Dear Families,

Autumn is now with us and while the heat of summer is still in the air we will soon see the signs of this new season. One of the reasons I love Melbourne is because of our changing seasons and the diversity that it brings to our lives. The seasons are also a sign of the creative power of God in our world. As we witness the changing colours in our parks and gardens and feel the crunch of the autumn leaves on the ground let us thank God for our beautiful world.

Our recently conducted Family Information Nights were very well attended. Research tells us that student learning is improved when home and school work in partnership. Coming along to these nights sends a very positive message to your children about the importance of education and of their life at St. John Vianney’s. Thank you for your support of these nights.

**SCHOOL REVIEW**

All Catholic primary and secondary schools are reviewed every 4 years as part of our School Improvement Framework. St John Vianney’s is being reviewed this year. In undertaking the review we will be reflecting on the following five questions:

1. How are we going?
2. How do we know?
3. What would we like to achieve now and in the future?
4. What do we have to do to achieve these outcomes?
5. How will we know whether we have achieved what we want?

Staff will be addressing these questions this Friday at our staff seminar. As part of the review students and parent groups will have a chance to meet with the external reviewer and share their thoughts about the school. These focus groups will be held in Term 2. I will keep you updated about the review through the newsletter.

**SCHOOL HOURS**

A reminder to all parents that students need to be collected by 3:30PM. At the moment we have up to 10 to 15 students every day not being collected by that time. If this continues they will be booked into After Care so that they are properly supervised.

**NEWS FROM THE P&F**

- The first P&F meeting was held recently and it was lovely to see some new faces. The dates for the P&F program have been set and can be viewed on the Community Calendar.
- Donations of Easter Eggs for the Easter Raffle are being gratefully accepted. If you are able to help the Raffle please send along your donations to the school.
- The first of our Sizzle Wizzle lunches was held this week. Well done to Miranda, Cristina and Alisha for their organisation of this event and to all their helpers. It was great to have so many helpers.

It has been great seeing the students playing on the new basketball court. The purchase and installation of the new basketball towers was funded by the funds raised last year by the P & F. Well done everyone!!
THANKYOU
- Parents who have volunteered to help out on the P&F this year.
- Prep parents who attended the Prep Information Night.
- Year 6 student leaders for making such a good start to the year.

Yours sincerely,

Autumn is a second spring
Where every leaf is a flower.

Simon Fitzpatrick
PRINCIPAL

Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd March</td>
<td>Preps not at school—Last Wednesday Preps stay home</td>
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<td><strong>2.30pm—3.30pm Uniform Shop Open</strong></td>
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<td>Thursday 3rd March</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY: Staff planning for the School Review</td>
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<td>Friday 4th March</td>
<td><strong>2.45pm - Whole School Assembly</strong></td>
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<td>Preps at School Full Time.</td>
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<td><strong>Confirmation Enrolments Open.</strong></td>
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<td>Monday 7th March</td>
<td>International Women’s Day</td>
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<td>Parish Education Board 6.30PM—8PM</td>
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<td>Tuesday 8th March</td>
<td>Year 5 &amp; 6 Summer Round Robin</td>
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<td>Thursday 10th March</td>
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<td>Friday 11th March</td>
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<td>Sunday 13th March</td>
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<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td><strong>LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY—NO SCHOOL</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday 15th March</td>
<td><strong>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION—6PM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2.30pm—3.30pm Uniform Shop Open</strong></td>
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<td>Thursday 17th March</td>
<td><strong>ST PATRICK’S DAY</strong></td>
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<td>Friday 18th March</td>
<td><strong>TWILIGHT SPORTS—1.30pm to 5pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd March</td>
<td>Katrina Madunic</td>
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<td>Thursday 3rd March</td>
<td>Aurie Monterio-Sua</td>
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<td>Friday 4th March</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY</td>
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<td>Monday 7th March</td>
<td>Patrizia Spada</td>
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<td>Tuesday 8th March</td>
<td>Anna Nahas</td>
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<td>Thursday 10th March</td>
<td>Rosie Karipidis</td>
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<td>Josie Di Domenico</td>
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<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15th March</td>
<td>Michelle Dang</td>
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TERM 1 SPECIAL
OLAF ICE-CREAM
NOW SELLING
FOR 50c
R.E. News

Reconciliation

All the Reconciliation candidates are well prepared and ready to receive the sacrament now. The parents and the children have completed the preparation night. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on Tuesday 15th March at 6:00p.m in the church. This year we will have the first rite of reconciliation which will be celebrated between the candidate and the priest. It involves individual confession and absolution of sins. If you are one of the parents who did not attend the Parent Information Session please speak to your child’s classroom teacher or myself.

Confirmation

Again just a gentle reminder please be aware that enrolments for the Sacrament of Confirmation open on the 7th of March. If your child is Catholic, baptised and you want them to make their Confirmation, please get an enrolment form from their classroom teacher or Miss Mitchell and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

Harmony day

We will celebrate Harmony day on Monday the 21st of March with a liturgy at 10:00 am followed by a whole school morning tea on the oval. Please look out for the note that will come home on the 7th of March.

Mini Vinnie

The Mini Vinnies group will now meet on Fridays beginning 11th March.

God Bless

Mrs. Dawn Heldt

Religious Education Leader
This Weekends Gospel.
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about.

“Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”
‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’

Making sense of the Gospel

For Jews, pigs are ritually unclean, so that living in a pig sty would make this young man unapproachable.

So, imagine the reaction of his Jewish audience when Jesus told the story of the father running to his son and embracing him still stinking of the pig sty, exclaiming, ‘You were lost and now you are found.’

That is Jesus’ portrayal of his heavenly Father’s relationship with us.

Of course, sometimes we are the older brother, resentful that someone seems to have had too easy a time of God’s forgiveness. Is this the attitude of many who challenge the emphasis by Pope Francis on Mercy as the core of God’s relationship with us?

More often, we are like the younger brother who has strayed to a far off place, sometimes quite deliberately.

We could resolve to approach the Sacrament of Mercy during Lent, knowing that our heavenly Father will run towards us, embracing us, exclaiming, ‘You were lost but now you are found.’ That is worth a celebration!

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Who has seen real pigs? What are they like?

The boy who left home and spent all his money ended up looking after pigs and wishing he could eat as well as they ate. How sad must he have been?

How did his father show he loved his son when he returned home?

When we return to God because we are sorry how does God treat us?
I was lost but now I am found

Just like the father in the story of the prodigal son, God loves us unconditionally and He forgives us for the wrong things that we do. Draw a picture of yourself with someone whom you love unconditionally.

Can you help the prodigal son find his way back to his father?
2016 ICT Action Team

The SJV ICT Action Team is back up and running!

Congratulations to this year’s members.

**Action Team Members**

Gavin Pan  
Dylan Fitzgerald  
Jordan Farias  
Kristine Hong  
Angel Truong  
Angus Cassidy  
Andy Mai  
Amy Ho

This year the ICT Action Team will be:

- Supporting their peers
- Being cyber safe role models
- Creating videos and animations
- Creating displays for around the school
- Develop their skills and knowledge
- Monitor and maintain devices
- Organising activities
PUPIL FREE DAY FRIDAY MARCH 4TH

6:30am – 6:30pm

Breakfast and Afternoon tea provided

Please bring;

*morning snack and lunch (no nuts please)

*wide brim hat, we provide sunscreen but you may bring your own

We will be having a jungle themed day to celebrate the coming holidays fun for Camp Australia’s Holiday Clubs

For Bookings please go to www.campaustralia.com.au and be sure to come and see the staff at our service BEFORE your child’s first attendance if you are new to us or have not yet updated your enrolment details with us this year.

It is very important that you provide us with full medical details and medications for any medical conditions, allergies etc. this includes a form signed by your child’s doctor.

HOLIDAY CLUBS

While we do not operate a Holiday Club at SJV you can go to www.campaustralia.com.au and use the holiday club finder to locate one near your home or work, whichever is more convenient for you.

Holiday clubs are loads of fun, great staff, awesome activities, whether club based, incursions or excursion there is something for everyone. Parminder and Tori both work on Holiday clubs often at various locations so if you have questions you’re very welcome to pop in to our OSHC service to chat about it.

You can check out our posters around the school as well.

Stay tuned for more news and staff profiles next fortnight, or come in and meet us and see what makes our oshc family so special

visit www.campaustralia.com.au
S.J.O. Green and Brown Thumbs Garden Club will hold its High Tea on

SUNDAY 20th MARCH
1.30 PM – 4.30 PM • $15 PER PERSON

• spot prizes • door prizes • musical entertainment

• Hat Competition: Prizes will be awarded for:
  “Weirdest Hat”
  “Hat of the Day”
  “Best Floral Masterpiece”
  “Best Hat with Story”

For bookings please phone:
Sue Springfield 9546 0327
Alice Dobell 9561 2269
Margaret Smail 9561 7635 or msmail@hotmail.com

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Catholic Co-education at its best!

2017 APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR:
Years 7, 9 & 11 Scholarships and
Years 7, 8 & 9 Select Entry Laurel Program

Scholarships will be awarded to students in 2017 in the following categories:
1. Academic Excellence
2. General Excellence
3. Performing Arts

Applications close Friday 20 May 2016. Testing will be conducted on Saturday 28 May 2016.
Details are available on the Nazareth College website: www.nazareth.vic.edu.au
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EASTER HOLIDAYS
Check out our website for all available dates

Exciting and entertaining activities from 8am - 6pm daily!

Age Groups
3 & 4 years
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Summer Camp
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*All activities pictured may not occur at all venues. Check website for full details.

See other side for all venues!