Dear Parents & Carers

This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of the Season of Advent on the Liturgical Calendar. At this time, Christians around the world pray using an Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath is in the shape of a circle to symbolise eternity and remind us that God has no beginning or end. The wreath is predominantly green; a symbol of eternal life and a reminder that God is unchangeable. The four candles, representing Christ as the light of the world, are placed around the wreath. Three of the candles are purple; a sign of penance. These candles are lit on the first, second and fourth weeks of Advent. The remaining candle is pink; a sign of joy and is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. This day is known as ‘Guevete Sunday’ Latin for ‘rejoice’.

Advent is the perfect time to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas and to dedicate time to preparing ourselves to welcome our Saviour into our hearts and homes.

**Classes 2017**

I am not in a position to inform parents of the staffing arrangements at this point in time. Class lists for 2017 will be displayed on Thursday 15th December at the end of the school day. However, by this time, students will already know who their teachers will be for next year as they will spend an hour on Tuesday afternoon of the last week in their new classroom spaces getting to know their new teachers and classmates. Please be aware that the time frame to inform me of any special concerns related to the wellbeing and development of students and their class placement for next year closed last Friday.

**Year 6 Graduation Mass**

The Year 6 Graduation Mass will be held in St John Vianney’s Church at 5.30pm on Monday 5th December. Everyone is most welcome to come along to the Mass. It would be lovely to see many people from our community as well as extended family members there to celebrate, farewell and give thanks for the students and their contributions to primary school. At this Mass, the Graduation Certificates and special awards are presented.

**Awards Assembly**

The end of semester Awards Assembly will be held on Friday 9th December at 2.00pm in the hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend. Parents will soon receive notification from the classroom teachers if their child has been nominated for an Award.

**Candle Ceremony**

On Monday 12th December, the Candle Ceremony will take place at 9.30am in the hall. At this ceremony, the Year 6 students hand over responsibility for student leadership to the current Year 5 students. The Year 5 students also hand over responsibility for the leadership of Heart Space to the current Year 4 students. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

**Giving Mass and Thank You Morning Tea**

The Giving Mass, for the whole school, will be celebrated at 9.30am on Wednesday 14th December in the church. This is an opportunity for the school to give thanks for the year that has passed and to give to others through the presentation of donations of goods to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Following the Mass, a ‘Thank you’ morning tea will be held at the school, in the staffroom, for all who have assisted the school in any way during the course of the year – everyone is most welcome and we would love to see you there.

To allow staff members to attend the morning tea, the timetable for the day will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Giving Mass in the church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Thank you morning tea at school. At this time, the children will enjoy a recess break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Lunch break (canteen lunch orders will be served at this break)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students will resume classes at 1.10pm and will have another short break mid afternoon.
Christmas T Shirt Day
Christmas T Shirt Day has become a bit of a ‘tradition’ at St John Vianney’s. On Friday 9th December (also the Awards Assembly day), everyone can come to school dressed up in a decorated Christmas T Shirt. This day is a designated fundraiser for our sponsored school, Charcha Academy in Kenya, as we are a Global School Partner. Any size donation will be appreciated on the day for the Charcha Academy. Please be as generous as you are in support of our partner school as we are hoping to fund a staircase so the students can reach the top floor of their newly constructed classroom building! Please see the Global School Partners attachment for more detailed information. The attachment also details developments specific to the Charcha Academy which have been made possible due to the generous sponsorship of our school community. Thank you for making a difference to the lives of the children and their families at our partner school and for making the world a better place.

Candy Canes & Christmas Cards
At this time of the year, children like to give one another candy canes and Christmas cards which is a lovely thing to do. However, we ask children to place cards into their bags as soon as they receive them so that they don’t become lost and we ask them to take the candy canes home to eat. We inform the children that it is not appropriate to eat candy canes at school for a few reasons:

- Parents provide certain foods and expect that their children will eat these foods and not fill up on ‘other’ things
- Parents need to know what their children are eating
- The school discourages consumption of foods containing high levels of sugar, colourings and preservatives for health reasons
- Some children may have allergies to certain foods
- The wrappers are often hard to peel off the cane, coming away in ‘bits and pieces’ which often don’t find their way to the bin and thus create a litter problem

Please also remind your children of these issues and ask them to bring candy canes and cards home so that you can see what they have received. Many thanks.

Birthdays and Lolly Bags at School
Several parents have been opting to send Lolly Bags into school for their child’s birthday. This is not usual practice as we ask for cupcakes or something similar. Teachers are aware of students with allergies and they are given an alternative suitable treat. Please be aware that many lollies contain gluten and most contain artificial colouring and preservatives. If lolly bags are brought in, teachers will only distribute them at the very end of the day and will instruct the children to take them home and ask permission from their parents to consume them.

I am looking forward to a wonderful concert being performed next Tuesday at the matinee and in the evening. The children are very excited and Mrs Mullamphy and Mrs De Rosa have been working especially hard to make it very special for everyone involved and an enjoyable experience for the audiences. I look forward to seeing you there!

Thought for the Week:

“You’ve gotta dance like there’s nobody watching, love like you’ll never be hurt, sing like there’s nobody listening, and live like it’s heaven on earth.”

William W. Purkey

REPEAT NOTICES:

Students Leaving St John Vianney’s at the end of the year
Please ensure that you have informed me, in writing, if your child will not be returning to St John Vianney’s in 2017. It is imperative, for planning purposes, that I have accurate information with regard to enrolment numbers. I also need to know the destination school as part of system accountability requirements. Thank you to those who have already provided this information.

Parish Christmas BBQ
The Parish Christmas BBQ is on Friday 2nd December. It will take place on the grounds of St Jude’s Primary School from 6.00pm. Father Brannelly especially invites all the families of St John Vianney’s and St Jude’s to the Parish Christmas BBQ. This event is a Christmas present from Father and is his way of saying ‘Thank you’ to everyone for all that is done in support of the parish and both parish schools during the year. Please come along if you can and join in the festivities.

Care Group
St John Vianney’s has a Care Group that provides meals and snacks and transport if required by families within our school community at times when they are faced with challenging circumstances. The service, with the exception of transport, is confidential. We currently have families on the list who need support but we no longer have an up to date list of providers. If you would be happy to provide the occasional meal or treat or be able to assist with transport needs from time to time, please let the front office know so that we can update our database. If you have previously been on the list, please contact us to let us know that you are happy to continue. You may be called upon at any time but, of course, can decline support if it is not possible for you to provide assistance at that point in time. Meals and treats can be dropped into the school at any time and the school will take care of delivering the goods to the families who require them. Thank you in advance for giving this worthy community work your serious consideration.
Polly Parrot and the Pirates

Venue: SJV Hall
Date: 29 November 2016
Time: 9.30am - First performance
       6.30pm - Second performance

REMINDER TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS!!
Tickets need to be purchased for all performances and remember to bring your booking confirmation with you upon entering the hall.

| Week 8        | Monday 28th November | 9-11am – Chair set and microphone set up – hall out of use
|              |                    | • Help to set up chairs from 9am would be appreciated.
|              |                    | • Costumes need to be at school.
|              | Monday 28th November | 12-1.20pm – whole school full dress rehearsal – costumes stay at school
|              | Tuesday 29th November | 9.30am – first performance. Children will bring home costumes to wear for night performance.
|              | Tuesday 29th November | 6.30pm – second performance - children to arrive at school by 6.15pm in full costume.

During the performances a roving spot light will be used. We ask that all children wear a small amount of foundation and make-up to ensure they do not look washed out on stage. If your household doesn’t have access to make-up, please send in a permission note for classroom teachers to apply at school.

Thank you for your anticipated support. We look forward to great performances.

‘Why fit in when you were born to STAND OUT!’
Dr Suess

* Please make sure you check the Concert Note being sent home today.

CO-ORDINATOR NEWS by Mark Konik

SRC at the RSPCA
The SRC representatives from Year 5 and 6 went to Weston RSPCA yesterday to donate the money which was raised from the RSPCA Cupcake Day. The SJV students raised over $500 and the RSPCA were very appreciative of our donation. Josh, Ellie, Melanie and Oscar received a certificate on behalf of the school and they also got to have a look at the very cute puppies that were in the kennels!
This Sunday we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. During Advent, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man. Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read on Sunday is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord.

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But this weekend’s Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas. As a family this week, read together the Gospel and talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home. You could even create a family Advent wreath and place your family commitment there.

Have a great week.
Sharee Thomas

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**Community Council Notice – Positions Vacant**

The Community Council Executive is seeking new Parent Representatives as some members are coming to the end of their two-year term. Roles are decided internally once all members are in office. The Council urges parents to seriously consider being part of the Executive. Nominations, of self or of others, can be lodged via the Community Council email account: sjv.communitycouncil@gmail.com

Should the Council be overwhelmed with nominations, a formal election of candidates will need to be held.

The Council would also like to invite members of the parent body to consider taking up roles as assistants to the Focus Groups in the following areas:

- Environment
- Communication
- Pastoral Care
- Events and Fundraising
- a sub-group that deals with Sponsorship.

The people who are leading these areas are doing an amazing job but would appreciate any support that you can offer. Please notify the Council via the above email if you can help.

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**Christmas Raffle**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW.**

$1.00 EACH.

STUDENTS CAN PURCHASE TICKETS DURING RECESS BREAKS - PARENTS CAN PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE FRONT OFFICE.

Prizes on display in the office foyer. Raffle will be drawn after the School Concert on 30 November.
Final Book Club of the year
Issue 8 must close
30th November!

The last Scholastic Book Club catalogue for 2016, Issue 8, went home last week for all students. Orders MUST be completed by next Wednesday 30 November (Week 8) so orders can be delivered before the end of the term. 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.

All Library books due in next week! (Week 8)

Students need to return all their Library books next week during their Library lessons. It would be appreciated if parents could help students find any overdue or missing books – overdue notes went home this week. Thank you for assisting this end of year requirement.

Happy Birthday Harry A, Beatrice C

This week the preschool children have continued to rehearse their Christmas concert. In helping the children get used to the primary school lunch routine, they have been spending lunch time at the primary school. The children have been making great use of the oval, the playground and have been meeting many of the teachers that have been on playground duty. Yesterday the Joey class had a special lunch order which allowed them to visit the canteen and meet the canteen staff. Following many of the children’s interests in animals, tomorrow the Wombat and Echidna classes are off to the National Zoo and Aquarium for a guided tour.

Uniforms for 2017 – If you have not yet ordered uniforms for 2017, please do so as soon as possible. The uniform shop will be open this Friday 25 November for purchases or exchanges, or you can order via the Qkr App prior to Monday 5 December.

Thank You! – A big thank you all the ELC parents who helped make our move night such a huge success particularly Beth Dawn, Angela Sherer and Maria Ciceran. It was a really fun night!

ELC Christmas Concert and Party – The ELC children will have their Christmas concert on Thursday 8 December in the school hall, followed by a party at the ELC. All current and 2017 ELC families are invited to attend.

Lego, Mobilo, Zoobs – The ELC is looking to increase our collection of Lego, Mobilo and Zooobs. If any families have items that they no longer need we would gratefully accept donations.

The Canteen is open each Wednesday and Friday

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Wednesday 30 November
Emma McDonald

Friday 2 December
Carol Nolan
Karen Wilder
Lucie/Steven Walker
Dianne Wallace
**MERIT AWARDS**

Certificates will be awarded at next Friday’s Assembly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten St Anthony</th>
<th>Hudson Hall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2 St Brigid</td>
<td>Samson Kennedy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1/2 St John the Baptist</td>
<td>Jacob Walsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1/2 St Nicholas</td>
<td>Lucy Maher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3/4 St Patrick</td>
<td>Hayley Mann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3/4 St Catherine</td>
<td>Emilie Sydlarczuk</td>
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<td>Year 3/4 St Clare of Assisi</td>
<td>Ian Omijeh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6 St Joseph</td>
<td>Kasia Taffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6 St Paul</td>
<td>Kirthana Jimmy</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Arts</td>
<td>Isabella Spurrett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Connor Doyle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
<td>Jack Stockbridge</td>
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<td>Principal</td>
<td>Josh Urbaniak</td>
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**SJV FORTNIGHTLY CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
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<td>Term 4</td>
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<td>Wk 8</td>
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<td>28 Nov</td>
<td>29 Nov</td>
<td>30 Nov</td>
<td>1 Dec</td>
<td>2 Dec</td>
<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>4 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Concert</td>
<td>Mass 9.30am</td>
<td>Parish BBQ 6.00pm on St Jude’s grounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30am Matinee</td>
<td>6.30 Evening</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
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<td>Wk 9</td>
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<td>5 Dec</td>
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<td>7 Dec</td>
<td>8 Dec</td>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>10 Dec</td>
<td>11 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 6 Graduation Mass 5.30pm</td>
<td>Reports posted home</td>
<td>Yr 6 Graduation Dinner SJV Hall 6.00pm</td>
<td>Gingerbread House Making 5.30-7.30pm</td>
<td>Christmas T-Shirt Day Awards Ceremony 2pm SJV Hall</td>
<td>Vicky’s Farewell Afternoon Tea 3pm SJV Library</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY, Friday 2 December 2016 commencing at 6.00pm in the grounds of St Jude’s School, Holder. ALL PARISHIONERS are invited to come along to what has proved to be a wonderful evening in past years. It is meant for the whole parish. This Christmas Party is also a special occasion for Fr Kevin to thank both in person and publicly, all parishioners for their generous involvement, support and work in the many areas of parish family life. Please indicate on the list at the back of the churches your name, numbers coming and whether you will bring a salad or a sweet (if children are over 12 years old please mark them as adult on the list). All else is provided. Come along for an evening with friends and fellow parishioners.
SAVE THE DATE

Christmas
Gingerbread House
December 8th

Keep the evening of 8th December free to come along & make a Gingerbread House. Details will be sent home soon.

THE START OF OUR FRESH TASTES JOURNEY

St John Vianney’s is involved in Fresh Tastes – an ACT Government service to help schools make healthy food and drinks a bigger part of everyday life for our kids. For the next three years we will build on our school’s healthy food and drink environment...and Fresh Tastes will give us a hand along the way! Students who eat well are better placed to learn, participate and succeed in school.

You can read more information about Fresh Tastes online at: www.health.act.gov.au/freshtastes

Fresh Tastes has partnerships with local organisations and businesses who share a commitment to improving children’s health in Canberra. Some of these partners may work with us over the next couple of years to help us achieve our goals.

For the next three years, we will focus on a number of Fresh Tastes action areas including:
Food for Sale   Classroom Learning
Growing Food    Cooking Food
Food from Home

For our first year we have chosen Food from Home. We have an action plan on how we will achieve change in the first year.

A Fresh Tastes Action Group has been set up. The more people across the school community who help out, the better the results will be. If you would like to get involved please let us know.

Please contact the school if you would like to find out more.

www.health.act.gov.au/freshtastes   (02) 6205 1452   freshtastes@act.gov.au