Dear Parents and Friends,

The Feast of the Assumption takes place on Monday 15th August and is a Holy Day of Obligation. The whole school will attend Mass at 9.30am to celebrate the taking of Mary into Heaven, body and soul. As always, parents who attend are very welcome to have their children sit with them, instead of with the class, during the Mass. “The present Preface for the feast links Mary’s unique destiny with her role as the Mother of God … She was personally spared the corruption of the tomb, since from her own body she marvellously brought forth your incarnate Son, the Author of all life. But her privilege is a blessing for us all, since Mary was assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church’s coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people.” (From Break Open The Word 2016)

Reconciliation Parent Formation Evening

Parents of students who have registered with the Parish to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation later this term, are asked to attend a formation session for adults on Tuesday evening – 16th August. It will be held in our school hall and begin at 7pm. It should not take longer than an hour. I send my apologies on this occasion as I will be on Retreat at Galong with a group of Principals from the Archdiocese.

Please note that the Formation Evening for parents of students making their First Eucharist will be held the following week – 23rd August.

2016 NAPLAN Reports

The Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has advised that NAPLAN Student Reports to parents for students in Years 3 and 5 will arrive in time to be sent home to parents on Friday 19th August. Each envelope contains the national Student Report 2016, Additional Student Report 2016 and a letter from the ACT Minister for Education. To assist parents in interpreting the student reports, ACARA has published a parent information brochure and a video which can be downloaded from the ACARA Student Reports webpage: (http://nap.edu.au/results-and-reports/student-reports.html).

The reports provide a point-in-time analysis of student achievement. The tests were conducted in May and we expect that every child will have made further progress since then. It is important that parents discuss the NAPLAN results with the class teachers should there be any concerns, so that the results can be viewed ‘on balance’ with other school-based assessments. Please file the reports in a safe place as they may be required in the future for enrolment into other schools.

Hats

Having had a look at the lack of shade that is available to students to play under at the moment should they have forgotten their hat, we have decided to make all of Term 3 ‘hats off’ time. The children can, of course, wear the school hat or beanie should they wish. Given how cold it is, it does make sense to wear a beanie for warmth! If you would like your child to apply sunscreen prior to play periods outside, we are happy for you to provide some for them to use at school.

UNSW English Competition

The University of New South Wales English Competition will take place next Tuesday morning. If your child has been registered to sit the test, please ensure he/she arrives at school on time as we will begin the session as soon as possible once the school day has begun.
KidFit Leaders Program

Yesterday, Jane Livingstone, the Founder and Director of the KidFit Leaders Program, came to the school to host a session for our current Year 5 students to prepare them to be leaders of our FitBitz Program next year. She will also run a refresher course for them at the start of next year prior to the students putting their learned skills into practice by conducting fitness sessions for the whole school. Jane came with a camera crew this time and our students’ skills and some commentary will be showcased on the business website. Jane was delighted with the students for the wholehearted way in which they participated and commented on what a lovely group of children they are. She said that she always enjoys coming to our school to coach because of the beautiful manners and wonderful cooperation skills of the children. I was so pleased to hear this report and am glad to share it with the community.

Prayers Please
Please keep Penny Bufalo in your prayers as she recovers from surgery. We wish Penny every blessing and a speedy return to full health.

REPEAT NOTICE:
Grandparents’ Day, Book Parade and Learning Journeys

Please mark Thursday 25th August in your diaries as this is a big morning of special events at the school. We will be celebrating Grandparents’ (and other special people) Day with a Book Parade following the morning assembly as it is Book Week. This will be followed by the Learning Journeys. This is an invitation to parents and grandparents, and other significant adults in the children’s lives, to come along and see the work that the children have been doing in their classrooms. At 10.45am, we will gather in the hall to participate in a Prayer Celebration in honour of all Grandparents. A morning tea will be held for all visitors at 11.15am whilst the children are on their lunch break. Mums and Dads, please pass on this information to your children’s grandparents and other special people in their lives. We do hope that you, and many others, will be able to join us on this special occasion.

Prayer for the Feast of the Assumption:

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Vicky van der Sanden
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Friday 2nd September**
Father’s Day afternoon tea at 3:10pm
(following ‘Literacy with Dads’)

**Friday 9th September**
SJV Trivia Night

**SAVE THE DATE**
**Friday 28th October**
Disco!!
This Week Mr Mark Konik and I travelled to St Clements Retreat Centre at Galong to participate in the Salt and Light Faith Formation program run by the CE for APs, RECs and Coordinators. The two days is a time of rest, quiet and spirituality.

The theme of the retreat this year was “Ruth; Model of Faith and Hope”. The Book of Ruth appears in the Old Testament and is named after the Moabite woman who commits herself to the Israelite people by an oath to her mother-in-law Naomi. She becomes the great-grandmother of David, by marriage to Boaz of Bethlehem, thus she is an ancestor in the line that leads to Jesus. While on retreat we talked about Ruth’s commitment to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and how she gave everything up to be with her. Even though they were not blood related, she was her family.

“Wherever you go, I will go, wherever you live, I will live.” Ruth 1:16

We say that God works in mysterious ways; the time spent reflecting on Ruth and Naomi’s story really struck a chord with me, as on Sunday morning I lost a dear family friend to cancer, Amanda. Amanda was a mother of 2 beautiful children, Thea and Hamish and she always put others first. Everyone she met was instantly a friend, she spent hours making others happy and would’ve been every flight attendants worst nightmare– ‘ensure you secure your own breathing mask before assisting others’.

Amanda also made everyone in her life part of her family. It didn’t matter how she knew you or how long you had been part of her life– you were family and therefore loved. Family doesn’t need to be blood or marriage. Family are those you love and those you would follow, just like Ruth, Naomi and Amanda.

The time in Galong allowed me to refocus on what is important and valuable and to reconnect with those whom I love– family. This week take time to let others know you love them and that you are glad they are part of your family. Take time to talk to your children about the value of family and how it goes beyond the people we are related to. Please pray for all those in this big family who are suffering or who just need our support.

The Assumption

On Monday at 9.30am, the school will celebrate the Holy day of Obligation for the Feast of the Assumption. “The Feast of the Assumption celebrates the belief that the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken into heaven after the end of her earthly life. Mary’s assumption into heaven is seen by many as a fulfilment of Jesus’ promise to all faithful servants; that they too will be received into the kingdom of God. Mary is seen as the first disciple of Jesus and a model for all disciples.”

(Excerpt from liturgyhelp.com).

We would love for any parents or family members who are available to come along to Mass to help us celebrate.

Reconciliation Adult Formation Evening

A reminder to parents of children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation later in the term that we have our first adult formation evening this Tuesday, the 16th August at 7pm in the SJV school hall. At least one parent/carer MUST attend in order for your child’s preparation to be complete.

Have a good week
Sharee Thomas
MERIT AWARDS

Kinder St Anthony  Myna Halatoa
Year 1/2 St Brigid  Patrick Hill
Year 1/2 St John the Baptist  Oscar Hetherington
Year 1/2 St Nicholas  Isabelle Donnelly
Year 3/4 St Patrick  Annie Wilkie
Year 3/4 St Catherine  Fletcher Burrows
Year 3/4 St Clare of Assisi  Angelin Martin
Year 5/6 St Joseph  David Calis
Year 5/6 St Paul  Amy Darby
The Arts  Alexander Vorn
Library  Olivia McDonald
Principal  Sarah Smith

Certificates will be awarded at next Friday’s Assembly.

WARAMUNCHIES

The Canteen is open each Wednesday and Friday

Wednesday 17 August
Georgina Doyle
Rebecca Ransom

Friday 19 August
Pip Harrington
Colleen Donaldson
Kerry Kennealy
Karen Wilder

If you would like to Volunteer to assist at the canteen, please contact Trish in the canteen. Please make sure you have your WWVP card with you.

ELC NEWS

Happy Birthday Johnny L.

The Wombat class made some beautiful angels this week to show their support for Julia. They have also been learning about the Olympics, making Olympic rings and Australian flags and keeping a medal tally. They also watched a bit of water polo (which they thought looked like soccer in water!). The Joeys made dinosaurs and animals out of clay and they compared the size of dinosaur feet with their own. They have also been exploring shadows with the overhead projector and enjoyed projecting feathers onto the big screen. The Echidnas are also making clay animals this week with a focus on Australian animals. They are reading dreamtime stories and making damper.

ELC Parents Meeting – will be held next Tuesday 16th at 6:30pm at the ELC. We will be talking about ideas for a Fathers Day raffle. It would be great to see lots of ELC parents there.
Arawang Netball
Lara Myers and Poppy Wellington represented Arawang in the ACT netball championships last weekend. They played amazingly well and their team came in 3rd. A fantastic effort!

Catholic Schools Netball Carnival
Thank you to all the people who have volunteered to coach, manage or umpire at the Catholic Schools’ Netball Carnival. I will be in touch soon with the parents who sent back the notes.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Beth Kelly (Yr 5/6 St Joseph) on her excellent achievement in the Practice of Music. Beth was awarded a Pass with Honours for First Grade in playing the flute at her recent examination by the Australian Music Examinations Board. Well done Beth!

Also congratulations to the girls who recently competed at the Australian National Eisteddfod.
Under 8 - Olivia Wellington
1st Pop Section, 2nd Musical Theatre, 2nd Any Song

Under 10 - Tamara Brammall
1st Pop Section, 2nd Musical Theatre

Under 12 - Lara Cristofani
1st Classical Section, 1st Musical Theatre, 2nd Pop, 3rd Folk
Well done girls and to their teacher, Mrs Lauren Nihill.

Mark Konik

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**BOOK WEEK**

**Monday**
Gymnastics

**Tuesday**
Mass 9.30am

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

**Sunday**
Gymnastics
Book Week Character Parade is Thursday Week 6!

To celebrate Book Week 2016, AUSTRALIA: STORY COUNTRY, we are holding a Book Character Dress-Up Parade at morning assembly on Thursday 25th August. Students are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Please ensure students wear appropriate clothes for the day and either bring or wear their sneakers. Students who do not dress up, need to wear their normal school uniform. We look forward to seeing some fun and inventive characters!

BOOKS! BOOKS! AND MORE SECONDHAND BOOKS NEEDED FOR THE GREAT BOOK SWAP FOR INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY WEEK 8

Wednesday 7th September is Indigenous Literacy Day and to help raise funds for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, SJV will be holding The Great Book Swap during week 8. Students are asked to bring in books now from home that they no longer need to donate to the book swap. (All book donations to the library.) In week 8 students will be able to purchase a secondhand book or two for a gold coin donation. Please ensure donated books are in good condition. Thank you to the families who have already donated!

Reading Olympics

To help celebrate the 2016 Rio Olympics and Paralympics, SJV students in Kindergarten and Years 1/2 are invited to participate in our own Reading Olympics. Congratulations to Emma Battaglini from KA for being the very first to finish the Reading Olympics!

This is meant to be a fun activity and is NOT compulsory. Students need to complete the different challenges in no set order and have an adult sign them off. Please help your children read the books and fill in the different challenges. Students need to return their passport to the library when complete or by their library lesson in week 9. I will total the points and award Reading Olympic sticker medals. Happy reading! Ms Heath.

PENS Against POVERTY

Free Schools writing competition for Anti-Poverty Week

Calling all young writers! Write an original POEM or STORY (no more than 500 words) based on the theme, Playing Fair.

Open to students from Canberra in Years 3 to 10.

Entries close 19 September 2016 and will be judged by Jackie French.

For more information visit: www.pensagainstpoverty.org or see Ms Heath in the library.
WESTON CREEK  
LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE

Is your child excited about watching the Rio Olympics? Do they have a favourite athlete? They can enjoy taking part in athletics right on your doorstep at Chapman Oval. Weston Creek Little Athletics offers a variety of fun for children aged 5 to 16 years. Whether your child prefers running around a track, jumping the long jump, the high jump or they just like to throw, there is something to suit everyone. Come along and join in the fun at Weston Creek Little Athletics this summer. Who knows, there might be a future Olympian in the making.

We meet at Chapman Oval on Saturday mornings throughout the spring and summer and are all about children having fun in sport. If you would like to join us you can register and pay online at [www.actlaa.org.au](http://www.actlaa.org.au) and pick up your registration pack at Chapman Oval on our registration day on Saturday 10th September between 9am and 11am or on our first competition day at 9am on Saturday 15th October. Registrations are open now. If you register and pay BEFORE 31st August you will be eligible to go into a draw to have your registration fee reimbursed.

If your child wants to try it out first then just register, without paying, and they can try out one Saturday for free. If you would like any further information please visit our website [www.wclac.org.au](http://www.wclac.org.au) or email us at registrar@wclac.org.au