Dear Parents and Friends,

We are now in the third week of Lent and it may be a good time to take stock of ‘how we are travelling’ toward Easter. “To love God with all our mind means we intentionally practice all that God has taught us: to serve others, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned, shelter the homeless, forgive our sisters and brothers, and love our enemies. To love God with all our strength means we expend our energy in making God’s vision of love and peace a reality in the world. We find ways to use our gifts and talents so that others may feel and trust God’s presence in the world, drawing strength and hope from it.” (From Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter, Savage and McSweeney.) This certainly sounds like a tall order but we need to remember that we don’t have to do it all at once. It’s OK to start small … but we do have to start.

Principals’ Retreat
Next week, from Wednesday morning, I’ll be in Bowral with all of the Principals from the 56 Archdiocesan Schools at our annual Principals’ Retreat. The Retreat provides an opportunity to network with others, to share ideas and understandings and to invigorate the soul through spiritual development. However, the first day is a meeting day organised by the Catholic Education Office to discuss system priorities and initiatives for the Archdiocese. Mrs De Rosa will lead the school in my absence with the support of the Executive Team.

Facebook Trial
Please keep an eye out for a note being sent home from the Community Council regarding a Facebook trial.

Survey regarding proposed changes to School Awards
An email link to Survey Monkey has been forwarded to all families today so that we can canvass your opinions with regard to some proposed changes to School Awards. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of the questions, please let us know at the Front Office. The survey will close at midnight next Friday 4th March.

Following staff evaluation of the school’s system for acknowledging students with awards and taking into account parent feedback over time, a proposal was put forward to the Community Council Executive to change school practice with regard to some Award Ceremonies.

It was proposed that the current practice of holding an End of Term Awards Assembly be changed to an End of Semester Awards Assembly to bring it in line with the reporting schedule and ensure that the integrity of the Awards is not lost due to them being awarded on four occasions each year. As has been our practice, these awards would still have to be earned which means that not every child will necessarily receive an award at one of these Assemblies over the year – as is also currently the case.

A further proposal is to merge the Peacemaker and Christian Leadership Awards into one and to introduce a St John Vianney Award which would be presented to students who continually strive to do their best. Therefore, there would be 4 Awards presented for each class each semester – 1 of each: Christian Leadership, St John Vianney, Personal Best and Academic Achievement as well as the ‘Vision Award’ that is presented to one student per grade level.

The hope is that the Awards would be considered that little bit more ‘special’ as they are awarded twice a year instead of four.
In addition, the school wishes to introduce a Vision Award to the Year 6 Graduation Awards which would be an 'all rounder' award presented to someone who tries their hardest in many aspects of school life and 'gives everything a go'. It is proposed to retain the Claire Bentley Shield but to award it for academic excellence and citizenship only and not for 'all round' effort as well.

We value the opinions of parents and would like your feedback on the above proposal. Please see the link below.

**Baby Congratulations**
Sincere congratulations are extended to Addisen Bale (Yr 3/4 St Clare) on the birth of her little sister, Elara, who was born on the last day of school last year! We welcome little Elara to the world!

**Thought for Lent:**

“We do not have the right to be indifferent or to look the other way.”

Pope Francis

Vicky van der Sanden
Principal

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**Survey regarding proposed changes to School Awards**

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If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of the questions, please let us know at the Front Office.

The survey will close at midnight next Friday 4th March.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FXTVL6P
(Ctrl + click on link)

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**SCHOOL DISCO**

We are looking for an eager few to take the reins and create a super fun night for our kids!

The disco is super easy to organise and comes with a written instruction sheet and templates from previous years!

The hall is already booked so the event is almost halfway there!!

Please call or txt 0402 450 402 to register your interest or let the front office know and we will be in touch.

Thanks in advance,

The Events and Fundraising Focus Group of the Community Council

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**SAVE THE DATE**

Disco on Friday 18 March!
CO-ORDINATOR NEWS by Mark Konik

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Swimming Carnival program has been placed in the corridor outside 5/6 St Mark. The teachers will take their classes to check that students are in the correct events. I will then make any necessary changes.

Thank you to parents who have volunteered to help at the Swimming Carnival. A note went home yesterday notifying parents of their jobs for the carnival. If you did not receive a note and wish to volunteer at the Carnival, please email me and advise me of your availability and let me know what job you would prefer to do.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS TRIATHLON CHALLENGE

The Australian Schools Triathlon Challenge will be held at the Australian Institute of Sport during March. The event will be held at the AIS, with the swim leg commencing inside the centre; followed by the cycle and run legs around the AIS complex. If this sounds like an event that you would like your child to compete in, further information can be found at [http://www.schoolstriathlonchallenge.org.au/](http://www.schoolstriathlonchallenge.org.au/)

Mark Konik

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The SRC is running the 2016 SJV Easter Raffle!

We ask each student to contribute by bringing in a small ‘Easter item’ by Friday 18th March.

The SRC will sell raffle tickets at recess in the week leading up to the raffle draw! Reminders will be in the newsletter.

The raffle will be drawn at morning assembly on Thursday 24th March

Good luck
Thanks SJV
Ryan, Tanya and Joe from 104.7 Breakfast show came along on Monday afternoon and collected our jokes for the ‘104.7 Cancer Showbags’ to be sold at the Royal Canberra Show this weekend. They were so grateful for our contributions.

Rights and Responsibilities.
All students have certain rights. At St John Vianney’s Primary School these include:

   The right to feel safe
Students cannot learn well or socialise effectively if they feel unsafe in the classroom or playground. Safety at school includes psychological and emotional safety, the right to privacy and personal space as well as a safe and clean physical environment.

   The right to learn
Students need to have their efforts recognised, to feel supported when they make mistakes and to receive assistance and encouragement. The teacher needs to be able to focus time and energy into supporting learning. Class developed rules can support a learning culture and environment.

   The right to respect and fair treatment
Students should be able to express their thoughts, beliefs and feelings without fear of racism, ridicule or bias. All students should feel included and be treated with dignity and respect, even when being disciplined. Such rights can only be enjoyed when people are acting responsibly.

Part of our practice is to inform students of these rights and encourage discussion about why these rights are important, what each one means and how we can go about ensuring these rights both in and out of class. The above ‘rights’ form the basis of all our school rules and are displayed in all classrooms.

All children need to feel that school is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging at school. Belonging is very important for children’s mental health and wellbeing. Children who feel that they belong at school are happier; more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than other students. They are also more motivated to learn and are more successful with their school work.

More information about Belonging and Student Well-being can be found at: https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/mental-health-information/need-belong/belonging-school-makes-difference

Tell A Fairy Tale Day….
Gather your family around and make yourselves comfortable… Tell A Fairy Tale Day is all about exploring myths and stories, old and new. From grim(m) tales to urban legends, tap the dark corners of your subconscious and see what you find…share your favourite Fairy Tale from your childhood!

‘Cinderella: Proof that a new pair of shoes can change your life!’
Unknown

Nina De Rosa
Assistant Principal
R.E. NEWS by Sharee Thomas

In this Sunday’s Gospel we encounter Jesus reflecting on the probability of his death: ‘destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again’. Knowing that He has limited time gives Him clarity of thought and a perspective on what is important. This is no time for mincing words or wasting opportunities. Not only is He offended by the inappropriate use made of the temple, where the courtyard had become a place of business and a pen for animals, but also He is angered by how these practices get in the way of allowing the people to come freely into God’s presence in the temple. How is it that Jesus could see what the problem was, and others apparently could not? It was because his heart was only focussed on one thing and only desired one thing: receiving and giving the love of God. Anything that participates in and reveals the love of God, Jesus celebrates. Anything that gets in the way and obscures the love of God, Jesus takes to with a big stick. Like the people Jesus encounters, we can keep God at a distance by becoming preoccupied with material possessions and let life get in the way. We see attending Mass as an hour of time we don’t have rather than an opportunity to develop and deepen our relationship with our loving God.

This week spend some time in prayer thinking about the reality of God’s presence and contemplate the thought that God has something for you – a plan that is as unique as you are. Don’t worry about what that plan is or about what you are to do. Your role is simple: sit in God’s presence and wait for him.

WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER CELEBRATIONS

Please take note of the below timetable for this year’s Whole School Prayer Celebrations. Some times have been changed due to conflicts on the calendar.

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<tr>
<th>Prayer Celebration</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Responsible</th>
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<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Friday 18th March @ 9:30 am</td>
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<td>Term 1 Week 7</td>
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<td>Holy Thursday</td>
<td>Thursday 24th March @ 9:30 am</td>
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<td>Term 1 Week 8</td>
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<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>Tuesday 29th March @ 9:30 am</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
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<td>Term 2 Week 1</td>
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<td>ANZAC Day</td>
<td>Tuesday 26th April @ 9:30 pm</td>
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<td>Term 2 Week 1</td>
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<td>Term 2 Week 5</td>
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<td>St Mary MacKillop Feast Day</td>
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<td>Term 3 Week 4</td>
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<td>Grandparents Day</td>
<td>Thursday 25th August @ 10:45am</td>
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<td>Term 3 Week 6</td>
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<td>Remembrance Day</td>
<td>Friday 11th November @ 10:45am</td>
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<td>Term 4 Week 5</td>
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PROJECT COMPASSION: The children are doing so well with their contributions to Project Compassion. This week we added $143.35 to our whole school total and classes are tracking their own contributions very carefully. Remember, every little bit helps!

Have a great week!

Sharee Thomas

REC
**MERIT AWARDS**

Kinder St Anthony  
Year 1/2 St Brigid  
Year 1/2 St John the Baptist  
Year 1/2 St Nicholas  
Year 3/4 St Patrick  
Year 3/4 St Catherine  
Year 3/4 St Clare of Assisi  
Year 5/6 St Joseph  
Year 5/6 St Paul  
The Arts  
Library  
Principal

Myna Halatoa  
Siddhant Sapkota  
Jono Harrington  
Olivia Wellington  
Annie Wilkie  
Elizabeth Fitzpatrick-Muller  
Charlotte Nguyen  
Tallis Flowers  
Camryn Wilder  
Ian Omijeh  
Melanie Johnson  
Peter Hodges

Certificates will be awarded at next Friday’s Assembly.

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**WARAMUNCHIES**

**OUR SCHOOL CANTEEN**

Our school canteen is open Wednesday & Friday.

**Wednesday 2 March**  
June Smith

**Friday 4 March**  
Rose Collins  
Nick Mogensen  
Mary Longford  
Dianne Wallace

Please make sure you have your WWVP card with you.

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**ELC NEWS**

**Happy Birthday Sophie P**

The ELC children all visited local playgrounds this week. The Wombats collected some bark to make volcanoes and the Echidnas talked about snakes and what to do if we see one in our environment. They have been really interested in learning about fossils and dinosaurs also. Miss Holgate taught the Joeys this week and they particularly enjoyed playing shops, puzzles, and sharing their favourite nursery rhymes.

**Boxes for Craft** – We are collecting recycled boxes and items that can be used for craft and construction. Please send them into the ELC.

**Preschool Parents Meeting** – Our first meeting for the year will be held next Tuesday 1 March at 6:30pm at the ELC. We will be discussing the Fete as well as other fundraising opportunities. It would be great to see you there.

**Mufti Day** – Next Tuesday 1 March (Thursday 3rd for Echidnas) we will be having a uniform-free day to gather supplies for the fete stall. The ELC will again be running the Little Kids Corner and we are asking for donations of crayons, pencils, textas, colouring books or plain paper scrap books.

**St Jude’s Fete will be on Saturday 19 March.**  
It is always a wonderful, social day and a great opportunity to get involved and get to know lots of other ELC families.
Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge 2016

Last year 19,551 ACT school students from preschool to year 8 completed the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge, the highest number ever. Reading is always a fun and rewarding experience, especially when it’s in the form of a challenge. I know that at least one student last year read his own height in books! The Challenge requires you to read 15 books between February and September. By participating you can win book vouchers for your school library. You can choose your own books or ask your parents, teacher, librarian at your school or Library for their suggestions. I encourage you to be adventurous in your reading choices – try choosing books by different authors or reading books in your home language or the language you are learning at school. This year maybe one of you will read my height in books! My challenge is for even more of you to get into reading in 2016! Best wishes and happy reading.

Andrew Barr MLA
ACT Chief Minister

SJV students will commence the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge over the next week and should have no trouble reading 15 books of their own choice between now and September. Reading records will be updated during library lessons and signed by Ms Heath. SJV has successfully participated in the Chief Minster’s Reading Challenge for the last 7 years and has loved the challenge and the book voucher prizes. Happy reading everyone!

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**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

- Swimming Carnival Yr 2-6 CISAC
- Tennis Clinic
- Tennis Clinic
- Water Fun Day Kinder & Yr 1
- Yr 6 Leadership Ceremony & Yr 5 Heart Space Ceremony
**Soccer**

This year’s Canberra-Goulburn Catholic Schools’ Carnival is on **Sunday 3 April 2016** at the University of Canberra.

Teams will be made up of year 3/4 players and 5/6 players and there are two divisions this year, one for more experienced teams and another for less experienced players. Nomination forms and carnival information were sent home this week. Nomination forms and payment are due in to the front office by **Friday 11 March**.

For further information, please contact samantha.heath@cg.catholic.edu.au.

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**SJV Plant Stall**

**Gardening Help!**

Hello to new families and old! Are you looking for a way to help at St John Vianney’s? The SJV Plant Stall is run as an ongoing fundraiser for our school, with a major stall at the school fete (Term 4) and sales throughout the year (3-4pm Fridays). It is run by volunteers and we need your help!

Do you like to garden? Can you weed, tip prune or repot plants? No experience is required, just some of your time and energy. We would love to have you come along to a gardening work party on **Sunday 6 March** - 9am to 12pm in the SJV courtyard. If possible, let the front office know if you can make it (ph: 6288 2383 or office.sjv@cg.catholic.edu.au). Please come as a one off or become part of a gardening group for future work and projects. Hope to see you on Sunday week!

Follow us on FACEBOOK

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**Royals Juniors RUFC**

**Are you interested in playing Rugby?**

**Come & join us at Royals Juniors RUFC...**

**Details**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2016 Costs</th>
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<tr>
<td>u6s/u7s (non-contact &amp; born before 2009)</td>
<td>$160.00*</td>
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<td>u8s to u10s (contact)</td>
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For more information, contact one of the contacts below:

**Contacts**:
President – Keirán Lamach (president@royalsjuniors.com.au)
(Mob) 0423 112 557
Rugby Ops – Trevor Hancock (rugbypols@royalsjuniors.com.au)
(Mob) 0438 774 560

**Training**:
DAYS: Thursdays
TIME: 4:30 – 5:30pm
(Note: some teams may have 2nd training on Tuesday 4:30 – 5:30pm)
VENUE: Rivett Oval, Bangayley Cres, Rivett
*Feel free to drop down for a look, if considering Rugby for 2016!*

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**SJV Netball**

**Netball 2016**

SJV Netball will begin again at Arawang on **2nd April**.

Online registrations are now available. We will no longer be using the paper registration form.

**To register your child please follow the corresponding links:**

Years 2 and 3 netball please follow this link [https://goo.gl/oZxL3i](https://goo.gl/oZxL3i)
Year 2 & 3 $115

Years 4, 5 and 6 please follow this link [https://goo.gl/Q4SdZL](https://goo.gl/Q4SdZL)
Years 4, 5 & 6 $125

Once you have registered online please forward your payment form and payment in full to the Front Office. If you are able to help coach or manage a team please let me know.

**Registrations must be completed by Friday 4 March**

Netball for players in Kinder and Year 1 is the NetSetGo program and registrations are available by following this link [http://goo.gl/qYQR4T](http://goo.gl/qYQR4T)

If you have any problems with the online registration please email me.

Suzanne Kelly
Purplesuz@me.com

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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