Dear Parents/ Carers,

When most people sit down to read this newsletter, preparations will be in their final stages for the school athletics carnival on Wednesday afternoon. We are hopeful of good weather and perfect conditions for friendly competition! A reminder that the P&F will be running a sausage sizzle (with drinks also available). Come along, bring a folding chair and support Mackillop, Bernadette or Xavier in our annual competition!

**STAFFING NEWS:**
**NEW LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICER AND SCHOOL COUNSELLOR POSITION**

This week we welcomed Mrs Simone Waddington to our staff. Simone will work as a Learning Support Officer on Mondays and Tuesdays this year, supporting students and teachers across all levels of the school.

We are also in the process of appointing a School Counsellor to support families in our community. If you feel your child would benefit from talking to the school counsellor, please contact Mrs Cathy Carroll-Browne through the school office.

Finally, Signora Nadia Lazzari is taking some well deserved Long Service Leave over the remaining weeks of term one. In her absence Mrs Jo Sheffield will be taking Italian classes.

**SCHOOL WEBSITE, APP AND PROMOTION**

We are in the process of finalising our new website and look forward to presenting the new images of our school for our online visitors.

Our new school app is proving to be an effective way of communicating with families. By registering with the Flexibuzz app you can receive updates and information (and even directly receive our newsletter!).

We are also looking at alternative ways of promoting our wonderful school in our local community—everything from Real Estate boards to online promotions are being considered. If you have any ideas for promoting our school, please contact the school office!!
ST PATRICK’S DAY MASS AND CELEBRATIONS

Last Friday six of our Year Six Leaders, Donghlaamsang, Grace, Owen, Jaeda, Michael and Sophie accompanied Mrs Brearley and Mr Williams to St Patrick’s Cathedral to celebrate Catholic Education Week. Archbishop Peter Comensoli celebrated mass for all the Catholic schools in Melbourne, followed by celebrations for all students.

YEAR FIVE SPORTS DAYS- ST JOSEPH’S AND MATER CHRISTI COLLEGES

On Friday the students in Year Five will join with other students from Priority Parish Schools to participate in a sports/activities day. These activities provide an opportunity for students to see first hand the facilities and activities available at Secondary School.

PRINCIPAL CONFERENCE—WEEK NINE

Next Tuesday I will join with outer eastern (Melbourne) Primary Principals, at the Victorian Association of Catholic Primary School Principals Conference, which will be held in Lorne. As the group name suggests, Catholic Primary Principals from all over Victoria attend for a biennial conference. During my absence our school leadership team will be undertaking some extra duties.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS- 2019

In order for families to plan for school closure days, please note the following dates when the school will be closed:

- Friday 26th April
- Monday 5th August
- Monday 4th November (Pre Melbourne Cup)
- Friday 29th November

With our school undertaking Review this year, there is a possibility of a further school closure day in term three. I will inform families as soon as possible, if this is the case.

SCHOOL APP- FLEXIBUZZ!

Many parents have already joined our new school app—Flexibuzz. The App allows the school to send information to our parents securely, with the additional feature of adding pictures and documents within messages. We will commence sending the newsletter home in this form next week. You can also quickly and easily inform the school of student absences, check out the school Facebook page and contact the office via email.

When using the Flexibuzz App, you will be asked to register your details, which means that the school has full control over who has access to the messages we send!

To access the new school app, please download the Flexibuzz app, register as a new member, then search for Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School- our school logo will appear next to our name.

Ross Williams
Principal
The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge registrations are now open for 2019!

The Challenge is an annual event, encouraging school students from Prep to Year 10 to read a set number of books throughout the year and record their efforts online.

- Students’ online books must be verified as read by a coordinator from school.
- All information must be completed online before Friday the 6th of September 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Number of books</th>
<th>Number from the Challenge book list</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep - Year 2</td>
<td>30 books</td>
<td>20 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 - Year 9</td>
<td>15 books</td>
<td>10 or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prep, Year 1 or Year 2 Students:

If children are in Prep, Year 1 or Year 2, they can read books by themselves or with someone else, for example, a parent, teacher, brother or sister, classmate, buddy or friend. This support is important if they are just learning to read.

If you would like to register for the Challenge please fill in the slip below and return it to school as soon as possible. Your child will receive a card with PRC login details in order for you to record the books they have read online. Book lists are also available online on the PRC website [https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/booklist.aspx](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/booklist.aspx)

Thank you!

Jess Browne
Literacy Leader

I would like to take part in the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge - 2019

Student name _____________________________  Class __________

Parent permission signature (for student names to be published on the Honour Roll) __________________
Our Lady of Lourdes School
Uniform Shop

SPECIAL OFFER
for the remainder of Term 1

Due to lower stock of short sleeve school polo tops, the Uniform Shop is now running a **2FOR1 deal** on long sleeve polo tops only.

This offer will run for the remainder of this term, so get in quick.

Uniform Shop is open every

Friday between 8:30am—9:30am
and 3:00pm—3:30pm

If you are unable to attend at these times, orders can be left at the school office.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY
New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child’s school in 2018, you do not need to complete an application form in 2019 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:
- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools in 2019 or you did not apply in 2018.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2019.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

MORE INFORMATION
For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you are the holder of a current Healthcare Card, please let the office know.