Dear Parents,

Welcome back to 2017. All the teachers and students have started the year with great enthusiasm.

Mr Seeber has had a shoulder operation and will return to school on Monday 13 Feb for light duties.

We welcome Mrs Bridgette Conway to our staff. Bridgette is teaching on a Thursday & Friday in year 4. Bridgette went to St Joseph’s as a student and her mother Rose Kennedy taught at St Joseph’s for 20 years, so Bridgette is very familiar with St Joseph’s.

Welcome to Madelyn Giles our new cleaner. Maddie had a daughter come to St Joseph’s and she is the cleaner at Stella Maris as well. I am sure you can see how clean our school is looking.

Wednesday 8th Feb our annual compulsory cybersafety meeting and at least one parent must attend so your child can access all technology while at school. After the cybersafety meeting in the hall each class will be holding a parent information session. The Grade 6 information will also include camp information. The night starts at 7pm and will be finished before 8pm.

Sunday 19 Feb is our Beginning school mass and a welcome morning tea. All students are expected to
attend as we welcome Foundation students and give ALL grade students their Leadership badges.

Swimming training begins on Monday for any students in grade 3-6 who are competent swimmers over 50 metres. The training sessions are at Swim Right in Tulip Street Cheltenham. They are from 7-8am and cost $7 a session to pay for the lane hire. The dates are Monday 6, Thursday 9, Monday 13, Thursday 16, Tuesday 21 and Thursday 23 Feb. The swimming carnival is Friday 24 Feb.

Mrs O'Brien will be starting Story Time for any pre school children, every Wednesday, starting 15 Feb from 9-9.20am in the library.

Volunteers Induction Evening 22 Feb, 7pm in the library. This night is compulsory for any parents or grandparents who want to help with anything in the school. Eg classroom helpers, cooking sausage sizzles, special lunch days, walkathon, etc. This is a requirement from the State Government to support Child Safety.

Nude Food
We are a Nude Food school. We have earned 4 Stars as a Sustainable school. These stars are very hard to achieve as the State Government have very high standards on waste, sustainability, biodiversity and water. Mrs Murray and the passed years Environmental teams and Green teams have put a lot of time and energy into helping our school towards achieving these stars.

Nude food helps us to maintain our star rating as it keeps the waste count down and the schoolyard clean. Students will eat their lunch within the given time and then only be allowed to bring fruit outside to eat.

At recess they can have fruit or any other type of snack as long as it is NOT in a package. Please recycle your soft plastic in our crate in the playground or at Woolworths or Coles. We are all working together for a sustainable future for the next generation.

Our first assembly will be Friday 17 Feb at 2.45 pm in the hall and will be facilitated by Grade 5.

Carmel Stutterd

Financial Assistance Information for Parents
Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy
CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:
$125 for primary school students $225 for secondary school students.

**How to Apply**
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

**Closing Date** You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by **21st February, 2017**.
For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
NUT ALLERGIES
At St Joseph’s we have a no sharing of food policy due to the number of students with severe life threatening allergies. In particular we ask that you PLEASE DO NOT SEND NUTS OR NUT BASED PRODUCTS TO SCHOOL.

SIGNING OUT BOOK
Please remember to sign your child out of the school when leaving early. It is not necessary to sign in when arriving late. The sign out book is located in the office on the bench.

SCHOOL HOURS
The school is responsible for the supervision of students from 8.45am. It is important to remember that staff who arrive early for school do so to prepare for the day and cannot do this as well as supervise early arrivals. A Before School Care program operates on our premises from 7.30am each day.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS
Donations or enquiries contact Trisha McKean on 0423 979 745.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK
A reminder to all parents who wish to assist in the classrooms or on excursions that a WWCC is mandatory and should be displayed at all times when helping in the classroom or on excursions.

HEAD LICE - ONCE A WEEK TAKE A PEEK
Families please check your child’s hair for Head Lice each Sunday before they return to school. Please treat immediately if head lice are found. Head lice numbers would be reduced if this quick check happened every week.

HEAD INJURIES
Any child who has a knock / bump to the head will have their parents notified as a precaution. All children who are treated in sickbay or on the playground are issued with a First Aid slip; however, often these are not seen by Parent. All staff is trained in first aid each year to Level 2, which should be very reassuring for parents, but we will not make decisions or judgments regarding head injuries.

STAFF MEETINGS
Will be held each Wednesday at 3.45pm. Please do not detain teachers on these days.