Dear Families,

**My Christmas List**

I have a list of people I know, all written in a book. And every year at Christmas time, I go and take a look. And that is when I realize that these names are a part... Not of the book they’re written in, but of my very heart. For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime, And in that meeting they’ve become the rhythm in each rhyme. And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim, I really feel that I’m composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link Just meeting you have changed my life, and a lot more than you think. For once I’ve met somebody, the years cannot erase The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face. So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine Of names on a Christmas list, forgotten in between. For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you, It’s because you are on the list of those I am indebted to. For I am the total of the many I have met And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget. And whether I have known you for many years or few, In some way you have been a part in shaping things I do. And every year when Christmas comes, I realize anew The best gift life can offer is meeting those like you. And may the spirit of Christmas that forever endures, Leave the richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours.

With our year coming to an end at the conclusion of tomorrow, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all children, teachers and parents for the wonderful year we have had, and hope that 2016 will again be an exciting and productive year. We thank God for all that has been in our year and we pray for all families during this Christmas season. We also say a sad farewell to the families who will be leaving our school. Many have had a long association with St Joseph’s and we dearly thank them for their contribution to our school and wish them well for whatever the future may hold.

**Fr Hengel**

Fr Herman Hengel, on or around his 75th birthday, in June 2016 will relinquish his role as parish Priest of Warragul-Drouin. He will move to lesser duties. Rev Peter Slater VG, will become Parish Priest Warragul-Drouin effective when Fr Hengel’s officially resigns his position. Rev Peter Slater will still continue in his role as Vicar General for the Diocese of Sale. We acknowledge Fr Hengel’s excellent work in the Parish of Warragul-Drouin of the past few years. There will be time for us to appropriately acknowledge Fr Hengel’s contribution to our school and Parish.

Finally I wish all families a Holy and safe Christmas. May the time of Christmas be a time for peace, forgiveness and love. May all families share this time together and remember those that may not be as fortunate as our selves. May the blessings of God be upon all over this wonderful time of the year.

Christmas blessings, Paul Mulqueen

**Beginning Of Year BBQ**

We have scheduled our family BBQ to open our school year, at a similar time to last year. This event will take place on Tuesday 9th February. Please put this date in your calendar now. Order forms will be sent home in the first week of school next year.
Graduating & Leaving Families
As with every year we must farewell some families who will no longer have children attending St Joseph’s. We would like to acknowledge these families, who have contributed many years of dedication and commitment to the education and faith of their family members. They have played an important role in making our school what it is today, we wish them every blessing and we thank them for all they have done. The Akers, Balfour, Bethune, Calabro, Campbell, Cole, Debnam, Earles, Fennell, Gibbons, Goodwin, Gorman, Heywood, Ives, Alissa Johnson, Jodie Johnson, Horsburgh, Kimber, Kleeven, Leenheers, Loveday, Lowe, Mulqueen, Nathan, Notman, Pecoraro, Perry, Phillips, Rigg, Sceney, Sheehan, Shelton, Simmie, Van Oss and Xenos families all have graduating Grade 6 children.
We must also farewell the Nash, Klason & Reardon families and wish them the best of luck in all that they do.

Leadership Positions For 2016

School Captains
Hope Ridsdale & Aeden Rothmeier

Vice Captains
Evelyn Armstrong & Bryce Joyce

House Captains
Therese
Ruby Pritchett, Lauren Kovac, Flynn Bethune & Lucas Kelliher
Luke
Meg Van Rossum, Lydia Magyar, Alex Mirkovic & Nick Roberts
Mary
Harrison Kent, Nic James, Bridget Halligan & Kira Spencer
John
Bernie Sheehan, Kallis Keady, Eleanor Mills & Zara Tauru

Leadership Team
Maddie Schellekens, Rhianna Somerville, Jasmine & Emily Hart, Alyssa Cruwys, Paige Smith, Jarrod Meggetto, Maddie Best, Alex Brice & Seth Giammona

Graduation Thanks
Thank you to our Grade 5 families that helped out with our Graduation Dinner last Thursday night. We had a band of helpers working in the kitchen and lots of lovely desserts also provided by Grade 5 families.

Christmas Card Design Competition
Congratulations to Caleb McKenna who won “Best School Entry” in this year’s Christmas Card Design Competition run by the Catholic Education Office. Well done Caleb, a great effort with over 2200 entries being received.

A Reminder About Starting Dates For The 2016 School Year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 27th</td>
<td>Teachers commence</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28th</td>
<td>Student testing day</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 29th</td>
<td>Student testing day</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1st</td>
<td>All students commence</td>
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Managing Holiday Emotions

The most magical time of the year can also bring a mixed bag of emotions and behaviour. Managing strong feelings can be tricky for children at any time, but the holidays can be especially exciting/joyful/frustrating! Helping kids talk through intense feelings can help improve behaviour and even reduce conflict……..

“Let’s go, let’s go. Come on Dad!”

This is the family outing that everyone in the family has been waiting for. Seven-year-old Voula has been up since dawn jumping around excitedly. When Voula gets wound up it can be difficult to keep things under control.

She doesn’t seem to understand that her baby brother doesn’t like her jumping around and poking at him, or that her Dad is a bit slower in the mornings and needs his space. You don’t want to dampen her enthusiasm, but you’d like her to be able to express it in ways that are less annoying to others!

Children’s feelings are often intense. They can be quickly taken over by feelings of excitement, frustration, fear or joy.

When feelings take over children’s behaviour, they can find it difficult to manage without adult support. This is why learning how to recognise and manage feelings is a very important part of children’s social and emotional development.

Understanding that all sorts of feelings are normal, that they can be named, and that there are ways of handling them are the first things children need to learn about feelings. Understanding that feelings affect behaviour, and being able to recognise how this happens are important steps for learning to manage feelings.

1. Notice feelings
Before we can learn how to control feelings, we first have to notice them. You can help your children notice feelings by noticing them yourself and giving them labels: happy, sad, excited, frustrated, angry, embarrassed, surprised, etc. Giving feelings names helps to make them more manageable for children.

Learning to pay attention to how they are feeling helps children understand that they can have emotions without being controlled by them.

2. Talk about everyday feelings
Talking with children about what it’s like when you’re angry, sad, nervous or excited helps them find ways to express feelings without having to act them out through negative behaviours. Children learn these skills best when they hear adults and peers using words to express feelings and when they are encouraged to use words like this too.

Learning to name feelings helps children find ways to express them without having to act them out.

3. Create space for talking about difficult feelings
Help children to separate a feeling from a difficult reaction by helping them name it. Being able to say or think, “I am feeling angry,” means that children don’t have to act really angry before anyone takes notice. It allows them to choose how they will respond. The same idea works with other difficult feelings like nervousness or fear.

Learning to cope with feelings helps children manage their behaviour at school and at home. It helps them learn better, relate to others better and feel better about themselves.
**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>NO MASS</td>
<td>Grade 1/2 Barry</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 Kennedy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children’s Liturgy Dates**
*For Term 4, 2015*
Sunday 20th December, 10.30am Drouin

**Reconciliation 2016**

Our Reconciliation program begins early first term. The program will begin with an Information session on **Thursday 4th February, at 7.00pm in the Marian Room**.

It is expected that at least one parent from each family attend this session.
For more information ring Liz on 5623 1642 or email lschellekens@dcsi.net.au

Below are all the dates for the program:

- **Parent Information Evening – Thursday 4th February, 7.00pm**
  (Drouin Wednesday 3rd, February 7.00pm St. Ita’s Church)

- **Commitment/Enrolment Mass** - either Saturday 6th February, 7pm or Sunday 7th February, 9.00am  (Drouin Sunday 7th & 14th, 10.30am)

- **Parent Meeting – Thursday 18th February, 7.00pm**
  (Drouin Wednesday 17th, 7.00pm St. Ita’s Church)

- **Parent/child Workshop 1 – Thursday 3rd March, 4pm or 7pm**
  (Drouin Wednesday 2nd March, 7pm, St Ita’s Hall)

- **Parent/child Workshop 2 – Thursday 10th March, 4pm or 7pm**
  (Drouin Wednesday 9th March, 7pm St Ita’s Hall)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION – Thursday 17th March, 7pm**
**Parents & Friends Rosters & News**

**Parents and Friends Christmas Appeal**
This year the P&F Auxiliary have decided to support the School’s Christmas Present Appeal instead of running their Christmas Raffle.
As there is no requirement to purchase tickets or make donations to the raffle, P&F is encouraging families to support the Appeal by donating a wrapped present to the Christmas tree or donate non-perishable food items.
Thank you P&F Executive

**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.

**School Support Roster**
14th December Lisa Heggart, Erin Nash, Vanessa Hughes
Thanks again for your generosity, Naomi Simpson, 0438 558 152

On behalf of the St Joseph’s school community I would like to thank all the families who generously volunteered to be part of the School Support roster by providing meals for the school freezer throughout the year.
Your generosity and support has been appreciated by the recipients of these meals as well as the St Josephs community as a whole. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and safe New Year.
Kind Regards, Naomi Simpson

**There Will Be No Icy Poles Tomorrow**

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

**Library Books**
Thank you to all families who have responded to our emails and overdue notices. We still have a large number of books yet to be returned. Please spend time over the holidays looking for lost take home reading books and library books and put them in the return box next year. We encourage all families to spend time reading over the holidays. It is the perfect time to tackle a series of books or to revisit old favourites. If you are planning a long car trip, try listening to an audio book together. There are many great libraries to visit over the break. There are usually free activities run in libraries over the summer holidays. They are worth a visit! Enjoy your holiday reading!

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**Library News - Barb Bird**
**Christmas Present Appeal**
Our School Community, in conjunction with St Vinnie's, is holding a Christmas Appeal. There is a Christmas tree set up in the Administration area. Decorating this tree are small gift cards with the gender and age of a child on it. Please select a card from the tree and buy an appropriate present. The other card you will find attached is for your family to write a short Christmas message, if you would like. Please return your wrapped present, with the tags attached, to the basket under the tree.

If you would prefer to donate non-perishable food items please feel free. They may be placed in the provided hamper too.

All of the presents will be delivered to St Vinnies in Warragul in time to reach families in our local area for Christmas. 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 to improve the wellbeing of people in our society and the wider world we are answering Jesus’ call.

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**Awards Term 4, Week - 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Principal Award</th>
<th>Class Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Wans</td>
<td>Troy Sibson</td>
<td>Nash Olsson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Rhodes</td>
<td>Molly Clark</td>
<td>Henry Allsop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One/Two Jeffers</td>
<td>Jessica Wilsms</td>
<td>Liam Reardon</td>
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<tr>
<td>One/Two Barry</td>
<td>Daniel Christian</td>
<td>Bethany Reeves</td>
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<tr>
<td>One/Two Fechner</td>
<td>Mikaela Reeves</td>
<td>Ava Vilcins</td>
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<tr>
<td>One/Two Ford</td>
<td>Harry Hodge</td>
<td>Maggie Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>One/Two Kennedy</td>
<td>Matthew Armstrong</td>
<td>Archie Dunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three/Four Dodman</td>
<td>Zali Miron</td>
<td>Ellie O’Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three/Four Kennedy</td>
<td>Rebekah Schreyer</td>
<td>Harry Titmarsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three/Four Moritz</td>
<td>Tess Talbot</td>
<td>Zizi Pozzebon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four/Five Thompson</td>
<td>Hope Ridsdale</td>
<td>Molly Schuurmans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five/Six Stanley/Shelton</td>
<td>Lucy Codling</td>
<td>Tahlia Kleeven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five/Six Clancy</td>
<td>Olivia Sheehan</td>
<td>Owen Reardon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five/Six Inchincoli/Tomkins</td>
<td>Ella Clancy</td>
<td>Jena Van Oss</td>
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</table>
Yesterday 3/4 Kennedy went over to Marist Sion and did some woodwork with Mr Coghlan. We made a planter box and we put tomatoes and basil in it. It was really fun! Charli

Our class went to woodwork at Marist. We got to make a planter box and put plants in it. It was great fun. Alix

We went to Marist. With pieces of wood we made a planter box. Mr Coghlan showed us how to do it. We got to plant a tomato plant and basil in it. I felt good because I made a great wooden planter box. Tom

Yesterday we went over to Marist to make a planter box. My dad helped us in the woodwork room and he showed us how to do it. Everyone liked it. It was the best! Huon
**Notice Board Items**

**School Footy Jumpers**
Please return all school footy jumpers to Mr. Thompson ASAP. We have a large number still outstanding. If they are not returned a fee will be incurred by the relevant families to replace them.

**Lost Property**
Once again, we have an ever increasing number of items in lost property, ranging from jumpers to drink bottles, lunchboxes and non-uniform items of clothing. If you are missing any items please visit the office and have a look. Thanking you.

**Family Day Care Available**
Experienced children’s nurse and mother will be offering family day care for children 0-5 years in 2016, providing a loving home environment with excellent indoor/outdoor facilities and flexible hours. For enquiries phone Jenn Baker at 0430 131 445.

**Lost**
Green Marist Hat lost at swimming sports last week belonging to “Sarah Ridgway”. It is clearly named and should be returned to the office if found. Thanking you.

**Grade 6 Graduation Dinner**

![Grade 6 Graduation Dinner](image_url)
On Wednesday the 9th of December the teachers and grade 6 students held the junior swimming carnival. Due to the pool closure this year we had a water based tabloid sports on our oval. Students from grades prep-two participated in the day dressed in their house colours. The afternoon was filled with fun activities like throwing water balloons, throwing sponges in the bucket and magnetic fishing. Everyone had a fantastic day. A big thank you to Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Silver for organising the event and all the house captains who did a great job running the activities.

By Phoebe