Parents,

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. The joy of this Sunday comes both from the message of the readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is nearing. The focus for this week is again on John the Baptist. We know him by this name. When people came to see this strange man in the wilderness, living in dire poverty on the margins of society, to give his name 'John' would have been inadequate. This Gospel immediately puts the inter-relationship with another – that is how we are to understand who he is. This Gospel never calls him John the Baptist. No, he is John the Witness, 'a witness to speak for the Light'. Witness? Witness to what? To the Light. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

This year, we have been using the symbol of light within our school community. The light of Christ is evident in different ways.

As a school community we can look back over the year with much pride and satisfaction. Some of the highlights/achievements throughout the year are:

Education in Faith

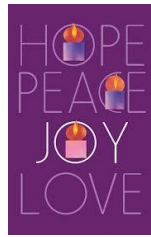
Sacramental programs
 Family Week
 Mission Week
 Gospel values
 School masses and liturgies
 Link with social justice

Learning and Teaching

Various incursions and excursions
 Senior camp
 Whole school learning
 Specialist programs
 Health programs
 Maths Week
 Intervention and extension groups across levels
 Special events: Italian day, Art show
 Integration of IT, blogs and Google drive
 Parent-teacher interviews and student conferences

Student Wellbeing

Values in action
 Buddy programs across the school
 Seasons program



Maintaining the veggie garden
 Focus on Mindfulness
 Focus on anti-bullying
 Flow Club
 Games for social seats

School Community

Education Board
 Parents' Association
 Fete – committee and successful outcomes
 School events – Sports day, Art show
 Out of hours school care
 Parent and family evenings and events
 School disco
 P.A. trivia night
 Grandparents' day
 Bookweek activities
 Maths games evening
 Celebration of Sr. Patricia's golden jubilee
 Fundraisers
 Running club
 COHR Feast day
 School assembly
 Prep orientation program
 Working bees
 Parent Seminar (led by Georgina Manning – Tips to encourage Resilience and Confidence in our Children)
 Welcome to new staff/school members
 Parent information session for 2015 camp
 2015 Prep Orientation program
 Year 6 Graduation/Year 5 Leadership programs

THANKS

One of the strengths of our school is the wonderful and outstanding support we receive from you – the parents. We are blessed with parents who: assist in the classrooms; who help out with excursions and sport; who are involved with the Parents Association, Fete Committee or the Education Board; or who assist with Hot Dog days, working bees, sausage sizzles; or helping out on Sports day Our school is enriched by the outstanding support of our parents ...THANK YOU.

ROCK STAR CARPARK

The rock star car park auction will conclude at the Christmas Party tomorrow night.

COHR CHRISTMAS PARTY

You are welcome to attend the COHR Christmas Party tomorrow evening from 5-7pm on the oval. Thanks to families who have responded with RSVP slips to help us cater the sausage sizzle for correct numbers. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather together to celebrate a year of achievements. You can BYO drink, chairs, salad etc.

LIBRARY NEWS

Unfortunately this year we have a lot of books that are still overdue.

Could you please check your child's bedroom, house bookshelves or school bags for any COHR books and return to school promptly. Thank you

STAFFING FOR 2015

Level One (Prep)

Nicole Harink	Prep H
Susan Daly	Prep D

Level Two (One/Two)

Jo White	1/2 W
Emily Shannon	1/2 S
Phil Solari (T-F) & Franca Paduano (M)	1/2 SP
Ilona Cetrola & Franca Paduano (W)	1/2CP

Level Three (Three/Four)

Sofie Burger	3/4 B
Elise Pape	3/4 EP
Georgina Laming	3/4L
Jill Palermo	3/4JP

Level Four (Five/Six)

Michella Pradel	
Sue Tobin (Tues)	5/6 P
John Killen	5/6 K
Tanya Weston	5/6W

Specialists

Karen Wakeling	Resource Centre & ICT (T, Th,F)
Sue Tobin	PE (Th,F)
Marisa Lucia	LOTE (Italian) (??)
Connie Antenucci	Performing Arts (Th, F)
Karin Dornbierer	Visual Arts (M)

Student Services

Michelle Seel
Sr Patricia Keogh

Class support/Integration Aides

Sue Jenkins
Lorraine Hill
Isabelle Georgalas

Administration

Virginia Macdonald	(M,T,Th,F)
Pru Barrett	(T,W)

Chaplain

Sr Patricia Keogh

Positions of Leadership

Antonietta Corp	Deputy & Learning & Teaching Leader
Michella Pradel	Literacy & Curriculum Leader
Jill Palermo	Religious Education Leader
Emily Shannon	Maths Leader
Karen Wakeling	ICT leader
John Killeen	Sport Co-ordinator
Michelle Seel	Student Services
Tom Coghlan	Principal

As you would notice Jennifer Smith is leaving us after 10 years. Jenny is moving to St Patrick's in Mentone to take on a similar role. Jenny is leaving COHR with a wonderful legacy having led and driven the school's curriculum through the many changes that have been thrust upon schools from the various State and Federal governments. Although disappointed that she is leaving, we also recognize the great opportunity that is presented to her and that St Patrick's is gaining an expert educator. Thanks Jennifer.

Antonietta will take on Jenny's role as well as maintaining her role as Deputy Principal. Emily Shannon and Michella Pradel have been elevated to the Leadership team.

We will also farewell Pina Killaly who took over from Karen Gosling last term. It's always a little difficult taking over mid-stream, but I would like to acknowledge Pina's enthusiasm with the children in her care. I hope that we may see her back at COHR in Emergency/Relieving teacher roles.

We farewell Leah Macdonald who will be leaving us to go on maternity leave. We wish her the best with her new arrival in January.

Next year we will welcome Sofie Burger in the 3/4 Level and Tanya Weston into the 5/6 Level. The children will have the opportunity to meet them on Monday.

CAROLS IN THE PARK

Congratulations to our school choir for sharing their angelic voices with the community in Oakleigh last Friday evening. Many thanks to Jo White for co-ordinating the practice sessions and for leading the choir on the night.

CHESS TOURNAMENT

Yesterday we hosted a Chess tournament for 33 students. They enjoyed the friendly competition with each other and had the opportunity to experience a Chess tournament.

REPORTS AND PORTFOLIOS

Reports and portfolios will be sent home tomorrow afternoon. We ask that you spend time looking through these with your children. We ask students in years 1, 3 and 5 return portfolios by next Wednesday at the latest please.

MEET 2015 CLASS

Students will spend some time with their new class on Monday at lunchtime. This can be a time to meet each other. Students will also be given a copy of a postcard template to fill in over the holidays-this can be returned in the first week of school to share with the class.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL PRAYER CELEBRATIONS

Families are invited to the school mass on Tuesday morning at 10am in the church and the liturgy on Thursday morning at 9am in the school hall.

YEAR 6 ASSEMBLY

Families are also invited to the Year 6 assembly on Tuesday at 2:30pm in the school hall. This is an opportunity for the students to share some of their school stories, their videos and their singing and dancing talents with the whole school.



NEXT WEEK

Monday 15th

-Advent assembly 9am
-Transition – children gather with their new class at 12:40

Tuesday 16th

-Visit to the school of the 2013 & 2014 AFL Premiership Cups (for any Hawks supporter feel free to bring along your jumper, scarf for a photo opportunity.
-End of year Thanksgiving Mass 10am
-Yr 6 Final assembly – 2:30pm ... Anna Burke – Federal member for Chisholm will present Graduation Certificates

Wednesday 17th

-Cleaning day

Thursday 18th

-Final Prayer service 9am
-Children dismissed at 2:30pm

Friday 19th

-School Office closes at 10am

May I also take this opportunity to wish every family a joyous and holy Christmas.

Happy Christmas,

Thomas Coghlan

PRINCIPAL

2015 DATES

January

Wednesday 28th

Staff return

Thursday 29th

Years 1 – 6 return
'O' week commences

Friday 30th

Preps commence

February

Wednesday 4th

No preps

Thursday 5th

Whole School Mass 9am
Family Fish'n'Chip night

Monday 9th

'Building a Better School yard' program commences

Tuesday 10th

Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 11th

No Preps

Thursday 12th

District Swimming

Tuesday 17th

Parent Information evening
7pm

Wednesday 18th

Ash Wednesday (Mass at 11am)

Sunday 22nd

1st Sunday of Lent

Wednesday 25th

No Preps

Parents' Association AGM

Thursday 26th

Saturday 28th

Education Board

Working Bee - 9am

March

Wednesday 4th

Preps here

Friday 6th

School Closure day - ICT

Monday 9th

Labour Day holiday

Saturday 14th

Visual Arts Exhibition

Tuesday 17th

St Patrick's Day

First Eucharist 'Walk through'

Mass' 7pm

Wednesday 18th

Open day

Thursday 19th

Sports Day

Saturday 21st

Eucharist Commitment Mass

5:30pm

SH or 7pm COHR

Wednesday 25th

The Annunciation of the Lord

Combined Schools Mass (COHR)

Education Board (AGM)

End term 1 – children dismissed at 2:30

Thursday 26th

Friday 27th

April

Friday 3rd

Good Friday

Sunday 5th

Easter Sunday

Monday 13th

Daylight saving ends

Wednesday 15th

Term 2 commences

Parent/teacher interviews

3pm – 6:30pm

School finishes at 2:30pm

Thursday 16th

Parent/teacher interviews

4pm – 6:30pm

Monday 20th

Yr 5/6's leave for Canberra

Tuesday 21st

Monash Rotary ANZAC Service

Friday 24th

Yr 5/6's return from Canberra

Saturday 25th

ANZAC Day

Monday 27th

'Building a Better School yard'

program continues this week

Parents' Association Meeting

Wednesday 29th

May

Friday 1st

Working Bee – 3:30 to 5:30pm

Monday 4th

Family week commences

Tuesday 5th

Family Faith Night - Prep

Wednesday 6th

Walk-a-Thon

Family Faith Night –Yrs 1/2

Thursday 7th

Family Week Mass

Mothers' day stall

Sunday 10th

Mothers' day

Tuesday 12th

NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)

Prep Family Faith night

Wednesday 13th

NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)

Thursday 14th

Yr 1/2 Family Faith Night

NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)

Sunday 17th

Reconciliation for Yr 4's

Wednesday 20th

Ascension Sunday

First Eucharist Reflection day

Thursday 21st

Eucharist Family Workshop 7pm

District Cross Country

Sunday 24th

Education Board

Pentecost Sunday: First

Monday 25th

Eucharist 2pm & 4pm

Our Lady Help of Christians

(Patron of Australia)

Wednesday 27th

Parents' Association

June

Friday 5th
Monday 8th
Tuesday 9th
Friday 12th
Sat/Sun 13th & 14th

Thursday 18th
Friday 19th
Saturday 20th

Wednesday 24th
Friday 26th

July

Monday 13th
Thursday 16th
Wednesday 22nd

Thursday 23rd

Monday 27th

Wednesday 29th

August

Thursday 6th
Wednesday 12th
Thursday 13th
Saturday 15th

Thursday 20th

Friday 21st
Sat/Sun 22nd & 23rd

Monday 24th

Wednesday 26th

Saturday 29th

September

Thursday 3rd
Saturday 5th
Sunday 6th
Wednesday 9th
Thursday 17th
Friday 18th

October

Sunday 4th
Monday 5th
Thursday 8th
Monday 19th

Wednesday 28th
Friday 30th

School closure day – First Aide
Queen’s Birthday holiday
Maths Week commences
Feast of Sacred Heart
Eucharist Certificates distributed at any weekend Mass
Confirmation Parent night 7pm
Disco (5 – 8pm)
Confirmation Commitment Mass 5:30pm (SH) or 7pm (COHR)
Parents’ Association
End term 2 – children dismissed at 2:30

Term 3 commences
Education Board
Parent/teacher interviews 3pm – 6:30pm
School finishes at 2:30pm
Parent/Teacher interviews 4pm – 6:30pm
‘Building a Better School yard’ program continues this week
Parents Association

Education Board
Confirmation Reflection day
Confirmation Family night 7pm
The Assumption of Mary (Holy Day)
Confirmation Reconciliation 9:30am
Confirmation 7pm
Confirmation Certificates distributed at any Parish Mass
Book Week commences: “Books Light up Our World”
Parents’ Association
Reconciliation Family Information Night 7pm
Reconciliation Commitment Mass 5:30pm (SH) or 7pm (COHR)

Fathers’ day stall
Working Bee
Fathers’ day
Parents’ Association
Concert
End of Term 3 – children dismissed at 2:30pm

Daylight saving commence
Term 4 commences
Education Board
‘Building a Better School yard’ program continues this week
Parents’ Association
Working Bee

November

Monday 2nd
Tuesday 3rd
Saturday 7th or 4:30SH)
Thursday 12th
Saturday 14th or 4:30SH)
Wednesday 25th
Friday 27th
Sat/Sun 28th & 29th

December

Friday 4th
Thursday 10th
Friday 11th
Tuesday 15th

Wednesday 16th

Thursday 17th

School Closure day
Melbourne Cup holiday
Yr3 Reconciliation (10am COHR)

Education Board
Yr3 Reconciliation (10am COHR)

Parents’ Association
School Closure day
Reconciliation Certificates distributed at any Parish Mass
First Sunday of Advent

Carols in the Park
Yr 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner
PA Christmas Party
School Mass 9:15am
Yr 6 Assembly 2:30pm
Term 4 ends – children dismissed at 3:30
School closure day

