Dear Families,

I hope that all of our mums had a wonderful Mother’s Day last Sunday and that their children continue to show an appreciation of their mothers 365 days a year. It is true that it “Takes a village to raise a child” and that many adult role models are required in the successful raising of a confident, healthy and inquisitive child but no one would argue with the critical role that a mother plays in a person’s life. We never stop learning from our mothers nor do we forget the messages that they have taught us, despite our age.

Mother’s Day Luncheon

The Mother’s Day Luncheon was held last Friday at the Brighton International with over 100 mothers present. Thank you to the main organisers (Jane Gale, Jane Kanizay, Bronwen Fallens, Cate Fisher and Bernie Dodd) and to the many others who attended. The food and organization was fabulous and the guest speaker, Cate Steains, spoke to us about her long career working as a Human Rights Lawyer for the United Nations.

Her career journey to the world’s most challenging and despairing countries began with her graduation from Melbourne Uni Law School, after which she moved directly to Canberra and joined the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Cate spoke of her life and achievements in her role working for the United Nations and a few of these were:

- She was the only female member of the legal team representing Australia in the International Court of Justice in the Case Concerning East Timor;
- She chaired the UN negotiations on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (negotiations involving 192 countries) and addressed the UN General Assembly on several occasions;
- Cate lived in Darfur for two years and then in Khartoum, heading up protection of civilians for the WHOLE of Sudan during the height of the war;
- Cate has held similar “Protection” roles in Kenya, Somalia, The Philippines and most recently, Afghanistan where she spent a year living in a shipping container in Kabul.

Cate also spoke of the many priests and sisters/brothers, from the Catholic Church, she had seen dedicating their lives to others. Cate is an inspiring person who has dedicated her life in the care and protection of the world’s most vulnerable and it was an honour to have her speak at the St James Mother’s Day Luncheon.

NAPLAN

This week our Year 3 and 5 students will have completed four national assessments. I congratulate our students, staff and parents for the way they have approached the testing. We consider NAPLAN to be a useful tracking tool alongside the many other forms of assessment conducted weekly by teachers. Please read comments from the Geelong Advertiser and open the link below for the full article.

“But it is imperative that schools, students and parents do not see it as the be-all and end-all measurement of success. Education is made up of so many components and performance in one test will not decide the future of any of these young children and the testing will not be the final say of just how good a school is.

Continued on Page 2
Education is so much more than just answers on an exam paper.” (Geelong Advertiser, May 12, 2015)

Soiree

Congratulations to all of the students who performed at the Soiree last Thursday. It always amazes us how the students of all ages perform so confidently. Thank you to Kate Kennedy (Choir), Justin (Guitar), Sharon (Piano) and the staff present: Mrs Ferrari, Miss Nelson & Miss Chapman. Performing Arts is a critical part of our school and we look forward to our whole school musical called Seussical.

Prep 2016 Interviews

Fr Michel and myself have almost finished meeting with all of the non-sibling (in our Parish boundary) and sibling families. We are enrolling one class of students into Prep for 2016, despite having the demand for two, but we have no available rooms left in the school. It has been a pleasure meeting all of young children and their families; the development that occurs from now until the beginning of the next school year will be astonishing. The meeting is valuable time to meet the children and to ask questions that will assist in the transition to school. Many children asked some fascination questions, particularly to Fr Michel about the re-build of the church. To confirm a place for your child, can all replies and deposits be paid by Friday May 15. Thank you for your cooperation as this is important so we know how many places we have to offer to non-siblings.

Peace and blessings,
Simon Millar—Principal of St James

The staff celebrated Imelda’s 60th Birthday with an early morning breakfast yesterday morning, Wednesday 13th of May 2015.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IMELDA!

With love from the staff and students of St James.

ITALIAN DAY
TUESDAY 19 MAY

IT’s time to celebrate the passion and vibrancy of the Italian culture!

Get into the spirit and dress up with Italian flair! I tri colori: green, white and red are the national colours of Italy, so wear them loud and proud on Italian Day! Alternatively you could get really creative and dress as your favourite Italian hero.

Captain Nutrition will make pasta on stage in the ‘Spectacular Spettacolo’ show called “Fasty Tunes”. Be sure to plan an Italian colours themed menu for the lunchbox.

Lots of exciting activities are planned focusing of Italy’s culture and love of food and of course, there will be gelati for everyone!

(Please contact Ange in person or phone 95964766 this week if there is a problem with food allergies).

Please encourage your child to get involved to make this day another huge success!

SCHOOL FEES

Invoices for 2015 School Fees were sent out on 20th February with a reminder email sent on 27th April.

Please make a payment (or contact the school office) by no later than Monday, May 11th.

Thankyou.
Dear Families,
Today saw the end of our Caritas - Project Compassion drive for this year. The money from Prep to Year 4 is going towards Project Compassion and the money raised in Year 5 and 6 is going to towards Caritas - Nepal. More to come about this from our Social Justice Leaders, Julia, Belle and Coco next newsletter.

As the weather becomes colder we are reminded of those who do not have the warm luxuries that we are all fortunate to experience. On Friday 12th June 10:15-11:00am we will celebrate our School Feast Day and the Feast of the Sacred Heart in a liturgy in the hall. Please feel free to join us. As part of the Feast of the Sacred Heart we will be asking each family to donate to our Gardenvale St Vincent de Paul drive. Again more about this from our Social Justice Leaders next week.

Last Thursday I attended the Southern Region Religious Education Network day. These days are always powerful, engaging and give lots of ‘food for thought’. In particular one presenter Claire O’Dowd, the REL at St Joseph’s Elsternwick shared with us a presentation on Hermeneutical Learning. Learning Hermeneutically across the curriculum is the challenge of all schools today. Are we teaching in a meaningful authentic way, are our students being challenged to reflect, talk, question and process information within their contemporary context? This particular challenge was looked at through a Catholic Identity lense. The following quote really spoke to me and gives us ‘food for thought’ when planning for our St James children.

"The question for Catholic education, is: Will it be able to welcome Christ when he appears in our midst? Can we create a context where we welcome Christ into our school life; are we sensitive enough to see Christ in all places where this happens? " Therefore our challenge as educators is to ensure that our students; know Christ and are aware of Christ like people and moments within their own lives. (An extract from the International Speakers Series 2013, Dr Didier Pollefeyt).

Cathy Ferrari and the Faith Team
(Nina Farrar, Cathy Busch, Nancy Ohlert, Elly Dillon and Jo Fraser)
St James Newsletter: 14 May 2015

Living, Loving & Learning

**St James Students Prep-Year Six**

WAS GREAT FUN AND A HUGE SUCCESS!

THANK YOU MR MILLAR, SCHOOL CAPTAINS AND MUMS WHO HELPED SUPERVISE ON THE NIGHT

**FILM NIGHT**

**Rio 2**
FRIDAY 1ST OF MAY
4:00PM-6:00PM
On Saturday 8th of August we are raising the stakes....

Preparations are in full swing for the St James Major Fundraiser 'A Night in Monte Carlo' and glamour is on the cards...

The aim of the evening is to have fun, socialise and have a great night but also raise money for our fabulous school, so please consider if you, your business, family or friends might be able contribute to our auction items for the event.

We would love to hear from you by contacting Connie Sands on conniesands@bigpond.com or Phone: 0416 24 0767 and of course we look forward to seeing you on the red carpet.
Firstly... There is a PA meeting tonight.. 14th may.... Lots to talk about... All welcome.

The Mothers Day Lunch was enjoyed by over 100 of our St James community last Friday. It began as a celebration of our comrades in Motherhood, a shared meal and a few laughs.

However, a major part of the lunch was hearing from Cate Steains (aunty to Rosie and Tilly). Cate shared photos and stories of her time overseas working for the United Nations. She provided a window into what it was like to be on the ground in places that required professional, political and respectful support... To assist communities to get back on their feet again in a protected and safe environment. (And so much more). One important message was how the mothers in these communities become central to the re-growth, as normal everyday activities such as cooking and cleaning help the recovery from trauma.

We were very lucky to hear her stories and the experience put into perspective.... That even what we do as western mothers... Can be very challenging, we are so fortunate compared to mothers facing struggles in other parts of the world. (Also, mothers in detention ...#thismothersday)

A big THANKYOU to Bernadette Dodd, Cate Fisher and Jane Kanizay who all contributed to the success of the lunch with their own particular skills and energy. We hope everyone had a great time. We also thank Amanda Mack, who contributed to a successful running of the raffle. Prizes such as The Langham Hotel (Heeney family), Country Road voucher (Clements family), Tucci Brown framed pictures (Tantuccio Brown Family) and Physiosports gift (Visentini family) were very much appreciated. Thanks to all who donated items (Konji, Patti, Sue W, Maddie, Prue) Much gratitude to Angela in the office for her assistance... And a special mention to Daren Ince ... who made our AV presentations possible... Thanks so much. We have sent home a THANKYOU card to every family... A symbol of motherly beauty and multi-tasking.

Don’t forget to book a mini facial (individually or small groups) with Bronwen Fallens (Lexie’s mum) who has offered everyone a little pampering. Checkout SMARTIE PANTS scarves by Penny Jones and Lisa Wilson Accessories on line... There’s a great discount deal.. Flies near the office.

Plans are being discussed for developing the sandpit as part of the bigger garden project around the school. There is a Big morning tea for Cancer on Tuesday 26th and the Walkathon on Friday 29th.... Always busy times at St James.

Jane Gale
PA President
For Sale: Lipp and Sohn Antique Upright Piano - excellent condition

A dark walnut-cased upright piano, Richard Lipp and Sohn, Stuttgart (serial number 27471), 1907-1908 era, finely-veneered and decorated case mounted with a pair of swinging candle arms and ornate candle holders. Has carrying handles to the sides. An exquisite musical instrument. Recently serviced and tuned approx. 4 years ago. Sounds beautiful. Ideal piano for learners and for the advanced player. Height 130 cm. Width 150 cm. Depth 75 cm. Phone mobile 0430 732184 - $2,290.00 negotiable. Parishioner moving house and regrettfully unable to take with her.

FENCING

Fencing Holiday Classes in July – 2 hour sessions

for 8 to 16 year olds

Seen Highlander or Pirates of the Caribbean or Willow? Want to learn the art of sword fighting just like the heroes of these movies, or the real life Olympians?

With the Olympics still in the memory, here is your opportunity to try the sport of Fencing, with sessions run by Australian Fencer and Victorian Coach Chris Jones. Chris teaches practical skills in an easy to understand, hands on environment. Let the kids enjoy a fun and healthy activity these holidays, learning the art of fencing with plastic swords and see how their tactical planning and imaginations can grow!

WHEN

Two hour class on Wednesday 8 July

WHERE

Brighton Grammar School

Brighton Junior School GIR Hall

MORE INFORMATION

chris@swordfightersaustralia.com or call Chris Jones on 0409 013 171.

ART ATTACK

Saturday 30 May 2015

10am - 3pm

Hippodrome Primary School, Carrington Grove, East St Kilda

For kids aged 8-12

Come and join us for a day of art and craft making and play experiences. Discover how to recycle, re-use and rethink all kinds of wonderful waste and ingenious junk into awesome experiences and masterpieces.

$5.00 entry gives each child access to exciting group art making and play experiences including Box City Building, a laser Maze Challenge and a giant Monopoly play space. You can also watch artists at work creating murals and sculptures, visit the student art work exhibition and vote in the people’s choice award and even purchase an artwork from the affordable art auction.

A gold coin donation will enable you to make a masterpiece to take home. Activities will run from 10am to 11.30am or 1.30pm to 3pm and include:

- judge making
- flying kites
- recycle bottles and join in to make giant hangers and candle holders
- box construction
- make a popcorn in 5 minutes
- string pictures
- seed pod creations
- fun with paper

Delicious snacks and food will be available to purchase all day including egg and bacon breakfast rolls, coffee, tea, sweet treats, sausage sizzle and fresh local fruits!

Art Attack will be a weather proof event. General rain, hail or shine, it’s on!!!

Entry for adults is free. Children must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Parents are responsible for any children in their care.

Any Questions? Feel free to contact Art Attack organiser on

0417 360 483 or directly to the school


Phone: 03 9527 5720