Dear Families,

**ADVENT**

Last Sunday, the Church season of Advent commenced. During this special season of Advent, we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. It is a time of Reflection on how we can ‘give’ ourselves to others and prepare for the birth of Christ is a special time for each one of us.

But what is Advent?

Advent signifies a time of new beginnings. It is the season of the impossible becoming possible. The word Advent is from the Latin adventus for ‘coming’ and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Advent always contains four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, (November 30) and continuing until December 24.

Since the 900s Advent has been considered the beginning of the Church year. This does not mean that Advent is the most important time of the year. Easter has always had this honor.

In the scriptures we read of the dry, barren wilderness bursting into bloom; of broken hearts healing; of a barren woman and a young virgin both conceiving children. It is the season of longing and light. The traditional color of Advent is purple or violet. Week by week, candles are lit on the Advent wreath signifying our longing for the light of Christ, as the time of his birth draws near.

Yet Advent heralds more than Christ’s birth. It paves our way toward celebrating Christ as God-with-us, God in human flesh. This is a profound mystery at the heart of our faith, and it is the cause of our joy at Christmas.

*Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God.*

--George F. McDougall

**PRINCIPAL:** Paul Mulqueen  
**PHONE:** 5623 2943  
**EMAIL:** principal@stjwarragul.catholic.edu.au  
**WEBSITE:** stjwarragul.catholic.edu.au

**SAINT JOSEPH’S SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

- Mark Dunsmuir 0417 475 961
- Margot Baker 0402 475 149
- Luke Patterson 0439 311 569
- Kate Wenig 0407 884 558
- Bernard Miron 0427 581 930
- Mandy Moore 0400 000 336
- Moyli Jamieson 0418 286 963
Concert
Our school concert last week was a wonderful event for our children, staff and families. The children certainly excelled in their performances and had an enjoyable time. I would like to sincerely thank all of the children for their efforts: hard work and effort brings reward!
Thank you to all staff for their work and time in preparing classes for their items. In particular, thank you to Michael Tomkins and Tania Stanley for producing and directing our concert!
Finally thank you to all families for your tremendous support over the two nights. The children and staff certainly appreciated your attendance and support!
A great two nights for everyone!

Combined School Committee & Parents and Friends Dinner
School Committee, P&F members and event helpers are invited to our end of year dinner to be held at the Courthouse (upstairs room) this Thursday 1st December, 6:30pm.
Cost for the meal is $15 a head. Drinks to be purchased at own cost.
Partners of members are cordially invited as well. If you intend to come to the dinner, could you please let Melissa Patterson know (0414826046) or mel.patterson@hiotmail.com ASAP.

End of Year, End of Year Mass
We are celebrating the end of the 2016 school year with a whole school Mass on 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. Dismissal is 3:20pm. Reports will also be issued on this day.

Grade six Graduation
Our Grade Six graduation Mass and Dinner is being held on 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. This year, grade five families will not be required to supply dessert or clean up on the night. Our caterers will facilitate both dessert and removal of cutlery/crockery at the end of the night.

iPad Information Night
Families with children in year two are invited to an iPad information night this Wednesday 30th November. As children commence year 3, they will begin to embrace more fully the use of IT as a tool to support their learning.
Each child in year 3 will be required to use an iPad as part of their learning environment through to the end of year six. The Information sessions will be on tomorrow, the 30th November at 4.00pm or 6:30pm in the school library.

Orientation Day
Orientation Day for the children new to prep in 2017 will take place Tuesday 6th December. The children in grades 1 to 6 will also move to their classes for the forth coming year as part of the transition process. This will be the day they will find out their teachers for 2017.
The development of class lists has been extensive by teachers, with many facets to consider. Whilst we have tried to accommodate and meet needs, there may be some cases where not all requests could be meet. I trust that parents understand the complexities in this process, and appreciate that changes to classes after Orientation Day cannot be accommodated!

Used Furniture
The school currently has a collection of furniture items/bits and pieces that are free to a good home. If you are interested please contact the school office for further information!

Assembly
There will be a brief assembly this Friday morning at 9.00am, to announce our student school leaders for 2017. Immediately following this brief assembly the Grade 1&2 classes will celebrate Mass with Fr Peter.

Warmest regards,
Paul Mulqueen
Principal
Weekend Mass Times for the Parishes of Warragul & Drouin:
Warragul: Saturday 7pm & Sunday 9am
Drouin: Sunday 10.30am
Neerim Sth: Saturday 5.30pm

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Children’s Liturgy for Term 4:
Sunday 4th December (10:30am Mass – Drouin)
Sunday 11th December (9:00am Mass – Warragul)
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.

Advent Programme: Hope And Expectation
This year we are presenting an Advent Programme from Perth. It is being offered in our Parishes as part of preparation for Christmas.
Monday’s 7.30pm St. Ita’s Meeting Room and repeated again on Thursday’s 1.30pm Marian Room. If anyone is interested in joining these reflection groups you can contact: Joan or Prue at Parish Office 56231642 or Barbara Durand: 56251430. All parishioners are invited and most welcome.

Christmas Preparation
This coming Wednesday evening (Nov 30th) 7.30pm – 9.00pm Marian Room at St. Joseph’s Church Warragul. Dominic Ryan will present a session on the ‘Infancy Narratives’. With Christmas fast approaching it is wonderful opportunity for us all to prepare for Christmas. All parishioners are welcome and invited. Supper will be provided.
**Library News - Barb Bird**

**Book Club**
Thank you for all the support for Book Club this year. The last orders for the year have now arrived. Many new resources have been added to our school library from the bonus points received each issue. We thank everyone for getting behind this activity and nurturing a love of reading. We look forward to your support again next year.

**Library Books**
It is now time to ensure all library books are returned so that everyone has a clear borrowing record to start next year. Overdue letters and slips have already been sent home and children are being reminded each day. Perhaps some children might need prompting to look under their beds or clean out their bookshelves at home in order to locate the missing items before the end of the week. Take home readers will continue until the end of next week.

**Library Monitor Activity Afternoon**
This year some students from Grades 4-6 have volunteered their time on a regular basis to assist our school as library monitors. Their jobs have included picking up library trolleys, assisting with their returns, sorting the take home books, delivering book club, helping during lunch time library etc.

On December 8th, they will be having a special lunch, followed by a film afternoon. Permission slips need to be returned by this coming Thursday to ensure we cater appropriately. Unfortunately this is the same day as the canteen day, so please remember not to place a canteen order.

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**What’s Happening In & Around Classrooms**

**Christmas Present Appeal**
Our School Community, in conjunction with St Vinnie’s, is holding a Christmas Appeal.

Commencing later this week there will be a Christmas tree set up in the Administration area. Decorating this tree will be small gift cards with the gender and age of a child on it. Please select a card from the tree and buy a suitable present. 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. Please 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 we are highlighting an awareness of those in society who are less fortunate than ourselves and are striving 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.
**School Concert – Australia**

Thank you very much to all of the families and students for their concert attendance. The children performed brilliantly both nights. The raised stage made a difference so people could see. The costumes and dancing were great. Thanks must go to the class teachers for their creativity and willingness to work with their students. The students must be thanked for their efforts in singing and dancing – something which some students find out of their comfort zone. A very big thanks must go to staff who came and helped on one night or both nights in many cases just to help out. Finally, thank you to the cast and back stage crew who gave up their lunchtimes each week to rehearse and were rewarded with great performances. The back stage crew created the presentation of images to enhance the performance so well done to them for their hard work.

*2016 Concert Committee*

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**Wellbeing - Michael Tomkins**

**Gospel Value – Patience**

The Gospel value of patience is to have the capacity to accept or tolerate a delay, a problem or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious. The perfect example of patience to us as Catholics, is the season of Advent – we are waiting patiently for the joyful birth of Jesus. We wait for our birthday or a special event. We even wait for dinner. Waiting can make what we have been waiting for even more special.

**Student Wellbeing – Understanding needs**

Making a connection with all students in our class is extremely important. Communication between teacher and students is vital to having a relationship that works and benefits both student and teacher. If a student is able to communicate with their teacher about their task or an issue they may have, it is natural to want to assist the student. Sometimes it may be homework or a work task, other times it may be a playground or friend issue. When we have students who can identify their needs and know how to meet their needs in learning, children can truly accept responsibility for their own learning.
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.

Cake Raffle Roster – Friday at Assembly 50 Cents
Please remember no nuts when baking and to provide a list of ingredients with the cake. The cake is required at School by 2.00pm on a Friday afternoon so raffle tickets can be sold prior to assembly. Thanking you, Meg Height 0438 514027 or admin@thesummit.net.au.

Friday 2nd December  Leanne Dunsmuir
Friday 9th December  Silvia Pongracic
Friday 16th December  Paula Gowans  (END OF TERM)

St Joe’s Playgroup
Every Monday morning at 9.30am or straight after morning assembly in the school library. All Welcome

School Canteen Day
Thursday 8th December, 2016  (Orders Due By Monday 5th December)
We are offering two options for each child:

Option 1: A hot dog, juice box and bag of potato chips  $5.00
Option 2: A chicken burger, juice box and bag of potato chips  $5.00
Order forms were emailed home last week, and is also included in this newsletter. A hard copy will also be coming home shortly to ensure you don’t miss out on this treat!

Walkathon Money
Reminder that money from the walkathon, needs to be returned to school ASAP to be eligible for prizes. Winners will be announced at assembly on Friday 2nd December.
Thank you for your support.

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

Warragul Cinema Tickets
Warragul Cinema vouchers/tickets available for $13.00 from the school office.
Upcoming Term 4 Dates

WEEK 9
Tuesday 29th November - Prep Information Night (6.00pm)
Wednesday 30th November - Ipad Information Sessions
(Grade 3 in 2017, 4.00pm OR 6.30pm in School Library)
Thursday 1st December - Fairview Christmas Party
Combined School Committee & Parents and Friends Dinner
(6.30pm at the Courthouse)

WEEK 10
Tuesday 6th December - Orientation Day (9.30am-11.00am)
Wednesday 7th December - Prep - Grade 2 Swimming Sports
(Warragul Leisure Centre - 12.00noon - 2.30pm)
Thursday 8th December - School Canteen Day (order form included)
Library Monitor Afternoon
Friday 9th December - Grade 3-6 Swimming Sports
(Drouin Outdoor Pool - 10.00am start at Drouin)

WEEK 11
Tuesday 13th December - Triathlon (Grades 3-6)
Wednesday 14th December - Grade 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner 6.00pm
Friday 16th December - End of Year Mass 9.30am,
Final day for students 3.20pm

Monday 30th January - Teachers Return
Tuesday 31st January & Wednesday 1st February
Testing Days for Students (letters will be sent home shortly)
Thursday 2nd February - School Starts,
Assembly and Welcome Morning Tea
Wednesday 8th, 15th & 22nd February - No School for Preps

2017 Dates

Reminder – 2016 Grade 5 Parents
Commemorative Polo T-Shirt
We are still waiting on 17 Grade 5 families to order a Commemorative Polo for Grade 6 next year. The cost of the polo is $40. The polos will be specially printed with the St. Joseph’s logo on the front and all the Grade 6 student’s names on the back. As the polos are made to order, full payment of $40 will need to be received when ordering your child’s commemorative polo. Orders are to be handed to the office in a clearly labelled envelope.

LIMITED SAMPLE SIZES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE FOR SIZING
It is very important to check the samples as the commemorative polos are a smaller fit than the normal St. Joseph’s school polos.
Due to the requirements of the printing process, it is imperative that all orders, with full payment, by THIS FRIDAY 2nd December 2016.
School Canteen Day
Thursday 8th December, 2016
(Orders Must Be In By Monday 5th December To Ensure You Don’t Miss Out On This Treat)

We are offering two options for each child:

Option 1: A hot dog, juice box and bag of potato chips $5.00
Option 2: A chicken burger, juice box and bag of potato chips $5.00

Orders For School Canteen Day on Thursday 8th December

Please circle the option you would prefer and place your order and money in a sealed envelope to make sure no-one misses out.

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