



43 Ferntree Gully Road Oakleigh East 3166
 Phone: (03) 9569 8966 Fax: (03) 9563 0295
 Email: principal@cohroakeast.catholic.edu.au
 Website : www.cohroakeast.catholic.edu.au

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Dear Parents,

In this week's Gospel, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable - given the challenge to 'repent' that is presented so strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is soon.



We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a place within ourselves where the fire of God's love burns brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, history, commitment and growth so as to chart how best we can journey with God in the future. To do this sometimes requires making choices to change our actions, to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance.

We pray that we continue to hold God close to us, as a companion, during our Lenten journey.

CARTOONING INCURSION

Over the past two weeks, the children have enjoyed learning new skills in drawing (cartooning). As you walk around the school, you can see examples of their work. Thank you to the families who purchased resources on Tuesday.

FULL-TIME FOUNDATION STUDENTS

Next week we welcome the Foundation students for the whole week as they now begin to attend school every day of the week. Thank you to parents for their efforts in bringing students on a Wednesday for their testing time with their teacher as it has assisted them in making initial assessments.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM

Last night the Annual General Meeting of the PA was held. Although some positions were filled, we are still looking for parents to assist the important work of the PA.

- President: Tracey Simos
- Vice-President: to be filled
- Treasurer: Caroline Aldred
- Assistant Treasurer: Antoinette Tartaro
- Secretary: Jacinta Chetwin
- Pastoral Care: Grace Leslie
- General Members: Sarah Arnott, Natasha Finamore
- Class Representatives:
- Prep L: two positions to be filled
- Prep H: Natasha Finamore & Yetta Nelson
- 1/2P: two positions to be filled
- 1/2S: Antoinette Tartaro & to be filled
- 1/2C: two positions to be filled
- 1/2CP: Briely Sheehan & to be filled

- 3/4JP: two positions to be filled
- 3/4HM: Janine Bird & to be filled
- 3/4K: Rosie Lucchese & to be filled
- 3/4B: Amanda Neophytou & to be filled

Thanks to those parents who have generously put their name forward to take an active role in building our school community. As you can see there are lots of opportunities to be involved and supportive. If you are willing to take one on of these roles, please inform the Office as soon as possible. We are particularly anxious to fill the Class Reps positions.

There are a few events that require PA support:

- Open day (Wednesday 16th March)
- Sports day (Thursday 17th March)
- Combined Schools Mass (Wednesday 23rd March)
- Hot Cross Bun drive
- Easter Raffle

The PA have also organized a Family Film Night "Muppets Most Wanted" on Friday 4th March. This outdoor movie night commences at 7pm on the Oval ... so bring along your picnic rug and enjoy the outdoor movie experience!

RECONCILIATION

A reminder we have the Reconciliation Family Night this evening at Sacred Heart school beginning at 7pm. This weekend, students and families are asked to attend a commitment Mass – 5:30pm at Sacred Heart and 7pm at COHR.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Tomorrow the senior students play Interschool sport at home. Softball and Cricket will be played at Scotchman's run and Basketball and Rounders here at school. We play Oakleigh Primary.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

We will have school photos on Monday. Please be reminded that students are asked to wear their school summer uniform. Senior leaders need to wear their badges. Envelopes with payments can be brought to school on Monday, otherwise you can order online.

EARLY ARRIVALS

A reminder that students are not expected at school before 8:35am. The children are not supervised before 8:35am.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS – Thurs 10th & Fri 11th March

This year we are undertaking a school review as part of a cyclical cycle of school improvement and accountability. During these two school closure days the staff will be working on the Report that will be tabled to the reviewer early next term. Please note that the Out of School program is being offered for these two days – bookings are essential.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

A reminder that applications for Catholic Secondary Schools close tomorrow (Friday).

SPORTS DAY

Our annual Sports Day will be held on Thursday 17th March at Davies Reserve (410 -412 Huntingdale Rd, Huntingdale). The Sports commence at 3:30pm and will conclude around 7pm. To enable a 3:30 start, the school will be dismissed at 2:30pm.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Thornton family (Natalina 1/2S) on the arrival of their baby girl Claudia Rose.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. School **camp**s provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, **excursions** encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and **sports** teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:

\$125 for primary school students

\$225 for secondary school students.

How to Apply

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

CLOSING DATE

You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by **Monday 29th February**

OPEN DAY

Our "Open Day" will be held on Wednesday 16th March. Student led tours will be offered throughout the day. Enrolments for the 2017 Foundation year will open – they will close for current families on Friday 27th May, and for new families on Friday 17th June.

EDUCATION BOARD MEETING

The scheduled Education Board meeting has been transferred to Wednesday 2nd March due to the unavailability of some members. The meeting will also be the Annual General Meeting of the Board. In addition to the AGM, the Board will undertake an activity related to the school Review, as well as looking at a proposal about the format of the school's Mid and End of year Reports.

COMBINED SCHOOLS MASS – Wednesday 23rd March

The Annual Combined School Mass will this year be celebrated at Sacred Heart Primary School. During the day the students from both schools will join in combined activities together and come together at a special Mass in the Hall at 11:15. Parents are most welcome to join us at Mass. A sausage and drink will be provided for lunch on the day.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE CURRICULUM DAY PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce that we will be running curriculum day programs on Thursday the 10th and Friday the 11th of March. The service will operate from 7am – 6pm at a cost of \$50/child (please note, with the government rebate the maximum cost will be \$25).

To assist us with planning appropriate themes and activities please register your interest by contacting us on **0412 958 605**. New families are welcome to attend. Enrolment forms can be found at the school office, the service during normal operating hours (7-9am and 3-6pm), or can be completed online at www.ylv.com.au.

We hope to see you there!

With best wishes,

Thomas Coghlan
PRINCIPAL

TERM ONE DATES

February

Thursday 25	Yr 3 Reconciliation Family night 7pm
Friday 26	Enrolments for Catholic Secondary school close
Saturday 27	Reconciliation Commitment Mass 5:30pm SH or 7pm COHR
Monday 29	School Photos

March

Wednesday 2	Foundation students at school
Friday 4	Twilight Movie Night/ 5/6 Gala day
Monday 7	Parents Association meeting 7:30pm
Tuesday 8	Fete Committee meeting 7:30pm
Thur 10 & Fri 11	School Closure days
Monday 14	Labour day Holiday
Wednesday 16	OPEN Day Education Board AGM 7:30pm
Thursday 17	St Patrick's day – Sports day
Sunday 20	Palm Sunday
Wednesday 23	Combined schools Mass – Sacred Heart PS, Oakleigh
Thursday 24	Holy Thursday Children dismissed for Easter holidays

Term 2

April

Monday 11	Term 2 commences
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