Love to Learn, Learn to Love, Learn to Live, Love to Live

**Week 1**...... Welcome to our first newsletter for the year!

We hope students and their families had a wonderful relaxing Summer break. We welcome our existing families back and extend a warm welcome to all of our new families. We encourage all of our families to become very involved in their children’s education. Please keep communication channels open by making appointments, contacting the office by phone and the teachers by email. We are looking forward to a rewarding year ahead.

_God of all life and longing, as we gather for the beginning of a new school year we give thanks for this day and everything that has brought us here._

_We ask your blessing on our new students, families and members of staff, may they feel welcomed and invited to share their gifts and talents with us._

_We ask your blessing on all who are returning, may they feel renewed and ready for what this year will bring._

_Share with our whole school community the Holy Spirit that breathes your life into us and leaves us open to the ways of your wisdom, so that we may become the people you want us to be._

_May Jesus your Son be the teacher who guides our searching and the bread that nourishes our hunger._

_We make this prayer in his name._

_Amen._

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

School banking will take place each Thursday through the Commonwealth Bank. Students are to bring their deposit books in to school and put them in their classroom satchels. The deposit books will be returned to students that day. Information packs are available from our front office. You can apply online, call in to any Commonwealth Bank branch or phone them on 13 2221.

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**Upcoming Dates**

**Tuesday 9th February**
Shrove Tuesday

**Wednesday 10th February**
Ash Wednesday Mass
St Pius
Grade 1 – 6
9.30am

**Wednesday 17th February**
Opening School Mass
St Pius
10.00am

**Wednesday 17th February**
P & F Meeting
7.30pm

**Friday 4th March**
Dennington Dash
Save the date

**Monday 7th March**
School Sports
BrauerAnder Park

**Monday 14th March**
Labour Day Public Holiday

**Thursday 24th March**
End of Term
2.25pm

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**SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS**

The school office is open at the following times:
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 3.30pm
Phone: 5562 5362

E mail - principal@sjdennington.catholic.edu.au
Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another year of achievements!! We especially welcome our new Foundation students - Tyler Baetz, Stella Brown, Ashah Chapman, Laura Coxall, Gemma Dance, Elsie Finnigan, Kayla Foley, Fletcher Gillmartin, Indy Glover, Arlo Greene, Rafferty Harris, Ethan Harvey, Jacob Hose, Rebecca Huntly, Zane Lockland, Noah McInerney, David Nichols, Elly-May O’Grady, Mitchell O’Grady, Hannah Parkinson, Noah Phillips, Robbie Price, Charli Read, Robert Roney, Sophie Ryan, Evie Schrama, Gennavieve Serra, Molly Sheen, Tyler Shiel, Alexander Toogood, Lila Van Der Starre, Damon Warburton, Sarah Wright and Amalia Hatzimihelakis in the Grade 6 classroom.

This is a short term but a busy one so please check any dates and mark them on your calendars. There are a number of events coming up so we want you to be a part of all activities at school.

WOODFORD RACES
Thank you to all the wonderful helpers, especially the families of staff and Grandparents, who gave up their time to assist at the Woodford Races back in December. It was again a terrific day and the committee are keen to increase their donation to us proving that they value our efforts on the day. This is a fundraiser we cannot do without!

CONGRATULATIONS
We congratulate Margie Kenna who became Margie Smith during the holidays. We wish both Margie and Matt a lifetime of love, happiness and good health. We also congratulate Sarah Williamson and Corey McNaughton (Nash is in Grade 1) who were also married during the holidays. We congratulate Laura Barich and Callum Blunden, (Sarah in 5/6, Taylor in 2/3 and Lucas in F/1) on the arrival of Bilee during January.

PARKING
Please find attached a Pickup/Drop off sheet so that you are clear about the procedure we have operating. Basically the loop is for continuous traffic. Please don’t park in the continuous parks as this stops the flow of traffic. If you intend to come into the school for any amount of time you need to park in the carpark.

PARENTS IN THE SCHOOL
If you come into the school other than to drop off in the morning we ask that you please come via the office and sign in and then when leaving please exit from the office again. This is an important O H & S requirement as we need to know who is in the school for Emergency Management at all times.

MASS
Ash Wednesday Mass will be celebrated at St Pius next Wednesday 10th February at 9.30 am. All children in Grades 1-6 will attend. Our Opening School Mass will be held a week later on Wednesday 17th February at 10.00am at St Pius. We will present badges to our Leadership Team and so encourage as many families as possible to join us.

EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS
Today we ran a practice Emergency evacuation drill given the recent hoax calls that have been occurring. We will run several drills over the next week so the children are familiar with our Evacuation procedures. This unfortunate event is a timely reminder for all families to provide us with current mobile phone numbers and contact details and to have our Skoolbag App installed on your devices.

That's all from me this week,

Regards,

Kathy Dalton
The Year Of Mercy

This year has been proclaimed the “Holy Year of Mercy” by Pope Francis. It is a particularly poignant time to reflect on our lives and how we are all called to serve one another and show mercy to all. On the logo we see an image of Jesus carrying someone across His shoulders. It is obviously based around the parable of the Good Shepherd, God caring for all His flock and showing mercy to all who are ‘lost.’

But do you notice the melded face shares an eye? This shows us that Jesus models both the Servant and the Server. It challenges us to follow this example to show love, mercy and serve all others; as our Heavenly God shows love, mercy and serves us.

Mass

Ash Wednesday Mass will be held next Wednesday 10th February at St Pius Church. All welcome.

Opening of the School Year Mass will be held on Wednesday 17th February at St Pius church. All welcome.

Any children in Grade Three who are to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year will begin their preparation this term. A short parent information meeting for families is to be held at St Pius Church foyer on both the Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th of February at 7:00pm. Families can choose either night. The Sacrament itself is to be held on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st April at St Pius Church at 7:00pm. Again, families can choose either night.

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew
from being enslaved by money,
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests
his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.
Dear Jasmine,

My child is starting school this year. She is not used to being away from me and I’m worried about how she will separate from me.

From Tess

Dear Tess,

Starting school can be a big time of change for your child and family. Some ideas that may help include:

Talking positively about school.
Reassure her about when you will collect her.
Make a plan for after school, eg “When I pick you up we will go home and have a snack together and you can tell me all about your school day.”
Think of a positive fun goodbye routine together, eg a special goodbye hug, high five or special saying.
Avoid lengthy goodbyes as they may increase distress.
Some children may benefit from taking a special object or picture from home to school with them in their bag.
Take care of your own emotions (which of course can be challenging when your child is upset).

There are some great resources relating to starting school available on the Kids Matter website. The resources include video’s, information sheets and children’s activities www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/starting-school.

There are also some great books available to read with your child that may help, for example “The kissing hand” by Audrey Penn. www.youtube.com/watch videos=dPUW1t9Gu4s

Jasmine

Library

Our Library is bursting with books and we are all ready for classes to borrow. Here’s a reminder of when your child has their Library class:

Foundation/One: Tuesday
Grade 2: Monday
Grade 3/4 : Friday
Grade 5/6 : Thursday

Each student is able to borrow up to 3 books each week. Books are borrowed out for 2 weeks. However, books can be returned at any time into the book muncher at the front of the Library.

Please ensure books are returned on time as other children may be waiting to borrow this book. A great place to keep books is your child’s reader folder! Want an easy way to earn your Participation Points. Why not try book contacting for the Library. It’s easy! We have a large number of books each term that need to be contacted to be put into our school library. You can take a bag of books home or come and contact at school. If you are interested then please email Sarah Milroy. smilroy@sjdennington.catholic.edu.au

Book Club

Book Club is back up and running for 2016 and there’s exciting news. Scholastic Book Club have now consolidated all their catalogues into ONE easy to read catalogue! Which makes it much easier for families, each child in the school will still receive a catalogue each. The very easy LOOP system is back and ready for you to order online. Don’t forget we do not accept cash orders, if you have any trouble ordering online please contact Sarah Milroy. (smilroy@sjdennington.catholic.edu.au).

Thanks for supporting Scholastic Bookclubs, they help build our classroom’s resources.

Reading Recovery

Each year students in Grade 1 who are having difficulty learning to read and write are selected for Reading Recovery lessons. Reading Recovery enables children to become active and independent readers and writers and better able to join in the daily literacy activities of the classroom. Mrs Love, our Reading Recovery teacher has begun administering an Observation Survey of Early Literacy Achievement. She will then recommend children to join the program. Any parents wanting to know more about the program can contact Mrs Love. She has an information sheet you can read.
Financial Assistance

Families that hold a valid concession card are eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund payment (CSEF). A payment of $125 per student is paid directly to our school which will be deducted from your school fees. There is an information/application form attached to the newsletter. Please complete this form and drop it into the school office with a copy of your concession card by Friday 26th February.

The family fee assistance scheme will continue again this year. Family fee exceptions apply to families who hold a valid concession card. If you are eligible for the CSEF payment you will automatically receive this assistance. For further information please contact Gayle in the office.

Dennington Dash

In 2015 we held our first exciting and popular Dennington Dash! Due to the great success we aim to make this an annual event and this year the Dennington Dash will be held on Friday 4th March, again around St John’s school grounds. There will be a 3km run/walk and 6km run. Put the date into your calendar and spread the word.

Parents and Friends News

Our first meeting for the year is on Wednesday 17th February at 7:30pm. All families, existing or new are welcome to attend.

The P & F are responsible for fundraising for the school. Below is a list of fundraising activities to give new families an idea of what is in the planning for this year. Activities and dates are subject to change.

Term 1
Dennington Dash Fun Run
Easter Raffle

Term 2
Mother’s Day Stall
Pie Drive
South Warrnambool Footy Gate
Bunnings BBQ
Cadbury Chocolate Drive
Movie Night at the Capitol Cinema

Term 3
Movie Night/Disco for students
Family Portraits

Term 4
Shopping Trip
Carols by the Merri
Christmas Raffle
Woodford Races

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop is open every Friday morning from 8.45am - 9.15am or other times by appointment. Please call Kirsty Ryan on 0448 530 298 for all of your uniform requirements.

Business of the Week

Please support the following businesses that kindly support our school:
The Meat Barn
South West Credit Union
Cri-tech Plumbing
Serene Vista Halls Gap Accomodation
Blackmores Garden Service
Callaghan Motors
The Midfield Group
Nevcon Structural Steel
Warrnambool Motorcycle & Gardening Products

Happy Birthday

A BIG happy birthday to students who celebrated their birthday over the holidays!

This week we say “Happy Birthday” to Reilly Lumsden, Rafferty Harris, Pippa Grimshaw, Conner Prout and Lachie Barling.
SCHOOL DROP-OFFS AND PICK UPS EACH DAY.

- In the morning, drop off in the loop or park in the car park. The bus will arrive at 8.50 so please do not stop in the Bus Parking.
- Pickups in the afternoons at St John's are very busy. With this in mind I have put down a few instructions that we ask you to comply with please.
- Two buses pick up at 3.15 each day, so please leave the 3 parks at the entrance of the school- The Loop, free until the buses have moved off.
- Parks along the driveway are for queuing only. This means the pickup loop moves continually.
- There are 3 breaks in the railing in the loop where the children are allowed to get into cars. Teachers are always on duty and will assist and direct your child to the car.
- DO NOT leave your car and come into the school if you are in the loop, or the queuing parks, as it congests the traffic flow. If you intend to spend time in the school please park in the car park or park in Russell Street North of the crossing.
- If you park in the car park please collect your child and walk back with them. Children are not to walk across the busy car park without an adult.
- Always leave the car park by turning left around the loop.
- Please use the crossing if you are walking. Do Not cross Russell Street South of the school. We fought very hard to retain a supervised crossing and so request you to use it so that it does not put it's existence into jeopardy.
- Please obey all parking signage in Russell Street.
- If you come around 3.35 you will find most of the traffic dispersed.
- The safety of our children is paramount- please drive slowly and take care at all times.
- Above all please be Patient!! The traffic flow does move quickly and is generally gone by 3.40.

I hope this helps and answers any questions that any of our new families may have. If not I would be only too happy to sit down and explain it further.

Thanking you,

Regards,

Kathy.
CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;
  
a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Closing Date

Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February 2016, so that payments can be made from March 2016. However schools can accept parent applications up until 03 June 2016.

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.
CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb __________________________ State ______ Postcode ______

Contact number ______________________

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ - ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ - ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ OR

☐ Foster parent* OR ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

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<th>Student ID</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

• DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

• this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.

• I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

• if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

• information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and for State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant ______________________ Date / /
1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching

INVITATION

A Parenting program to create a more peaceful household, less arguing and fewer angry moments.

St. John’s Primary School, Dennington

Great Interaction between parents

1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching program is an easy to learn, easy to use, down to earth parenting program to help parents gently and firmly manage the behaviour of children in the 2-12 year old age range.

The program aims to help parents gain practical tips on how to get children to:

- stop doing the things that drive parents crazy like arguing, fighting, yelling etc.
- start to do things parents want children to do
- develop children’s emotional intelligence

1-2-3 Magic provides parents with strategies to sort between different types of behaviour and use less talk, less emotion which lessens both parent and child feelings of emotional stress and helps children to understand and better manage their emotions.

Date: February 15th, 22nd, 29th 2016 — 3 WEEK PROGRAM

Time: 6pm—8pm

Venue: St. John’s School, Dennington

Cost: Free ($6.50 Workbook)

Program Bookings required — phone Marea on 5559 3000.

Childcare is available contact the school — 5562 5362

Centacare
Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Inc.
ABN: 51857084361