Dear Parents, Students & Friends,

Welcome back. It has been great to see how enthusiastic all our students are in returning to school from their Easter holidays.

Yesterday at Mass, we celebrated as a school the story of Easter. I cannot express the pride as a principal I felt in seeing and experiencing the prayerfulness and reverence of our students at Mass. They are truly a credit to their parents and our community.

During the term break, we were able to install a new sand pit, reimage our Mac Books so as to gain greater use of them, install a further 60 notebooks and completely upgrade the school’s Wi-Fi capabilities.

To ensure that the new ITC capabilities of the school are fully utilised, Brenda McDonald (3/4M), Kelly Woodman (1/2CW) and Debbie Giesler (5/6G) are attending professional development in the area of Google applications for education so as to ensure our students are provided with the best opportunities to utilise the latest technologies and learning in this field.

In the right hand column of this page you will notice a new heading titled “Need To Know”. We hope that this will provide parents with an immediate ‘heads up’ on things that need their attention rather than having to search through the entire newsletter.

With kind regards and thanks for the wonderful birthday wishes,

Mr Des Noack
Principal

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**DATES & EVENTS**

- **Class Mass for Grade Prep and Prep/One** next Wednesday at 9.30am
- **St Ambrose Cross Country Run** – Tuesday 28th April
- **Mother’s Day Stall** – Wednesday 6th May.
- **Mother’s Day Dinner** – Friday 8th May

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**ANZAC DAY MARCH**

We are hoping to have a large contingency of students who will attend with teachers, this year’s ANZAC Day in Woodenden on Saturday 25th April.

As a school community, we will be gathering at 11.15am for an 11.30am start in front of the ‘Double 8 Chinese Restaurant’ in the main street. Children will march in set groups with families observing from the sidelines, meeting us at the RSL. Going as a family gives you a wonderful opportunity to share and talk together about what this special day is about, the significance of why a nation gives homage to the sacrifice of our service men and women and what lessons can be learnt from our past.

As in a Catholic school where we celebrate religious rituals and have sacred places and spaces, so too do we as a nation have rituals and sacred places and spaces to remember and give thanks for those who have created the freedom we experience today as a nation.

All it takes is a little time and you’ll be surprised at just how much you can get out of it.

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**NEED TO KNOW**

- **School Canteen** - Opens officially next Tuesday and will operate on Tuesday and Wednesday. The completion and return of the Canteen survey will be greatly appreciated.
- **Winter Uniform** – To be worn as of next Monday.
- **2016 Prep Enrolments** – Now open. Please ensure that your enrolment form is received by the school office no later than Friday 19th June.
- **Mother’s Day Dinner** - Friday 8th May @ 6.30pm
- **Cross Country Run** – Seeking parental assistance for Cross Country Run. Please contact Suzanne Roberts or Jayne O’Callaghan
- **ANZAC DAY MARCH** – Saturday 25th April.
**Mother’s Day Stall**
The Mother’s Day Stall will be held on Wednesday 6th May. We ask that children bring no more than $20 to spend on the day. Children that need to use the ‘lay-by’ facility will have a $12 limit, to be paid and collected no later than Friday 8th May. There will also be a small raffle at $1.00 per ticket to be sold on the stall and drawn before the end of the school day.

**Mother’s Day Dinner**
Tickets will be on sale Monday morning outside the office so get in early for what will be a wonderful night.

**Tennis Coaching for Grade 3/4’s**
Once again, our school has been fortunate to be chosen to participate in the coaching program offered to schools through Tennis Australia and the Kids Tennis Foundation. We pay a nominal fee of $220, which is covered by the school so our students can participate at no cost. We have chosen our Year 3/4 level to be involved this semester, so please remind your child to wear their sports uniform on Tuesdays, as well as their normal P.E. day. All equipment is provided but students may bring their own racquet if they wish. The sessions have started this week and as you may see from our snaps, the students are already enjoying the program.

**St Ambrose Cross Country Run**
Our school cross country is booked to take place on Tuesday, April 28th and will involve our whole school. The event will be held here at school and around the Five Mile Creek walking track, taking place at 9:30 in the morning. Students in Years 3 to 6 will have the opportunity to qualify and represent our school in the Cobaw District Cross Country to be held the following week on May 5th at Hanging Rock. We have suggested to all students that they need to start a training program. Children turning 9 or 10 this year will be running 2kms and those turning 11 or 12 will be running 3kms. Our younger students are
running/walking 550 metres (for Preps and Year Ones) and the Year Twos are running 1 km. I have suggested that a good start would be to walk/run 4 times a week and gradually build up their distance and stamina until they can complete the distance, running at a comfortable pace. It would be great if parents could support their child by encouraging them and offering some assistance in achieving this goal. As well as this, Iris McGregor has offered to start a training session here at school on Thursday mornings at 8:30am. All students are welcome to join in. We will be in need of lots of parent helpers so please add this date to your diary!

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you!’ In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, ‘Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.’ And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, ‘This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.’ He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.’

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Sometimes the lectionary cuts a gospel story off too soon. Today we hear from the last chapter of Luke’s Gospel where there are four accounts of how the disciples came to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. In the first two stories Mary Magdalene and then Peter come to see that Jesus has been raised from the dead because they found his tomb empty. The third story is set on the Road to Emmaus. Today’s gospel is where Jesus appears to the apostles and disciples en masse, but it finishes at verse 48. In the next few verses Jesus tells the disciples that he is
sending them out to be his witnesses in the world, and then he ascends to the Father.
The Church finishes the passage early because it does not want to pre-empt the feast of the Ascension, but by doing so it does the story an injustice. We are used to hearing how the Road to Emmaus mirrors what we do here at Mass each Sunday. But if we include Luke chapter 24, verses 49 to 50, then we can see that today’s Gospel does the same thing. The verbs tell the story. In today’s Gospel Jesus is present to the disciples; he gives himself to them to be seen and held; he eats with them; teaches them about the scriptures; and he commissions them to go out.

As a result of that first Easter we gather here each Sunday to remember and make Easter present again. This is the reason, for example, we talk about the 40 days of Lent when in fact there are 45 days from Ash Wednesday to the Easter Vigil. In or outside the Easter season Sundays are always days of the Resurrection. And just like the first Easter Sunday we believe that Christ continues to invite us here; to teach us about how to understand the scriptures and live them out in our daily lives; is present to us, to have and to hold, in his Word, this community, the presider and in a special way in the Eucharistic meal; and that he sends us out to proclaim his saving love with heroic joy.

To enable us to do all this we receive the same gift Jesus gave the first disciples as well, the gift of peace. But sometimes we have to get creative about how we achieve it, like the old man who purchased a retirement home near a high school. He spent the first few weeks in peace and contentment. Then a new school year began. The very next afternoon three young men came down his street beating merrily on every rubbish bin they encountered. The crashing percussion continued day after day, until finally the old man decided to take some action. The next afternoon, he walked out to meet the young percussionists. He called out, ‘You kids are a lot of fun. Will you do me a favour? I’ll give you each a dollar if you’ll promise to come around every day and do your thing.’ The kids were elated and continued to do a bang-up job on the rubbish bins. A few days later, the retiree approached them again, ‘Look’ he said. ‘I haven’t received my pension cheque this month, so I’m not going to be able to give you more than 25 cents. Will that be okay?’ ‘25 cents?’ the drum leader exclaimed. ‘If you think we’re going to waste our time beating these bins for 25 cents, you’re nuts! No way, mister. We quit!’ And the old man enjoyed peace and quiet for the rest of his days.

So as Christ sends us forth today, may we be wise about how we can create some happiness and peace around us as well.

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**Goldfield’s Library Excursion**

1/2CW enjoys walking to the Goldfields library in Woodend every 3 weeks.

We walk with Mrs. Cavric, Jodie and always have parent helpers willing to walk with us.

We love walking to this library to borrow lots of new and interesting books to put in our reading boxes at school to read in our Daily 5 literacy sessions.

We’ve learnt where all the books are, how to search for books on the computer and even how to reserve books that get delivered to the Woodend library for us to pick up.

Lulu and Susie, the librarians, are very helpful and patient as we explore the library.

As an added bonus, we get to see the beautiful Woodend scenery as we walk under the Five Mile Bridge and learn how to cross roads safely!
The Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge is on again. If you would like to register your child/children please go to www.education.vic.gov.au/prc and follow the prompts. Our school library has some of the recommended books listed as well as checking local libraries. Happy reading.

Regards,
Maree Thomas
Literacy Leader

School Awards

Chloe 3/4E
Helping other students to complete weaving in Art.

Holly 3/4E
Helping other students to complete weaving in Art.

James 1/2C
Working very hard on his reading strategies.

Happy Birthday

23 February – Tom P/1S
5 April – Tamika 5/6P
7 April – Patrick 5/6P
9 April – Sarah 1/2KC
12 April – Mr Noack (50!!!)
13 April – Jack P/1S
13 April – Ben P/1S

Community News

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Come as your favourite character. Prize for best dressed.

Screening at Trenchum Neighbourhood Centre Inc.

Bookings: phone 5424 1354 or email admin@trenchumnc.org.au

NEW! Aussie Hoops Boys (9-11 years)
Starts Monday 27th April - 7 sessions
Training/Game 6.00-7.15pm
Contact Nicole 0402 706 775

Under 13 Girls Winter Season Comp (Terms 2 and 3)

Under 13 Girls - 9-12 years old
Beginners welcome & training included
Training Tuesday 4-5 pm Buffalo Stadium Woodend
Games Monday night 4.15 and 5pm
Cost $120 for term 2 and 3 - Contact Megan 0421 054 242
April Events

The Soldier’s Gift – The Illustrations of Jane Tanner
Exhibition: 3 April–31 May
Kyneton Museum
67 Piper Street, phone: 1300 888 802
Open Friday-Sunday 11am – 4pm

Luminous Flux
Luminous Flux is a sensational double-bill by Tasmania’s premier dance company, Tasdance.

Wednesday 29 April, 8pm
Kyneton Town Halp
General admission
Full: $35, Concession: $30, Dance Package (Luminous Flux, First Things First and Carmen Sweet): $85
Phone: 1300 888 802
Website: mrsc.vic.gov.au/arts/buyticket