Dear Parents,

Year of Mercy

In this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is calling on each of us to become a living sign of compassionate love.

The world we live in is sorely in need of compassion, love and mercy. We witness daily in the media, incredible violence, revenge and cruelty. It can all be very overwhelming, we can all give in to the thought what can we do!

The year of Mercy can be a circuit breaker. We may not be able to stop all the suffering and injustice but we can make a difference. Mercy starts with the individual, it starts with each of us.

Each of us has been asked to become the bearers of God’s love to our world. That love knows no limits. God’s mercy is available to everyone.

Sometimes we want to make judgements about who is eligible for God’s love and who is not, who should be forgiven and who should not. That’s not up to us. God is in everyone’s life, even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else. We need to ensure that everyone we come in contact with feels ‘welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged.’

We are asked to go out of our comfort zone to welcome the stranger, to show love where it is most needed, to be less critical and judgemental and to go out of our way to give encouragement and support to others in some way. (Excerpts taken from Along the Track by Jim Quillinan)

Social networking – iPads

Parents are reminded of their responsibility in ensuring the appropriate and safe use of iPads at home. Socialising Online through social network sites, chat rooms and blogs need to be monitored and children need to learn how to navigate these spaces safely and appropriately.

Pitfalls that come with online socializing are sharing too much information or posting comments, photos, or videos that can damage a reputation or hurt someone’s feelings.

- Remind your children that Online actions have consequences
- Tell them to limit what they share about themselves
- Encourage Online manners
- Limit access to your child’s profiles
- Talk to your children about what they are doing online.

The school will support parents in ensuring appropriate usage. Any child found to be misusing the iPad will have the iPad confiscated, to be left at school so that it can continue to be used as a learning tool. The children in grades 3-6 will soon be bringing home a note regarding responsible usage of iPads at our school which parents and students are asked to sign.

Have a wonderful fortnight,
Lidia Goodwin
Before School Supervision
Starts at 8.30am
Children should not be at school before 8.30am in the morning. Only early bus arrivals and children with siblings catching the bus to Marist Sion should be here any earlier. A teacher is on yard duty from 8.30am until 8.55am when school starts. Thank you for your cooperation.

Emergency Management and Mobile Phone App
Thank you to all families who downloaded our school App to ensure our emergency plans at St Joseph’s run smoothly. Our app is currently being updated and a new version should be available in the next week or two. The update should rectify any notification issues that some people have been experiencing. Please update the app when it is available and check that your phone settings allow notifications from the app to ensure that you receive important notifications from the school. If you have any issues or questions please contact us.

LIBRARY BORROWING
8.45 -9.00am
The library is open every morning from 8.45 – 9.00am if children wish to borrow books. We have an enthusiastic group of grade 6 leaders trained and ready to help children borrow books for reading.

Athletics Carnival
Monday 29th February
9.00 – 12.30pm
Thank you for your fantastic support. We look forward to a wonderful morning at the athletics track. Ms. O’Connell has allocated tasks and has sent home how you can help to all those parents who indicated that they are able to support our athletics carnival. Just a reminder that buses will leave promptly at 9.00am so please make sure your children are at school on time.

School Photo’s – Monday 7th March
(9.00am SHARP)
Dress requirements: Full Summer Uniform
No sports uniform to be worn
- School Logo on all polo tops
- Green socks for Girls
- Grey socks for Boys
Individual photo envelopes will be sent home this week and we encourage you to read instructions on the back of the envelope carefully. The school does NOT handle any photo monies, it is to be paid directly to the photographer. Please ensure you have the correct money on the day.

Photo please pick one up an extra envelope at the school office.

Do not send envelopes to School prior to Photo Day. If you want a Family

WINTER UNIFORM ORDERS
With the current hot weather it seems incredible that we are talking about warm winter clothing. However, before we know it Term 2 and the winter weather will be upon us. Orders for winter uniform need to be placed by Tuesday 15th March as orders can take up to four weeks to arrive. Order forms are available in the office or can be downloaded from our website.

www.trafalgar.catholic.edu.au
A bulk order will be sent off before the end of term; please note late orders will incur a freight charge

Art Smocks
All children need to bring an art smock to school to protect school clothing in art classes. The art smocks can be bought or can be old shirts, t-shirts etc. Please name the art smock as they will be left in classrooms and used when needed.

Book Club Orders
Scholastic Book Club Issue 2 will be sent home today. There is now only one book club brochure for all age levels and they will be distributed to the eldest student in the family. Orders are due back Friday 11 March, 2016.
Purpose, Role and primary task of the 
Parent’s and Friends.

a) To promote the interest of the school by invoking a community spirit at St. Joseph’s School.
b) To provide a welcoming environment and an opportunity for people to meet and socialise.
c) To assist in providing resources, teaching aids and recreational equipment.
d) To cooperate with other associations with similar objectives.

Functions/goals

a) Demonstrating loyalty and promoting the school within the wider community
b) Fundraising for the needs of the school
c) Supporting St. Joseph’s in practical ways such as providing volunteers for special days as organised by the school.
d) Coordinating the running of the uniform shop.
e) Welcoming of new families into the school community

Our school has always had a **great community spirit, with the P & F strongly supporting the many activities and events the school provides throughout the year.** Activities such as the Disco, Father’s Day breakfast, Grandparent’s day, End of year BBQ are just some of the events that the P & F is involved in running and supporting. To make sure these wonderful events continue, please come along to our P & F AGM and think about how you might be able to contribute. **Meetings are always very relaxed and friendly and everyone’s input is appreciated.**

**Meetings can take place either day or night, we will cater for what suits best for our parents.** Our school looks forward to your support of P&F in 2016.
# Dates For Your Diary

## Term One
### February
- **29<sup>th</sup> Mon**  Athletic Carnival (9.00 – 12.pm)

### March
- **1<sup>st</sup> Tues**  Family workshop –reconciliation
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Weds**  Prep rest day
- **5<sup>th</sup> Sat**  Family Portraits - fundraiser
- **7<sup>th</sup> Mon**  School photos (no assembly)
- **8<sup>th</sup> Tues**  P & F AGM (7.00pm)
- **14<sup>th</sup> Mon**  Labor Day Public Holiday (No school)
- **15<sup>th</sup> Tues**  Sacrament of Reconciliation
- **18<sup>th</sup> Fri**  School Closure (no school)
- **24<sup>th</sup> Thurs**  Easter Assembly & End of term

---

## School Closure

**Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> March**

The staff will be attending a PD day at Warragul on this day so there will be no school for the children on this day.

---

## ‘St Joseph’s Veggie Garden’...

We have beautiful vegetable planter boxes ‘ready for renewal’. If you are a keen gardener and would like to assist in this project we would love to hear from you. Please contact our office to express your interest.

### Subway

Subway is now weekly and you can download the order forms directly from our school website or pick up from school office. Delivery occurs Fridays with orders **returned Wednesday morning 9am sharp**.

Please note: **envelopes will NOT be provided** to complete your Subway order and late orders will not be received.

## Electronic Communication

At St Joseph's we pride ourselves on being an environmentally friendly school. A huge thank you goes to those families who have contacted our office to update email addresses and receive school communications solely in electronic format.

---

## Marist-Sion College Warragul

All Grade Six students are warmly invited to the Marist-Sion Year 7, 2017 Information Event that will be held Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 4.15pm to 7.00pm in the College Hall.

---

## Student of the Week

Congratulations to the following students:

- Alex Jacob – Grade Prep / One
- Charlie Donald – Grade One /Two
- Sienna Paul – Grade Two / Three
- Whole Class – Grade Three / Four
- Josh Pinch – Grade Five / Six

And the Principals award goes to Lachlan O’Brien and Seth Upston for being responsible helpers.