Dear Parents and Carers, February 25, 2016

The first weeks of school can be described as the establishment phase of the school year, when routines are established and expectations are modelled. The teachers have also been collecting detailed information about where students are in their learning in the areas of literacy and numeracy, the foundational blocks of all learning. The challenge now is for our school to meet all students at their point of need with learning opportunities that stretch and extend them in these areas.

The process of using this information to plan future action is both challenging and rewarding and it requires careful thought and planning. **On Wednesday 9th March,** staff will be engaged in planning their learning programs for the first half of the year, with this aim in mind. This will be a pupil free day.

**Birthday wishes to all these children who celebrated their birthday this week:** Ewan 1B, Summer 1B, Brendon 2B, Antonio 2S, Kaysia 4D, Monet 3T, Krish 1R, Srinidhi 5G, Mariam 4C, Harry 2S, Selina 4A, Alex 3T, Olivia 3A, Ruth 6V, Faith 6L. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

**Prep & Year 6 Better Buddies Night:** Better Buddies, an initiative of The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, helps students entering their first year of primary school to feel safe, valued and connected to the school community. The school pairs new primary school students with an older buddy. The Better Buddies program is designed to help reduce bullying and create friendly and caring school environments. The Framework builds strong relationships and research shows children benefit immensely - with younger students feeling safe and cared for, and older students feeling valued and respected.
So with this in mind our year prep and year six families gathered last night and shared a meal some dancing and lots of conversation a great recipe for building and strengthening our school community. Plus all the preps received a ‘better buddy’ bear.

Thank you to our year prep and year 6 teachers who organised the evening and all the families who attended.

**Our School Advisory Council:** Our School Council aims to represent the aspirations of parents in our school community. They work closely with myself, the school principal, to improve the physical needs of the school, and most importantly to support the faith development, learning and wellbeing of all students. The Council also aims to build links between parents, community groups and the school. Our first meeting for 2016 is scheduled for this **Monday 23rd February commencing at 7.00pm. All parents are eligible to attend the Council meetings.** Hoping to see you there on Monday evening.

**Parent Classroom Helpers Program:** Thank you to the parents who attended the programs offered this week. Anne Croughan presented the program to the groups and also talked about the benefits of being involved with your child’s schooling. Research indicates children, who have parents that support and take an active interest in the school, produce better results. Looking forward to seeing extra helpers supporting our school programs.

**Parish Staff Day:** Each year the staff from the three Parish Primary Schools- Our Lady’s, Good Samaritan and Mother Teresa attend a one day conference organised by Fr George. Our conference is next Friday (4th March), and we are exploring the Church’s celebration of the Holy Year of Mercy, a time of grace, peace, conversion and joy. Guest speakers and a range of workshops have been arranged for the day supporting the catholic ministry of our teachers in our Parish Schools.

Have a great weekend,

Paul McEntee
Principal
Hello everybody, we hope that you are having a lovely week so far. Last night’s Buddies Picnic was a blast!! Even the parents and teachers got into it. We give the dancing 10/10. Hope you all have a great week!!

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Friday 4th March**
  - Student Free Day – Parish Conference Day
  - Senior Mass 9:15am
- **Wednesday 9th March**
  - Curriculum Day – Student Free Day
- **Monday 14th March**
  - Labour Day Public Holiday
  - School Photos
  - Last day of Term
  - Term 2 Commences
- **Monday 25th April**
  - Anzac Day Public Holiday
  - Year 6 campers off to Camp Rumbug
  - Year 6 campers return
- **Friday 18th March**
  - Prep 2017 Information Evening 7:00pm
  - Prep 2017 Information Morning 9:30am
- **Monday 11th April**
  - NAPLAN Testing Week
  - Year 5 campers off to overnight camp at Sovereign Hill
  - Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
  - Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:00pm
  - Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:00pm
- **Monday 18th April**
  - Year 4 campers off to overnight camp at Lyrebird Park
  - Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:00pm
  - Year 4 campers return
- **Tuesday 26th April**
  - Our Lady’s Feast Day
- **Monday 23rd May**
  - Grand Final Public Holiday
  - Parish Fete
  - Parish Fete

**Please note newly added calendar date**

**PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL**

We have received a complaint from a neighbour in DORKING COURT. Our parents are parking illegally outside the resident’s homes and blocking their driveways. Some cars are even parking facing the wrong way.

Please consider our neighbours – there is plenty of parking across the road at the tennis courts and also at the leisure centre.

Also parents who park on the grassed area outside the front of the school in Craigieburn Road are PARKING ILLEGALLY. We have been advised by Hume Council that you will be booked. Please refrain from parking on the nature strip.
School Masses:

This term we won’t have a class mass each week.

Below are the dates for the class and whole school masses
- Feb 25th: Year 3 & 4 Level mass
- March 8th: Year 5 & 6 Level mass

All families welcome to attend these masses.

Important Sacrament Dates for 2016:

Please take note of 2 important dates in the coming week:

1. Sign-up weekend – weekend of February 27th or February 28th
   Students and families attend one of the weekend Parish masses and hand in a special card to register for the Sacrament.

   **MASS Times**
   - Saturday 6:30 PM: Our Lady’s Craigieburn
   - Sunday 8:00 AM: Our Lady’s Craigieburn
   - 9:30 AM: Good Samaritan, Roxburgh Park
   - 11:00 AM: Our Lady’s Craigieburn
   - 6:00 PM: Good Samaritan, Roxburgh Park

2. Parent Child workshop evening – March 1st (Year 3A & 3V)
   OR March 2nd (Year 3T & 3H)
   Our Lady’s parents and students to attend ONE of these evenings. Our Lady’s Church at 7.00pm.

   Second Rite of Reconciliation - March 15th (Year 3A & 3V) or March 16th (Year 3A & 3V)
   Our Lady’s Church at 7.00pm
   Students and families of children attend and the children make their First Reconciliation. There will be 2 grades on each evening, so you will only be attending ONE of these dates.

First Eucharist

Sign-up weekend – April 30th or May 1st
Students and families attend one of the weekend Parish masses and hand in a special card to register for the Sacrament.

Presentation weekend – May 21st or May 22nd
Students and families attend one of the weekend Parish masses and receive their medal and mass book

Parent Child workshop evening – May 17th OR May 18th
Our Lady’s parents and students to attend ONE of these evenings. Our Lady’s School at 7.00pm.

First Eucharist masses – June 5th
Either 12.30pm OR 2.30pm Students will be celebrating their First Eucharist in Our Lady’s Church at ONE of these times.
Confirmation
Sign-up weekend – July 30th OR July 31st
Students and families attend one of the weekend Parish masses and hand in a special card to register for the Sacrament.

Parent Child workshop evening – August 3rd
Our Lady’s parents and students to attend. Our Lady’s School at 7.00pm.

Presentation weekend – August 20th OR August 21st
Students and families attend one of the weekend Parish masses and receive their medal.

Confirmation mass – August 28th at 3pm
3.00pm
Students will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation at Kolbe Catholic College Hall.

Project Compassion
Students are learning in their classrooms about how CARITAS is helping around our world.

Here are some of the stories your children have been learning about:

Dominic – Papua New Guinea
Dominic (36) lives with his wife and four children in the Jiwaka Province of Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Generational poverty has led to many challenges in Dominic’s community in Papua New Guinea, including gender inequality, alcohol abuse and violence. Since receiving training in the Caritas Australia supported Community Conversations program, Dominic has learnt communication and problem solving skills to lead his community towards a more peaceful, prosperous future.

Evangeline - Australia
First Australian Evangeline lives in a remote community that faces many ongoing challenges. She had a limited vision for her future until three years ago, when she started working at the Djilpin Arts Ghanman Culture Centre, a community-owned venture supported by Caritas Australia. Today Evangeline is flourishing, with new skills and a passion for the preservation and promotion of her Aboriginal culture.

SO FAR WE HAVE RAISED OVER $500 !

So please keep encouraging your children to donate so that CARITAS can continue helping those in our world who really need some positive change in their lives.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps 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. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is 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 is:
- $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

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
School Community

School, families and community working together to improve students learning outcomes

Parent Helpers Course: Thank you to the parents who attended either of the two courses over the last week. It was great to see the enthusiasm for supporting our students in their learning. A reminder to all parents who have previously completed the course, the 2016 Code of Conduct forms are available at the office and must be filled in before you can assist in the classroom this year.

Is gardening your passion? Any parent interested in working with a group of students in developing and nurturing the Year 6 vegie garden please contact Mrs Croughan via the school office.
Student Wellbeing @ Our Lady’s
...Providing a safe and supportive learning environment

Playground Awards

When children are playing on the yard all teachers have been very keen to catch children who are following our school expectations. The following children are this week’s winners:

Be **SAFE** – Massimo 2K
Be **RESPONSIBLE** – Luke 1R
Be **RESPECTFUL** – Ricardo 2K

**Grinners are Winners**

Congratulations to all the children who received awards this week.
This week’s winning class is 2S.
A perfect score this week.
Great work!

**Grinners are WINNERS**

**CANTEEN**

**Roster:**
Friday 26th February
Jane 9:00 – 10:30am
Kersty 12:30 – 2:15pm
Nicole 12:30 – 2:15 pm

Monday 29th February
Jane 9:00 – 2:15pm

Wednesday 2nd March
Nicole 9:00 – 10:30am
Sanaa 9:00am
Leanne 12:30 – 2:15pm

Thursday 3rd March
Mary 9:00 – 10:30am
Liza 12:30 – 2:15pm
Rana 12:30 – 2:15pm

If you are unable to help on your rostered day, please advise the office or Maryanne in the canteen so that we can organise someone to cover.
KOLBE UNIFORM FOR SALE:
Size 14 shorts $15
Size 12 shorts $15
Size 12 pants $25
80cm Blazer $70
All items in good condition. Please call Dalia on 0401 010 724