Dear Parents and Friends,

This week, we attended the Ash Wednesday and Opening School Mass and it was lovely to have so many of our parents with us in church. Father Brannelly extended a blessing to the whole school community but especially the children as they begin their journey of learning in 2016. Father also spoke about the 3 ways to prepare for Easter during the Season of Lent: to pray, to give alms and to make personal sacrifices. He explained, in very practical terms, what these mean for the children and gave simple examples of what they might be able to do in each area. This year, in the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is also asking us to consider our attitudes and is asking us to have a change of heart – to let go of old hurts and to forgive. Many children have already spoken to me about what they are planning to do this Lent and are very excited about our school goals for Project Compassion as a result of hearing all about this initiative when we gathered as a whole school on Wednesday afternoon. I pray that it will be a truly special time of preparation this Lent for us all and that we will arrive at our Easter celebration feeling renewed and just that little bit closer to our friend, Jesus.

Apologies - Postponed Welcome BBQ
I apologise sincerely for any inconvenience caused due to having to postpone the Welcome BBQ. Due to a combination of unexpected circumstances and the prediction of storm activity this afternoon and not having access to the hall, the BBQ has been re-scheduled to take place next Friday afternoon – 19th February – from 5pm on the terraced area and playground. A new RSVP slip will be issued and we do hope that all families will be able to make it along next week.

Trial Afternoon Dismissal Arrangement
Last week, we began trialling a new dismissal procedure. The trial will continue for another week. Today, a survey has been made available to parents through a Survey Monkey link, so that parents can let us know whether or not they are satisfied with the trial arrangements and provide comment. We want to hear from you so that a decision can be made as to whether to continue or modify the dismissal procedure. Please take the time to respond to the survey. Your opinion is important to us. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during the period of the trial. See details at the end of this newsletter.

Community Council Executive
The Executive of the Community Council met for the first time this year on Tuesday afternoon. At this meeting we welcomed Donna Chan as the new Treasurer and Mark Konik and Sonia Foster as the two new Teacher Representatives. The Council is looking for additional members to sit on the Executive as well as assist with Focus Groups. If you are interested in giving your time to these worthy roles, please let us know via the front office. The four Focus Groups are:

- Events and Fundraising
- Environment
- Pastoral Care
- Communications

We are also interested in hearing from you if you would like to take on the specific role of Fete Coordinator or Sponsorship Coordinator.

The Council membership is currently as follows:

Peter Corcoran : Chair
Carolyn Hourigan : Deputy Chair
Donna Chan : Treasurer

The position of Secretary is yet to be filled.

The Parent Representatives are: Charmaine Smith, Neil Sydlarzuk, Jon Wellington and Duncan Kelly.

Ex-Officio members are: Father Brannelly, Vicky van der Sanden and Nina De Rosa.

The Council can be contacted at any time via the email account:

communitycouncil@gmail.com.au

At the meeting, the following agenda items were discussed:

- Preparations for the Welcome BBQ
- Focus Group Reports
- A proposal from the Communications Focus Group for a school Facebook Page and a trial period was agreed
- Staffing arrangements for 2016
- Management of Council bank accounts
- A proposal to make some changes to the timing and content of school Awards
- The Annual Improvement Plan

Medication at School
Should your child require medication to be administered during the day, a written note with instructions for dispensing must accompany the medication and these must be taken to the front office. The central storage area for medications is in the sick bay where there is a fridge and a medicine dispensing register that must be filled out by the appropriate staff member whenever medication is administered. The only medication that may be kept with the child is an asthma inhaler.
**Allergies and Anaphylaxis**

As there are children enrolled at St John Vianney’s who have allergies to a variety of substances, we ask that children do not share food or buy food for one another at school. We appreciate your support in avoiding sending any foods that contain nuts. A few children may experience very serious and even life threatening symptoms if exposed to these foods.

**Parent Information Packs**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Parent Information Evening on Tuesday night this week. If you were not able to be present to collect an information pack, it was sent home with your child the following day. Please let us know if you did not receive it.

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**REPEAT NOTICE:**

**Parent/Teacher Chats**

There will be an opportunity to speak personally with the teacher about your child during the ‘Parent and Teacher Chats’ scheduled for Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th February starting at 3.20pm each day (some morning time slots are also available with meetings taking place in the child’s classroom). These ‘meet and greet’ sessions will be held in the senior wing classrooms and are an opportunity for parents to let the teacher know any special information about their child. A Parent Questionnaire was included in the information packs for parents to fill out and return to the teachers before the Parent/Teacher Chats. This provides a basis for the conversations on that evening. Parents are required to book a timeslot through an online booking program called School Interviews. A separate note that has instructions to follow in order to book a time, was sent home on Monday. If anyone has difficulty with this process, please contact the front office.

I wish everyone a very happy St Valentine’s Day on Sunday!

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**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:**

*All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn’t hurt.*

Charles M. Schulz

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Vicky van der Sanden
Principal
Swimming Carnival
The program for the swimming carnival is in the process of being finalised. In the coming weeks students will be given the opportunity to check that they are in the correct events. Thank you to the parents that have already offered to help on the day. A note will be sent home soon outlining roles and jobs for the day. If there are any outstanding permission slips please bring them in ASAP.

PSSA Trials
During Semester One, Year 5 and 6 are invited to attend PSSA trials for specific sports. These trials are held outside of school hours, generally at a school or field in the South Weston area. It is the responsibility of caregivers to organise and arrange transport for their child. Trial notes are distributed to interested students once they have been sent by the organising teacher. Details about PSSA competitions are available on the School Sports ACT Website (http://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/). If you have any questions about trial dates or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As students become more tech savvy it is important to make them aware of the need to use technology in a safe and responsible manner.

Tuesday 9 February 2016 was Safer Internet Day. During the week teachers and students have discussed the need to use the internet and technology safely in the classroom and at home.

An excellent resource on Cyber safety for teachers, parents and students to access is the eSafety website which is produced by the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner. It offers practical and up to date ideas and information that parents and teachers can use to educate children about the importance of eSafety.

Parents can find more information at https://esafety.gov.au

The ACT Junior Floorball
The ACT Junior Floorball competition for Term 1 is about to begin. Floorball is an innovative new sport that blends the elements of ice hockey with some characteristics also found in soccer and basketball. If you are interested in getting more information you can contact David or Marc at juniors@floorballact.org.au. There are membership forms and further information at the front office.

Upcoming Sporting Dates
Swimming Carnival- 7th March
South Weston Swimming Carnival- 29th March
Cross Country Carnival- 30th March
Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival – Sunday 3rd April

Mark Konik
Mark.konik@cg.catholic.edu.au

Cross Country – running practice sessions
Dear Parents,
In preparation for our upcoming Cross Country, SJV will be holding five running sessions before school at 8.35/8.40am.
These sessions are to provide students an opportunity to practice their running and pacing themselves for longer distances.
If your child is interested, these sessions will be held on Friday morning weeks 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. The meeting point will be at the steps where children line up in the morning and a teacher will walk the students over to the oval. Children are asked to wear their hats and bring their drink bottles.
Parents are more than welcome to join in on the morning sessions.
Thank you for your support,
Louise Hall and Sonia Foster.
Exciting News……….104.7 Ryan and Tanya’s Showbag

In the lead up to the Royal Canberra Show, Ryan & Tanya are looking for products to fill up their showbag that will be on sale for $30 each at the 2016 Royal Canberra show. All money raised will go to the Cancer Support Group. They’ll be a limited edition with only 1700 available.

The exciting news is SJV have been asked to contribute ‘Knock Knock Jokes’ for the showbags. ‘Black Thunder’ will drop in for a visit next Friday morning to collect our contributions. So SJV, get busy and write as many ‘Knock Knock Jokes’ as you can and hand them into your classroom teacher. We will write our jokes on yellow paper which can be collected from class teachers and the front office. Please ensure children do not put their full name on the paper.

Thank you to Oscar (5/6M) and Harry (5/6J) who spoke on the 104.7 Radio Breakfast Show this morning to advertise our participation for this great cause.

World of Maths – Incursion

All SJV students will participate in the World of Maths Roadshow when they visit on Monday 4th April. The World of Maths Roadshow is an ideal opportunity for students to see how Maths is applied to some real life situations. More importantly, students will be engaged in hands-on activities that will cater for all ability levels and probe their problem solving skills. It is a highly engaging session which will show the children that Maths can be fun! The incursion cost is covered by the excursion levy included in school fees. For more information or to view a video of a session in action visit www.worldofmaths.com.

Below is the time table for the day. Parents/Carers are more than welcome to attend at any session. The incursion will be held in the school hall.

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<th>Time</th>
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Mrs D’s “Thought of the Week”…….

Knock knock
Who’s there?
Broken pencil.
Broken pencil who?
It doesn’t matter, there is no point!
Oscar  5/6M

Knock knock
Who’s there?
Nanna
Nanna who?
Nanna ya business!
Harry  5/6J

Nina De Rosa
Assistant Principal

In this week’s Gospel we hear about Jesus’ temptation in the desert. In Luke’s Gospel, the story of Jesus’ temptation in the desert appears just after Jesus’ baptism and before Jesus begins his public ministry. We can imagine this as a time of transition, a turning point in Jesus’ life. Perhaps we can liken it to one of the important turning points in our own lives: the decision to marry, the birth of a child, the acceptance of a new job, or the decision to move to a new home. After the moment of decision, having reached the point of no return, we sometimes begin to wonder if we are prepared and ready for the task before us. Turning points can be times of doubt and insecurity. Jesus’ response to the temptations of the devil offers an example for responding in faith when our doubts and insecurities tempt us to distrust God’s sufficiency. Jesus rebukes the devil by quoting Scripture. Each citation is an affirmation of trust in God. We learn to trust in big things by practicing trust in little things. Our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving invite us to trust God in these small ways. They remind us that God will suffice for us. They prepare us to trust in God in all things, especially in moments of doubt and uncertainty.

**PROJECT COMPASSION**

Ash Wednesday began our Lenten season and our ‘giving of Alms’. There is a Project Compassion box in each of the classrooms (and one in the staffroom and on the front office). Each class will be tallying our collections on their barometer but we will also be keeping tally of the school’s total amount on the barometer in the front office. Please remind your children to think of others during Lent and perhaps how they could contribute to a brighter future for many people around the world.

**YEAR OF MERCY PRAYER**

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 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.
This week’s Merit Awards:

Kinder St Anthony        Skye Longford
Year 1/2 St Brigid        Lara Philip
Year 1/2 St John the Baptist  Henry Nihill
Year 1/2 St Nicholas    Angus Longford
Year 3/4 St Patrick        Izak Gavran
Year 3/4 St Catherine  Georgina Spurrett
Year 3/4 St Clare of Assisi  Angelin Martin
Year 5/6 St Joseph       Isabella Perrem
Year 5/6 St Paul         Whitney Gill
The Arts                   Daniel Loughlin
Library                    Sam Kennealy
ICT                        Elaine Ohlmus
Assistant Principal  Madeleine Bond
Principal                   Hudson Hall

Certificates will be awarded at next Friday’s Assembly.

Happy Birthday to Owen B, Joseph G and Ferghus C

The ELC children are continuing to settle in well. They are making new friends and are already growing in confidence in their new environment. This week they have all been learning about preparing for Easter, making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and receiving Ashes on Ash Wednesday. During this hot weather our Water Days have been lots of fun and a great way to cool off. The Joeys had a visit from Marley the Labrador and talked about looking after one another (and Marley). The Wombats had their first music session with Ms Shanahan and the Echidnas have been working on their self-portraits. All the classes are continuing their focus on ‘belonging’ and it has been nice to see some lovely family photos – please remember to send yours in.

Parent Teacher Interviews - will be held at the ELC in week 3. Interview booking sheets are at the front desk.

Email addresses – By now ELC families should have received several emails including Fee Statements. If you have not received these please check that you have your correct email address. Some email providers (including Hotmail) automatically block bulk emails. Adding the ELC email addresses to your contacts can sometimes help.

Community Council Meeting – The St Jude’s Community Council AGM will be held on Tuesday 16 Feb at 7:30pm in the school library. ELC parents are very welcome.
**Library News by Samantha Heath**

**Term 1 Library Days**

**Tuesdays** – Kindergarten, Years 1/2
Brigid, 1/2 Nicholas and 3/4 Patrick

**Thursdays** – 1/2 John the Baptist, 3/4
Catherine, 3/4 Clare of Assisi, 5/6 Joseph and 5/6 Paul

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All students need to bring a sturdy bag to Library so they can borrow.

Library is open every Tuesday and Thursday at Recess 1.30pm – 2pm. Students are able to read, draw, play Lego, cars or board games.

**Are you able to help in the Library?**

If you are interested in helping in the Library by shelving books or covering books at home, please email samantha.heath@cg.catholic.edu.au

It would be wonderful to have a list of helpers to call upon as needed! Thank you.

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**Book Club Issue 1**

This year Scholastic Book Club is just one catalogue for all students. Issue 1 went home this week and all orders need to be completed by **Tuesday 23 February** (Week 4).

Orders can be made as usual with cash, cheque (made out to Scholastic Australia) or online banking, which is now called **LOOP** (Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents). The main difference with LOOP is there is no need to return the paper order form or payment receipt details back to SJV. If you decide to order online, you will be directed to LOOP and there are easy steps to follow.

Any questions or problems please contact Sandy at the Front Office or Sam in the Library.

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**SJV FORTNIGHTLY CALENDAR**

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<td><strong>Parent &amp; Teacher Chats</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tennis Clinic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kinder REST day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Year 5/6 CAMP</strong></td>
<td><strong>WELCOME BBQ</strong></td>
<td><strong>5PM - all families welcome</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tennis Clinic</strong></td>
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<td><strong>COSA Visit with Christine</strong></td>
<td><strong>COSA Visit with Christine</strong></td>
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89 Namatjira Drive, Waramanga 2611
Email: office.sjv@cg.catholic.edu.au    Phone: 6288 2383    Fax: 6288 8578    Community Council: sjvcommunitycouncil@gmail.com
Re-opening TODAY
12th February
SJV Courtyard
REGULAR OPENING TIME:
FRIDAY
3.00PM - 4.00PM

PLANTS INCLUDE:
Camellias, Hebes, Azaleas, Box, Abelia, ground covers, hedging plants & more.
Grown in Canberra and hardened to our Canberra climate.
Follow us on FACEBOOK

SJV PLANT STALL

We want your feedback...
Trial Afternoon Dismissal Arrangement Survey

Survey Monkey LINK
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBSFH98

Please let us know whether or not you are satisfied with the trial arrangements and provide comments regarding improvements or safe alternatives.
We want to hear from you so that a decision can be made as to whether to continue or modify the dismissal procedure. Please take the time to respond to the survey. Your opinion is important to us.
If you would like a hard copy of the survey please contact the front office.

Are you the voice of tomorrow?
If you love to sing, Woden Valley Youth Choir wants you.
WVYC has three choirs of young people from age 8 - 21. Members come from all over Canberra, not just Woden Valley and the choir currently rehearses in Weston Creek. There are currently vacancies in all three choirs. The next round of auditions will be held on February 27th. If you think you have what it takes, are not afraid of commitment and hard work, go to http://www.wvyc.org.au and click on “Joining” to get more information and register to audition.

If you are the voice of tomorrow?
WVYC has three choirs of young people from age 8 - 21. Members come from all over Canberra, not just Woden Valley and the choir currently rehearses in Weston Creek. There are currently vacancies in all three choirs. The next round of auditions will be held on February 27th. If you think you have what it takes, are not afraid of commitment and hard work, go to http://www.wvyc.org.au and click on “Joining” to get more information and register to audition.