Dear Families,

**Reflection**

*Muggeridge Through The Microphone (1967)*

**End of Term**
Classes conclude at 3.20pm on Friday 16th December.

**End of Year Mass**
We are celebrating the end of the 2016 school year with a whole school Mass this Friday 16th December. The Mass will commence at 9.30am in St Joseph’s Church. Parents are very welcome to attend. This will be the student’s final day.

**Grade Six Graduation**
Our Grade Six graduation Mass and Dinner is being held TOMORROW night Wednesday 14th December, commencing with Mass at 6.00pm at St. Joseph’s Church. Following the Mass, families will gather for dinner in our school hall.

**Final Assembly**
Our final assembly for 2016 will be held on Thursday 15th December at 2:50pm.
With our year almost at a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank all children, teachers and parents for the wonderful year our school community has had. We indeed should thank God for the many brilliant events and activities that our children have been involved in throughout the year. There have been times of joy and sadness, times that have provided success and times where we have had challenges and frustrations. Each of us needs to use these experiences to help us grow and become stronger people. Through each experience we come to deepen our relationship with God and recognise the presence of God in everyday situations and in our Church.

Christmas time of course is a very special time for each one of us in our Christian experience. Religion is not just about our reaching to God and God reaching out to us, particularly in this time of the coming of Jesus. It is a reminder that we are called to make Christmas real, that we are called to bring to reality the message of that original Christmas where Jesus was born in Bethlehem. It is during Christmas we endeavour to come to terms with the wonder of it all, with the innocence, joy, love, the sense of community, and generosity. It may be a simple and very familiar story but it requires us to move beyond the materialism of Christmas, to recognise and make a leap of faith!

To our children I congratulate each child for their year at St Joseph’s. You have made very good progress with your school work, and have all tried to be the best you can be. You can be very proud of your efforts and we hope that 2017 will be a wonderful year for all of you.

I sincerely thank all of our staff for their continued hard work and dedication throughout the school year. Their efforts and commitment are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank the School Committee and Parents’ Auxiliary for their tireless work on behalf of all of us.

May the blessings of God be upon all over this wonderful time of the year.

Family BBQ 2017

Next year our family BBQ will be held on Thursday evening, 16th February starting at 6.00pm. All families and children are warmly invited to this BBQ to meet other families and teachers for the beginning of the 2017 year. This will be another way to commence the school year meeting new families, new teachers and catching up with others. It will also be a wonderful opportunity for the children to gather together at part of the community of St Joseph’s. If a BBQ doesn’t suit you, then please bring your own tea. BYO drinks, seats etc.

Hope to see all families there on Thursday 16th February 2017 at 6.00pm.

Order forms will be sent home in the first week of school next year.

School Reports

End of year reports will be issued this Friday 16th December. When you receive your child’s report take time to go through it with them. It can be an anxious times for parents and students. Your reaction to your child’s school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people. When you open the school report do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths rather than focus purely on areas that need improving. Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning.

If the report indicates that effort is below standard then you and your child or young person have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort then you can’t ask any more than that regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of how your child is progressing as an individual in a social setting. The skills of independence and cooperation are highly rated by employers these days so don’t dismiss these as unimportant. Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about their strengths first before looking at areas needing improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns. After reports are read and discussed celebrate your children’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.
School Fees 2017
After a review of our fee structure for 2016 and discussion with the School Committee we will need to make small increases to our fees for 2017. We are mindful of varying family circumstances but need to take into account the rising costs of services, materials and Government funding shortfalls.
Over the past few years it has been necessary to increase the school fees. This is always necessary so that the school can keep up with the ongoing running costs of the school and the increases to materials and services. Coupled with this is the school’s ongoing commitment to service our loans.
At a system level, we are required to ensure that our school fees keep pace with the real cost of education today and that we are operating within our financial means. As a comparison against like Catholic schools across Victoria, our school fees (Recurrent and Capital) sit close to the bottom third of what like schools charge for fees. In reality our fees are quite reasonable when compared to Catholic schools across Victoria.
After discussions with, and endorsement by, the Catholic Education Office Sale, Fr Slater and the School Committee we need to raise our school fees for 2017 in line with the educational CPI. This will equate to $15.25 per term per family or $1.50 per week per family. This increase will be spread across the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance/working bee levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Levy Per Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade P-4 Excursion Levy Per Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr 5-6 Excursion/Sport levy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that school fees are compulsory for all families. We encourage families who may find the payment difficult to come and discuss the issue with us. Failure to pay fees, and/or communicate with us, may result in the matter been taken to outside agencies.
This of course is the last resort for us and the least desired outcome for both parties.
A letter detailing the fee structure and payment guidelines will be issued to all families at the beginning of 2017.

Commencement of 2017 School Year - Student Testing
Formal classes commence on Thursday 2nd February, 2017.
Student testing will take place before this, commencing on Tuesday 31st January and Wednesday 1st February.
Letters explaining the online booking procedure were emailed home last week, the letter is also posted on our school website and a hard/paper copy is available from the Office. Please don’t forget to book your testing session on either of these days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday January 30th</td>
<td>Teachers commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday January 31st</td>
<td>Student testing day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday February 1st</td>
<td>Student testing day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday February 2nd</td>
<td>All students commence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Christmas Blessings,

Paul Mulqueen
Principal
Religious Education & Parish News

Weekend Mass Times For The Parishes of Warragul & Drouin:
- Warragul: Saturday 7pm & Sunday 9am
- Drouin: Sunday 10.30am
- Neerim Sth: Saturday 5.30pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>FRIDAY MASS/LITURGY</th>
<th>DISPLAY</th>
<th>MONDAY ASSEMBLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>16th December</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WHOLE SCHOOL MASS AT CHURCH END OF YEAR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children's Liturgy For Term 4:
Sunday 18th December
(10:30am Mass – Drouin)

RCIA
- If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith you can contact: Fr. Peter or Joan Robertson at the Parish Office: 56231642 or Deacon Mark on 0407748646.

Reconciliation Before Christmas
- As well as regular times there is to be a communal service for Reconciliation at St. Ita’s Church on Tuesday December 20th at 7.30pm.

Christmas Masses
- Saturday December 24:
  - 7.00pm Marist Sion Hall (6.30pm Carols)
  - 9.00pm St. Joseph’s Church
- Sunday December 25:
  - 9.00am St. Ignatius Church Neerim South
  - 9.00am St. Joseph’s Church Warragul
  - 10.30am St. Ita’s Church Drouin

Dear Families of St. Joseph's,

You are invited to join the Catholic Church communities of St. Joseph’s, Warragul and St. Ita’s, Drouin incorporating St. Ignatius Neerim South to our Children’s Mass on Christmas Eve.

Where: Marist-Sion Secondary College. 165 Burke Street, Warragul
When: Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24th, 2016.
Time: 7pm (carol singing from 6.30pm)
Any Queries please contact Parish Office on 56231642
Children are invited to dress up:
Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Wise Men, Angels etc
**Christmas Present Appeal**

Our Christmas appeal is well under way and I would like to thank those families who have already contributed with gifts or food. For those of you who haven’t yet had a chance to collect a gift tag from our tree located in the administration area, there is still time!

The small gift cards, with the gender and age of a child, are hanging from the tree just waiting for families to collect. It would be great if you could involve your children in the buying of the gift, asking them what they think would be a fun and age appropriate. Return your wrapped present, with the tag attached, to the basket under the tree. All of the presents will be delivered to St Vinnies in Warragul in time to reach families in our local area for Christmas.

As an alternative your family may like to donate a non-perishable food item. This food will be added to Christmas hampers which are being prepared for vulnerable families in our local community.

Every time our school community collects food items or raises money for, and awareness of, those in society who are less fortunate than ourselves, we strive for the common good. Jesus taught that God asks each of us what we are doing to help the poor and needy: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). By working together on Social Justice projects we are striving to improve the wellbeing of all.

---

**Awards Term 4, Week 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>Principal Award</th>
<th>Class Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Wans</td>
<td>Xavier Borthwick</td>
<td>James Haley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One/Two Barry</td>
<td>Milly Malady</td>
<td>Cooper Pritchett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One/Two Hawes</td>
<td>Seth Winterton</td>
<td>Natalya Cruwys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One/Two Thompson</td>
<td>Perry Coghlan</td>
<td>Sam Richards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three/Four Dodman</td>
<td>Lenra Ongachen</td>
<td>Cameron Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three/Four Maunder</td>
<td>Zali Miron</td>
<td>Abbey Dicker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three/Four Shannon</td>
<td>Caprice Wells</td>
<td>Ava Vilcins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five/Six Baker</td>
<td>Molly Schuurmans</td>
<td>Mackye Rietmueller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five/Six Clancy</td>
<td>Hamish Dastey</td>
<td>Jorja Cardillo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five/Six Farina</td>
<td>Huon Coghlan</td>
<td>Kira Spencer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Congratulations to Ella Dunn**

Ella Dunn (Grade 5/6B) has been awarded a prize for being one of the Top Ten entries in the Catholic Education Office annual Christmas card competition. There were over 2,400 entries from 28 schools, and the theme this year was:

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn”.

(Luke 2: 7-8)
Sports News - Melia Silver

Grade 3-6 Swimming Sports
Sports News - Melia Silver

School Triathlon

[Images of school children participating in a triathlon, including participants running, cycling, and swimming.]
Bakers Delight at Coles Centrepoint Dough Raiser Program
Simply mention St Joseph’s Primary school at the Bakers Delight near Coles, Williams Square in Warragul and they will give 5% of sales back to our school. Fresh bread tastes even better when you know it’s helping raise money for our school.

Warragul Cinema Tickets
Warragul Cinema vouchers/tickets available for $13.00 from the school office.

St Joseph’s Primary School Parents and Friends
Welcome
Morning Tea
Thursday 2nd February 2017
after assembly in our School Hall
Everyone welcome
Tissues provided

School Canteen Day
A very successful School Canteen Day was held on Thursday. Special thanks to the families once again, for their donations of goods the; Malady, Patterson, Jinks, Dunsmuir and Parker family (Valley Small Goods). An amount of $1,214.70 was raised for the Height family ‘My Cause’ fundraising campaign. If you would like to donate direct to their fundraising cause, please go to https://www.mycause.com.au/page/141781/bring-big-matt-home

Wellbeing - Michael Tomkins

I’m Bored! What Can I Do?
Everyone experiences boredom from time to time, and it is no fun. School holidays can mean being at home for long periods of time while parents or friends are at work. Have a think about what your children might be able to do differently to keep themselves entertained during the holidays?

Some things that can help:
• Community events, youth programs and activities – Have a look online or in the newspaper for events in the local area.
• Creativity – Pursue some particular interests in a more focused way. Set some goals or create projects.
• Volunteering – Support others by volunteering to help out somewhere.
• Helping out – Help out where needed and learn new skills, have responsibilities and hopefully be valued and appreciated.
• Working – Earn some money to pass time if there are jobs in your local area.
• Socializing – Spend time with friends or family. This might seem like an obvious one but it’s easy to take those close to us for granted. Have you spent much time recently doing something fun with your mum or dad, or another family member or friend?

Merry Christmas to everyone and may it be a calm and happy time for all.
**Upcoming Term 4 Dates**

**WEEK 11**
- **Wednesday 14th December** - Grade 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner at 6.00pm
- **Thursday 15th December** - Final Assembly for 2016 at 2.50pm
- **Friday 16th December** - End of Year Mass at Church at 9.30am, Grade 6 Day Out

**Final day for students 3.20pm**

**2017 Dates**

- **Monday 30th January** - Teachers Return
- **Tuesday 31st January & Wednesday 1st February** - Testing Days for Students (letters emailed home last week)
- **Thursday 2nd February** - School Starts, School Assembly and Welcome Morning Tea
- **Wednesday 8th, 15th & 22nd February** - No School for Preps
- **Thursday 16th February** - Family BBQ at 6.00pm

**Library News - Barb Bird**

**Library Returns**
Books are starting to come back in but unfortunately not fast enough. Please keep looking for misplaced items and return as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have already returned all their books.

**Holiday Reading**
Continue to share stories together as a family over the holidays. Create your own stories and make your own books. Introduce your children to the local library if you haven’t already done so. Why not visit a variety of libraries. Free activities usually take place in libraries and are sure to engage your children. You can easily spend a free hour or two in the library. Dig up your favourite childhood reads and share them with your children. The Op Shop won’t break the budget either and could provide you with many holiday books to read.

**Library Monitors**
Last week our monitors enjoyed a party lunch and watched the movie “Storm Boy”. We thank them for all their help and enthusiasm this year.

**Lost Property**
Please check the lost property pile in the office before the end of term. We have a number of jumpers “not named” or not “clearly named” but obviously belonging to someone. We also have drink bottles, containers and towels. Could we please ask that you clearly name your child’s clothing so if it is misplaced around the school it can be returned to the appropriate owner. *Thanking you.*