Dear Families,

The final school letter for 2016!! Where has the year gone? In the fun and excitement of finishing off a school year it is important to stop, take a breath and reflect on the year that has passed. Our School Review in Term 2 provided us with the opportunity to look at how the school was going and to look forward to what we would like to achieve over the next 4 years. It is with confidence that I can say that our school is in a good space with opportunities to make our school even better. Thank you for your support of what we do in the school.

Tonight we gather to farewell our Year 6 students and some of our families whose connection with the school finishes tonight. I have been most impressed with our Year 6 students this year. They have been a friendly and committed group of students. I wish them all the best for their secondary education.

**STAFF NEWS**

As our year comes to a close I would like to recognise those teachers who will not be returning to St. John Vianney’s in 2017. Miss Griffin is moving to Queensland to continue her teaching. Miss Faella has been appointed to teach Year 6 at Christ the Holy Redeemer in East Oakleigh. Both are to be congratulated for their work here at St. John Vianney’s. They leave with our blessings and fond wishes. Joining us in 2017 will be Mr. Rudolf Lameijn (Year 5 teacher and Level Leader) and Mrs. Kristina Van Oosterum.(PE/Sport).

**SJV GIVING TREE**

Each year the SJV Giving Tree allows our school to support members of the community who are in need of acts of kindness and generosity at this time of year. Thank you to all families who have donated. Donations will close on Friday December 16th.

**SCHOOL DATES**

- Term 4 finishes this Friday December 16th at 3:15PM.
- The school office will close on Monday December 19th at 3:30PM.
- The first day of school in 2017 for Years 1-6 students will be Tuesday January 31st.
- The first day of school in 2017 for Preps will be Wednesday 1st Feb.

**NEWS FROM THE P&F**

Through all the activities and events planned by the P&F in 2016, and your support of these, the P&F raised $6,454.55. This is a fantastic result. These funds will be used to support the ongoing employment of a school counsellor and the building of a shelter/canopy along the back fence of the school. Well done everyone.
On behalf of the staff I would like to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a wonderful start to 2017.

Yours Sincerely,

Simon Fitzpatrick
PRINCIPAL

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**Guitar-Keyboard**

Enrolment for 2017

Child’s Name: ___________________ Age: ________

Parent’s Name: _________________ Phone Number: _________________

Instrument (please tick one or both): Keyboard ✡ Guitar ✡

Lesson duration will be 30 minutes for every two students, (after school). 9 lessons per term.

Tuition Fees - $160 per term

Please fill in details above and return to the office by ____________________

If you require further information please contact Mr. Pham on 9591 0597 or 0403 820 186
**R. E. News**

We are now in the third week of Advent and we have made the changes we need to make. We have prepared ourselves for the exciting moment of Christ’s coming. We can now become excited and celebrate that the time has nearly come. This week highlights the joy and happiness of the Christmas event.

It allows us to look forward to the coming of our important visitor. We have done what we have needed to do. We are prepared and now the anticipation and excitement overwhelms us. **Gaudete** is the Latin name for this week. It translates roughly to **Joy**.

**What do we know about the advent wreath?**

**Meaning of these symbols**

**Circle**: has no beginning or end – represents God’s life which is everlasting – his love for us has no end.

**Evergreen**: their ever-greenness reminds us of life, growth and hope.

**Candles**: Waiting for Jesus to come. **Purple** – time for preparation, time to recognize our need for Jesus. **Pink** – a sign of joy because we know that God loved us so much that he sent Jesus into the world.

**The colour purple** – represents hard work and that our giving to others will be hard work too. Each week a candle will be lit (1st week Hope-one purple candle, 2nd week Faith-two purple candles, 3rd week Joy-the pink candle, 4th week Peace-the last purple candle)

**Social Justice**

Thank you all so much for your support this year. Over the past twelve months our Social Justice support has been with Project Compassion, Caritas, Fair for Fairness, Shared Morning tea, Giving tree, Cold Comfort day, Giving Mass and Senior citizens lunch to name a few. The Parish and its branch of the St. Vincent de Paul society send a big THANKYOU for your support this year. Those in the community will benefit a great deal from your support at what is sometimes a very stressful time of the year. We wish all the volunteers and the families a very happy and holy Christmas.

**Christmas reflection**

**Jesus** He came not to a throne, but to a manger.

**He lived not as a king, but as a servant.**

**He chose not a kingdom, but a cross.**

**He gave not just a little, but everything.**

-Holley Gerth

May the spirit of Christmas fill your homes and your lives. Have a wonderful holiday break ready for a safe return in 2017.

Mrs. Dawn Heldt

Religious Education Leader.
This Weekend's Gospel.

Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Making sense of the Gospel

Joseph could not ignore Mary’s pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.

If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary’s pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.

You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God’s plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God’s plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.

We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Who do you know who is expecting a baby?

How are they preparing for the birth?

How are we preparing for the birth of Jesus?
He will be called Emmanuel

4th Sunday of Advent, Year A

Colour in the shapes with dots to reveal a special name.

Emmanuel

One night, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. What were some of the things the angel told Joseph?

Follow the branch that extends from King David to the birth of Jesus.
Summer Holiday Program
Monday 16 – Friday 20 January 2017

Still Only $75

Five day Intensive Program
One of the best lessons that you can give your child is the ability to Learn to Swim, Survive and Enjoy the Water. Our extensive Holiday Program will provide your children the best opportunity to learn in a safe and fun environment. This Holiday Program is also a great way to kick start swimming lessons for all levels, including beginners of all ages!

Places are limited, book early to avoid disappointment!

BOOK NOW 9560 4433

Term 1 2017
Monday January 23
- Sunday April 2

Swim for a full year and get a FREE Holiday Program

SwimWorld rewards you for your loyalty and commitment to ensure your child receives the best lesson in life; Learning to Swim, Survive and Forever Enjoy the Water.

SECURE YOUR PLACE CALL 9560 4433

When you book Term 1 2017 to Term 1 2018, you'll receive a FREE HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Weekly public speaking & drama program for children aged 6 - 15

Leading curriculum
✓ Small class sizes
✓ Great teachers
✓ Loads of fun!

ENROL NOW
Glen Iris, Chadstone, Ivanhoe East, Preston, Canterbury, Doncaster, Essendon, Rowville, Altona Meadows, & Glen Waverley

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As featured:
3AW 693 Award Winner

Herald Sun Kidspot Education Show

communication quick thinking expression
teamwork friendships confidence leadership persuasion vocal variety diction

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