Dear Parents,

The children have made a positive beginning to the year. Congratulations to our Preps who have commenced their schooling so enthusiastically. We look forward with confidence to a wonderful year.

This year, the Sunday Gospels will come mainly from Luke – in Ordinary Time. Luke’s gospel is unique. Not only Christianity, but also Western culture generally may be totally different had Luke’s Gospel never been written. Without Luke we would not have the Annunciation scenes that fill the galleries and churches of Europe. We would not have the cantatas and motets inspired by the texts of Mary’s Magnificat, Zechariah’s Beneditus and the angels’ Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Newspapers would not refer to unexpected heroes as ‘Good Samaritans’ and we would not have the parable of the ‘Prodigal Son.’ We would not know about the tree climbing Zacchaeus or about the ‘Good Thief’ crucified along with Jesus. (Luke’s Gospel – Stuart Moran).

LUNCH ORDERS

A link to Classroom Cuisine, our new canteen provider, can be found on our school website. All orders must be placed on line before 8.30am. School have no access to the service and will not be able to place late orders.

SCHOOL HATS

A reminder that children are required to have their school hats for recess, lunchtimes and PE. Please, please ensure hats are clearly named.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Please see attached form regarding information on EMA. Please note that eligible families must submit their forms to the school office no later than Wed 27th Feb. Application forms can be obtained forms the office.

MEDICAL DETAIL FORMS

Medical Detail forms were sent home last year in your child’s report folders. These are now due to be returned. Read through these forms and make any adjustments needed and then sign. Forms must be returned to school by Friday 8th Feb.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday – Ash Wednesday – mark the beginning of Lent. The children will be attending Mass at 11am next Wednesday. All families are most welcome to join with us as we commence our Lenten journey.

Our Education Board’s first meeting for the year will be on Thursday 14th February at 7:30pm in the staffroom.

FISH’N’CHIP NIGHT

All families are very warmly invited to our Fish’n’Chip night this evening from 5:30pm onwards on the Oval. This is an opportunity for us to gather as a community to mark the beginning of the school year. It is a BYO everything.

Looking forward to seeing you this evening.

PARENT CHAT

You will have received a letter inviting you to a Parent chat on either Monday 11th or Tuesday 12th February. The purpose of the meeting is to meet your child’s teacher and pass on any information that you think the teacher may require regarding your child’s needs. Of course you may have already touched base with your child’s teacher and not feel the need at this stage to have a meeting, or you may require a longer meeting than the 10 minutes allocated. You may arrange an alternative time that suits both you and your child’s teacher.

Attached to the letter is your password and log in code to access the PTO online booking site. There is a link to PTO on the home page of our website.

RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT MASS – Sunday 24th February

Yr 3 children who are intending on receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year are asked to attend a Commitment Mass on Sunday 24th February at the 11am Parish Mass. During the Mass the children will be invited to come forward and receive an Act of Contrition.

TIMETABLE

Children are not expected at school before 8:35 as they will not be supervised. They may move into class at 8:45, ready to begin the learning program at 8:55. You will note the recess is 10 minutes later. This enables a slightly longer learning block in the morning.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Parents are invited to attend an Information evening on Thursday 21st February in the Hall at 7:30pm. Some of the topics addressed will be Hometasks and our Student Engagement Policy – with particular information about our use of Restorative Practices.
2013 SAFER INTERNET DAY

On Tuesday our Yr 3 – 6 children attended an online learning presentation conducted by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) in partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. We joined with over 20,000 children in this learning activity!

2013 SAFER Internet day theme is: ‘Online rights & responsibilities – Connect with Respect’

Presentation focussed on:
- Keeping passwords safe
- Dealing with cyberbullying
- Privacy settings for photos and websites
- Protecting yourself from scams
- Dealing with inappropriate content
- Securing your mobile phone & devices

PARKING

I am requesting that parent refrain from parking on Ferntree Gully road between the school and Leroux street as it makes exiting the driveway onto Ferntree Gully road more difficult as visibility is reduced. I would encourage families to consider parking a short distance from the school and walking to and from school to collect the children.

DATES

February
- Monday 4th ‘I Can Dance’ incursion
- Thursday 7th Whole School Mass – 9am
  Family Fish’n’Chip night
- Monday 11th Parent chat
- Tuesday 12th Parent chat
- Wednesday 13th Ash Wednesday
- Thursday 14th Education Board
- Sunday 17th 1st Sunday of Lent
- Thursday 21st Parent Information evening
- Sunday 24th Yr3 Reconciliation commitment Mass
- Wednesday 27th Parent Association AGM

With Best Wishes

Tom Coghlan
PRINCIPAL

PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 23rd February 2011
8.00pm
in the Parish Hall

ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.
COME ALONG AND VOTE FOR THE 2011 COMMITTEE.
A GREAT WAY TO MEET OTHER PARENTS AND BE A PART OF YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

SCHOOL BANKING

School Commonwealth Bank day is Tuesday. Please have bank books in at the office first thing Tuesday morning.

MCNAMARA TENNIS

Enrol now for tennis lessons at Holy Redeemer Primary School.
WHO: All age groups and standards/MLC hotshots for beginners 10 years and under.
WHEN: Before school and Saturday mornings.
Mums tennis program mid week AM
Private lessons by arrangement for children and adults
WHERE: Holy Redeemer tennis club
PHONE: David McNamara (Tennis Australia Club Professional) HOME: 9803 5754
MOBILE: 0413 058 876

Spacers and Schools/Preschools: Reminder for Parents & Carers

Schools/preschools in Victoria have been informed by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria about new guidelines regarding the use of spacers for children with asthma. Spacers are essential equipment when following Asthma First Aid best practice, however schools/preschools will no longer be able to wash, sterilise and re-use spacers from their asthma emergency kits when assisting students with asthma symptoms.

Asthma first aid kits should only ever be used as a back-up for when a student does not have their own spacer available, if it is a first asthma attack or the cause of breathing difficulty is unknown. Some schools/preschools may implement a policy where parents/carers are responsible for the cost of the spacer if one must be used from the asthma emergency kit.

Even if your child has mild asthma, it is essential that their medication and spacer is always available to school/preschool staff. Please make sure your child always brings a spacer with them to school, or has one that stays at school.

For more information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or email schools@asthma.org.au
Social & Emotional Learning

What have we been doing in ‘O’ Week?

Sharing our paper bags to help us get to know each other

Making a friendship bracelet with our buddies

Writing a Code of Respect that helps us show and put into practice Respect for Self, Respect for Others and Respect for Community
What have we been doing in ‘O’ Week?

Prep, Year 1 & Year 2 incursion “Can Do.” The performance used story and dance to help the students understand the power of confidence and positive thinking.

Years 3,4,5 & 6 incursion “Bounce Right Back.” Again using story and dance the performance focused on the ingredients essential for achieving goals – Confidence Persistence Resilience CPR

Cybersafety online presentation for Years 3,4,5 & 6. 22,000 students across Australia took part.

We learnt about the history of our Reflective Garden and the many partnerships we shared to create it.
Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

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<th>Prep</th>
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<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
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<td>Instalment One</td>
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<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
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*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis. Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.
Dear Families,

Currently the Outside School Hours Care service provides an After School Care program, however we are looking at expanding this service to include a Before School program. We feel that a Before School Care program is an important service that would benefit you and the school community.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for a Before School Care program. If you are interested please contact Cherie on 0412 958 603 or the school office on 9569 – 8966 to register your details.

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<th>Parent / Guardian Name:</th>
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<td>Contact number:</td>
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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>Permanent</td>
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<td>Casual</td>
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Please note if you tick Permanent you will be charged for any absences on that day/s.

<table>
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<th>Child's Name</th>
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<td>Age</td>
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# 2013 – COMMITTEE NOMINATION

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<td>Pastoral Care</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>General Member</td>
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Please complete and return this form to the School office.

Name:__________________ Signature:________________ Date:__________

The 2013 Committee Nomination form should the office by Monday 22nd February although nominations will still be accepted (and voted upon) on the night of the Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 27th February 2013.

We are also looking for members for the Fete Committee

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- General Member