EASTER—AN EXPERIENCE OF NEW LIFE!

Our exciting first term concluded with the gathering to celebrate the coming Jesus at Easter time. This theme of anticipation continued over the holidays as we awaited the hatching of our incubated chicken eggs!

Twenty one days after being placed in the incubator our eggs hatched on exactly the expected date. Our eager students and parent community welcomed our four baby chicks into the world having named them Stickybeek, Cluck’n and S.J. The fourth chick remains unnamed. The students can submit names this week to finalise his identity.

The chicks are doing well and are viewable in the Year Prep—6 Collaborative Space.

ANZAC FLAG CEREMONY - A SCHOOL PAUSE IN RESPECT.

Our school community gathered as one on Friday, 24th April to acknowledge the sacrifices all our service men and women have made on our behalf, particularly 100 years ago on the shores of what is now called Anzac Cove, on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey. The flag ceremony was well supported by our parents community with a number of grandparents also joining us.

Our school is due to be presented with its flags at an upcoming school assembly, where our local member Joanne Ryan will hand over the Australian, Indigenous and Torres Strait Island flags.

Our future plans are to conduct regular public ceremonies at the school entrance whereby parents and local residents are invited to join us in raising the flag and singing the national anthem.

When funds allow us, two more flag poles will be erected in this space to accommodate the three flags.

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE OPENING & BLESSING

The date of the official opening and blessing of stage one of our school building has now been finalised. The ceremony and blessing will be conducted by Arch Bishop Denise Hart commencing at 2pm on Friday, 5th June and should conclude ready for the dismissal of children at the end of the day. Many government delegates and Catholic Education Office personnel will be present. We ask all school families to reserve this date in their diaries and join us for what is a historic event in the development of our new school.

Later that night, the school will host a more informal celebration in the school building. The
WHOLE SCHOOL EXCURSION—A COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Having completed a very successful term one, we now set our new goals for Term 2. Using the small numbers of our school to our advantage, last Thursday the whole school took part in a school excursion to Lancefield, about an hours drive from Tarneit.

Our hosts, St Mary’s Catholic School, Lancefield were extremely welcoming and organised for us a farm animal experience for our students. The students were given the opportunity to interact with newly born calves, sheep and a working dog, as well as hold rabbits and turtles. They were also given a demonstration of polo cross and stock whip cracking.

The day was enjoyed by all, our students represented our school superbly and the experience has made the bonds between our students and teachers even stronger.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL

From Monday, 5th May during the week which leads up to Mother’s Day the school services volunteers group will be displaying the gifts available for purchase by students for Mothers Day.

Please be aware that students may buy 1 or 2 gifts, totalling no more than $5. The stall will be selling the gifts on Thursday, 7th May. If children could bring the money they need to purchase the gifts they have decide upon on the day.

Thank you to those parents who have offered their assistance in manning this stall.

TECHNOLOGY VOLUNTEERS GROUP—IPAD DEPLOYMENT

The contributions of some of our ICT volunteers group has meant that our school iPads are now ready for student use.

Beata Werner, Julie Jenkins and Scott Jenkins worked for about one and a half hours to unpack, configure and catalogue our ipads.

They also assembled the charging and syncing trolley which secures these devices.

Such tasks, although not overly complex, can be very costly to schools if they rely on technicians to complete them. In a new school where so many things need to be established the assistance of volunteers is vital. We thank all our volunteers for their time.

SCHOOL WINTER UNIFORM—SOME CLARIFYING POINTS

With the arrival of some cooler weather this term it was pleasing to see students arriving in their full winter uniform. Please be aware that the transition time for uniforms ends on May 1st.

Our school does not apologise for the high expectations it places on the wearing of our school uniform. St John the Apostle has already established a very highly regarded image amongst the community. The presentation of our students is one factor which has enabled this.

Having said this, there does seem to be some confusion over uniform expectation amongst the community. The points below should give some clarity to parents.

1. Under no circumstances can students wear long sleeved sweaters under their short sleeved school shirt or sports shirt. The school jacket has been included in the uniform if children feel the cold.

2. Students can only wear white T-Shirt under their uniform, bright T-Shirts showing under the school white shirt are not acceptable.

3. Runners are not permitted to be worn with the normal school uniform, they can only be worn on sports uniform days.

4. Policy Change: The school has reviewed it’s stance on the wearing of the navy sports jacket. This can now be worn with the normal school uniform, providing students are wearing the school jumper, vest or cardigan under it.

5. Girls may wear tights with the school normal winter uniform providing they are navy.

6. Plain navy track pants can be worn with the winter sports uniform, providing they have no stripes or badging and are a fleecy lined material.

Families unable to meet these expectation will be issued with a Uniform Notification Slip. This form must be completed and return to the school, communicating when the uniform breach will be remedied. The school will stamp and copy this form and return it to the child who should keep it with them so that they are treated fairly by staff over the temporary exemption period.

SCHOOL CARPARK—SUPPORT REQUIRED.

Our school carpark is small and does require patience on the part of those who elect to use it. To ensure the safety of students and toddlers and to improve the flow of traffic we ask if parents can be mindful of the following:

1. Please use the mark car spaces only. Do not park in front of the bin storage area or under the basketball goals.

2. We apologise for the marking of the drop off zone. This is an error! The drop zone is for morning drop off only and should not be used to collect children the end of the day. If you would like to stay in the car, we suggest you park outside the school and arrange with your children to walk and meet you at the car.

3. It is great to see use of the carpark pedestrian crossing increasing. We ask that parents leave their car and collect their child and return to the car only via this crossing.

CURRICULUM SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to those volunteers who assisted with the hearing of student reading and overseeing prep literacy groups last week.

Those parents who indicated that they were in a position to assist with hearing student reading, please sign in at the front office each day you are available to help. When your working with children check becomes available, please present this to Janet or Jasmine at the front office so we can make a copy for our records.

Remember that parent reading sessions are scheduled Monday—Thursday from 9am to 7.30pm concluding at 8:30pm. The games evening will commence at 7pm and conclude at 8:30pm.

The games evening will commence at 7pm and conclude at 8:30pm.
10am.

Any parents wishing to join the group, please inform the office and we will roster you on and guide you through the Working With Children check process.

PARISH CHILDREN’S CHOIR FOR PENTECOST

We are inviting school age children to come and sing ‘O Happy Day’ at the 11am Pentecost Mass on Sunday 24th May.

Rehearsals will be held at Penola Hub from 4.30pm to 5.30pm on Wednesday 6th, 13th and 20th May.

Please RSVP to the Parish Office (NOT YOUR SCHOOL) on 9741 4144 or werribee@cam.org.au by Tuesday 5th May.

We look forward to hearing your angelic voices, Marthese Temming, Sherry Vivera and Lou Sullivan. *Any adults who play an instrument are most welcome to join us.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY SPACE—ALL WELCOME!

The school community space at the entrance to our school is accessible for all school parents and families.

We welcome people coming in of a morning and afternoon and fixing themselves a hot drink and catching up with other parents. As the weather gets cooler this may be a more comfortable option when waiting to collect your children.

ANZAC BISCUITS—A LOVELY END OF WEEK TREAT!

Following our community flag raising ceremony our students were treated to a end of week snack to commemorate an Australian tradition.

Thank you to Beata Werner who pre-prepared enough biscuits for the staff, parents and students. She also baked a few batches in the school oven with some of our senior students. The community space smelt fantastic and the children enjoyed the treat!

SOME ONGOING TASKS REQUIRING VOLUNTEERS!

In the coming weeks we have quite a few tasks which need to be done around the school. Whilst we have our volunteers groups in place, we are calling for other members of the community to assist us in keeping on top of the following:

1. We require a dad to reset all school clocks using the school ladder.
2. Mowing or trimming the front public space near the entrance of the school. (This can be done at any time as it is not within the school fence line)
3. Mowing or trimming the area between the carpark and portables. (This can be done at any time, I community key can be issued to give access to the carpark.)
4. Mowing the new grassed area between the carpark and the main building. (A grass catcher will be required so clippings are not walked into the building)
5. Covering of our Guided Reading books stock, Class Atlas and Bible sets.

SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA—CROSS COUNTRY STEWARDS REQUIRED

On Tuesday, May 5th a selection of students will represent the school against other local schools in the SSV Cross Country Championships.

The event will be held at Presidents Park in Werribee between 10am and 2pm. Louise White, our specialist Physical Education Teacher is calling for two parents who would be willing to assist as checkpoint stewards on the course.

If you are able to assist, please let us know by completing the return slip attached.

Students who are well placed in the zone trials will progress on to represent the school and zone in the regional event.

www.stjatarneit.catholic.edu.au
SSV Cross Country Steward

Name: _____________________  Child’s Name: _____________________

I am willing to assist with the Cross Country event to be held at Presidents Park, Werribee on Tuesday, 5th May. (10am—2pm)

Signed: _____________________

Ongoing Tasks Volunteers

Name: _____________________  Child’s Name: _____________________

I am able to assist in the completion of the following tasks:

- Resetting of School Clocks
- Mowing/Trimming front public space.
- Mowing the area between the carpark and portables.
- Mowing the area between the carpark and main building.
- Covering of Guided Reading, or School Atlas set.

Curriculum Support Group

Name: _____________________  Child’s Name: _____________________

I am willing to join the curriculum support volunteer’s group to hear student reading between 9 –10 am.

I am available on these days free of toddlers.

- Mon  ☑  Tues  ☑  Wed  ☑  Thurs

I am willing to obtain a Working With Children check.

Signed: _____________________