Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe it is just the beginning of March. We have achieved so much together over the last few weeks. Last week we held our Parent/Teacher/Student discussions for our students across the school. Thank you to all families for being on time to these discussions and on the whole keeping to the timetable. In reflecting on the discussions the staff shared how confident the students were at identifying their learning goals and being able to share and talk about them with their parents and teacher/s. We are very impressed and proud of how our students are engaged in learning tasks and are taking responsibility for their learning.

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to support us with various needs around the school. We really appreciate your support. You will be contacted soon if not already. OSHClub - Clare Jones and Shelley Incani are our 2016 MOG Parent Reps at OSHClub. Thank you to Parveen Akther and Lucy Jeffries who have been our parent reps for OSHClub during the past few years.

CPI Schools Joint Initiative - Wellbeing4Kids

Georgina Manning from Wellbeing4Kids gave an engaging talk about Anxiety and Resilience. It was wonderful to see the Marian Centre full and parents from across our three school communities from the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe in attendance. One of the key points in her talk was sharing the importance of having a ‘flow time’. When do you find yourself totally immersed in something and lose the sense of time? When does this occur for you and when does it occur for our children? Georgina encouraged us to identify these times and help our children to do so as well, especially at times away from our devices. She also encouraged parents to provide time for ‘flow time’ to occur and be mindful of not engaging their children in too many activities. Georgina has also distributed copies of her talk to attendees and is offering a workshop on the 29th April at Mother of God. This workshop is open to everybody but has a limited number of 20. So if you are interested please book into the workshop as soon as you can to avoid disappointment. Bookings are made directly to Wellbeing4Kids please see flyer attached to this newsletter. Thank you to the Joint Initiatives group from the 3 school boards who organised this very worthwhile event for our Parish community.

Professional Learning

As a staff we believe and are committed to ongoing learning to ensure that we are able to keep in touch with best practice, current research and inquire into our own practice. Just as the students have learning goals so do we as individual staff members. Last weekend 3 members of staff attended the ‘Leading Learning and Thinking’ Conference which was held at Melbourne Grammar on Saturday and Sunday. This Conference was led by the Project Zero team from Harvard University Boston and was attended by teachers and business people both locally and internationally. Hayley Sims, Rachel Perissinotto and Annie Opasinis will be sharing their learning with the whole staff during our forthcoming school closure day on Monday 11 April.

As Principal I feel very fortunate to be working with a group of people who are all committed to ongoing learning and together working towards school improvement.
Sacrament of Reconciliation - Tuesday 22 March
Please continue to pray for our Year 3 students and their families as these students prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which they will receive during Holy Week. (See RE News for more information.)

Alexandra Adventure Resort
Our Year 5/6 students leave next Tuesday 15 March along with Rachel Perissinotto, Brian Anderson and Louise McGrath for Camp. This is a 4 day experience which includes rock climbing, raft making, high ropes course, orienteering, archery, canoeing and all the experiences that a school camp brings. Alexandra Adventure Resort provides an amazing experience for our students as they work in teams and support each other through the various experiences. The link below shows you a little of what is offered on this camp. http://www.alexandraadventureresort.com.au/
Teacher in charge during this week at school is: Miranda Montalti - mmontalti@mogivanhoeeast.catholic.edu.au

Welcome Back
A special welcome back to the Dimarelos family who have spent the last 11 months in Greece and travelling Europe. Kristina was warmly welcomed by our junior school students and staff and is settling back into the school routine in Year 1/2S with Ms Sims.

Best Wishes to Maggie and Erin Gaffney
Best wishes from all of us at MOG to Maggie, Erin and their brother Patrick and sister Niamh as they travel to Ireland and Scotland over the next few weeks. The Gaffney family are representing Australia in the World Championships in Irish Dancing which will be held over the Easter week.

Thankyou to the following people who have volunteered to be class parent reps:
Prep – Noelle Darcy & Susie Mihovil, Year 1/2S – Narelle Findling, Year 1/2HM – Julianne Scenna, Year3/4G – Simone Galic, Year 3/4O – Shelley Incani and Year 5/6P – Michelle Perta

School OPEN Days
During the next few weeks we are opening the school for school tours for prospective enrolments. You may have seen the billboards in our community. It was wonderful to hear our Year 5/6 students talk about our school on these tours in such a positive and enthusiastic way. I also encourage you, our parent community to talk about us, be our voice too and invite interested people to visit us as we continue to work together to build Mother of God's reputation.

OPEN DAYS
Monday 21 March
Thursday 14 April
9:00am – 3:30pm
Sunday 1 May 11.00am – 1.00pm
School tours available at other times by appointment

Student Led Assembly
Congratulations to our 3 student leaders who have been leading our student led assemblies this term Sienna P, Luca B and Chloe. They have demonstrated great leadership skills as they lead others to share their learning and experiences at our fortnightly assemblies. There will be no assembly next week as our Year 5/6 students will be on camp and Year 3/4 students will be Ceres on excursion.
Thursday 24th March from 12:00pm there will be a Holy Week student reflection in the Marian Centre. The students will assemble in the yard at 1:15pm to acknowledge birthdays and student of the week and draw the PRC Easter Raffle.

Enjoy the long weekend!

Louise McGrath
Principal

RE NEWS

Lent
We are now building up towards the final few weeks of Lent. As this time approaches you may like to plan ahead so that you and your child can be part of the Holy Week story. Included in this newsletter are the dates for the services across the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe. You are also invited to attend the Holy Thursday Service here at Mother of God where the Year 3 students from across the Parish will be participating in the procession of the candles.

Reconciliation
Last Tuesday Year 3 students from across our Parish gathered with their families to reflect on the Sacrament of Penance and the Rite of Reconciliation. They were asked in one word to describe God and then in one word to
describe their family. Many of these words were very similar with the message being that we find God in those around us. There was also discussion about the different experiences that the children and parents have of this sacrament. Reconciliation is something that occurs each day and not something to be scared of. The final message of the night is the importance of the action to demonstrate that we are sorry not just say the word. It was fantastic to see the parents and children taking time to share stories.

Sacrament Dates
Reconciliation: Tuesday 22nd March at 11:45am

Masses
Tuesday 22 March - whole school mass. Please join us as we continue our Lenten journey.
On Thursday 24 May you are invited to a Holy Week service commencing at 12.00 in the Marian Centre
Thankyou
Brian Anderson REL

LEARNING & TEACHING
Over term 1 teachers have been working closely with students finding out about how they learn best and also their point of readiness for learning. The Prep-Two and Three-Six information evening aimed to tune parents into learning and teaching at MOG. Our student/parent/teacher meetings last week gave us the opportunity to set learning goals. Teachers were able to provide a snapshot of student learning to date. We value your feedback and would appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the following survey.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3WT2W3W
The next newsletter will feature how to approach Mathematics with your child/ren, using a growth mindset.

If you require further information or have any questions please feel free to contact me.
Miranda Montalti
Learning and Teaching Leader
mmontalti@mogivanhoeeast.catholic.edu.au

STUDENT WELLBEING NEWS
It was wonderful to see so many of our families attend the Wellbeing Seminar last Thursday in the Marian Centre. This initiative, from the Parent Representative Councils at the three Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe Schools, was a great example of family/school partnerships in action.
Attached to this newsletter is a recent article from Michael Grose’s Parenting Ideas website. It is worth reading because he highlights the importance of every child developing good friendship and social skills. As Michael Grose says, we focus on the academic development of our children and do our best to support this growth, but how often do we support our children to develop the seven skills of friendship that he discussed in this article? Children who have healthy friendships are happier and “…positive friendships have long-term implications for social and indirectly academic success”.
Jane Gough
Student Wellbeing Leader

SPORTS NEWS
Interschool Sport
This week we play St Bernadette’s at home. Cricket and softball will be played at Chelsworth Park. If any parents are available to help transport equipment to Chelsworth Park please contact either Rachel or myself at school.

WORKING BEE- Saturday 19 March
The first working bee for the year will be on Saturday 19 March between 8:30 and 10:30 am. We would like as many parents as possible to help on the day. The main task is to clean up the gardens, tan barks areas and prepare the garden along the fence line near the tarantula as well as some small maintenance jobs. Thanks to those who have already volunteered at the Parent/Student/Teacher discussions to express interest in assisting with maintenance. If you are attending can you please email me at banderson@mogivanhoeeast.catholic.edu.au. Please let me know if you are able to attend the working bee as it assists with planning so please respond. If you can bring wheelbarrows, digging implements, rakes and pruning equipment that would be most helpful.
**UNIFORM SHOP**
The uniform shop will be open every Thursday from 8.45. Second hand uniforms are also available. Uniform order forms are available at the office, if paid in full items will be sent home via the tote system.

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**
- Prep - Harry for always trying hard with his work. Keep it up Harry!
- Thomas for finding different number partners of 10. Great work!!
- 1/2S - Matthew for the fantastic progress he has made with his writing. Keep it up!
- 1/2S for being a kind and enthusiastic class who are always ‘Ready to Learn’
- 1/2HM - Rocco for working co-operatively in group work during our Religion work. Fantastic!
- Lara for writing 2 and 3 sentences during writing time. Well done!
- 1/4O - Estella for her beautifully written narrative ‘Fishing with Sam’ Well done!!
- Zachary for completing learning tasks with care. Well done!
- Matty for his ‘have a go’ attitude during writing. Your stories are such fun to read.
- 5/6P - Sienna for her compassionate and kind-hearted nature. It is lovely the way you consider the feelings of others before speaking or acting.
- Asher for the positive way you promoted our school while giving a school tour.

**MOG PLAYGROUP NEWS**
Mother of God Playgroup has returned for 2016 after commencing late last year. The children (and parents) enjoy the many activities we offer as well as fruit time and the opportunity for lots of socialising (children) and a cuppa and a chat (parents).
Examples of our activities and artwork are shown below. We welcome new members. Come along anytime between 9am-11am each Friday, to the Marian Centre, Mother of God Primary School, Ivanhoe East.

**MOG TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKET**
11 November 2016, 4pm-8pm

Dear Parents,

As many of you may be aware, MOG holds a major fundraiser every second year. In the past, this has been a traditional Saturday fete in 4th term, which while successful did place a huge organisational burden on our small community.

With this in mind and as your Parent Representative Council, we have decided to break with this tradition and hold the event on a Friday evening as a twilight community market in November. This exciting change brings with it some great opportunities for parents, families and the community to contribute in new ways.

To ensure that we are prepared for this great event, the PRC will provide a monthly newsletter updating you on our actions and asking for your support.

**A call for interest**
The first request is for parents and families interested in holding a stall at the market to fill in the application form at the end of this newsletter and return it to us by the 31st March.

You can email me at pdemaria80@gmail.com or leave a hard copy at the school office.
We are making this initial offering to MOG families only. After this date, we will open up for further applications from other businesses and traders within our community.

Also, please come along to our market volunteers meeting at 7pm, 22nd March in the Marian Centre. This is where we will be delegating tasks to help with the organisation of the market. If you are unable to make it at this time, please email Rita Bresciano or myself to register your interest. Grandparents and extended family members are also welcome to help out, so feel free to pass this date on to them.

Pasquale DeMaria – Market Co-ordinator (pdemaria80@gmail.com)
Rita Bresciano – Events (rbresciano@hotmail.com)

MOG TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKET 2016
WHEN: FRIDAY 11 November 2016, 4pm-8pm

STALL HOLDER APPLICATION

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The stall holder agrees to take full responsibilities for the running of the stall e.g.: organising equipment, running the stall on the day and organising helpers.

Description of Stall

A brief description of the stall, including a summary of how you propose to run the stall

ANY INGREDIENTS USED TO BE CLEARLY VISABLE ON ALL PACKAGING
The **Joint Initiatives (JI) Group**, an initiative of the Mother of God Parent Representative Committee (PRC), was created to explore opportunities for the three parish schools to join together to participate in learning, social and other events and programs. A combined approach enables the schools to fund informative parent seminars, in anticipation of a greater number of parents attending. Also, together the three schools may offer an increased range of student focused events, on the basis of a greater number of student participants. Finally, Joint Initiatives reflects and continues to develop a ‘one parish’ focus of which all schools are a part. The Group comprises two parent representatives from each parish school and meets each term to plan for future opportunities.

Our members are:  
Kate Johnson, St Bernadette’s  
Juliet Panozzo, St Bernadette’s  
Sarah Healy, Mary Immaculate  
Tanya Underwood, Mary Immaculate  
Kristina Murray-Hally, Mother of God  
Jane Mancini, Mother of God

For 2016 JI offered the ‘Wellbeing for Kids’ Seminar on 3rd March which was attended by approximately eighty parents and was very well received. JI currently is planning further educational workshops for 2016 and also a Transition to Year Seven Program for our Year Six children. Other ideas from the parent community are welcome and may be emailed to Jane at janemancini@ozemail.com.au

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**’5 Secrets to develop Confidence & Resilience’**

*Comprehensive Half day Parent Workshop*

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Parents learn:

- Practical strategies to support their child to build confidence
- Effective and practical parenting styles that foster resilience & independence
- Effective parenting styles that support social awareness and intelligence in children
- How to teach their child positive and effective thinking habits
- The importance of creating a safe environment for children to flourish with lots of time for free creative play
- The foundations that help to prevent anxiety
- Practical strategies to support their child to deal with anxiety
- How to support their child to build a positive self concept
- The use of positive psychology strategies to boost resilience
- Practical strategies to support their child to build healthy friendships
- How to support children in conflict and bullying situations
- The fundamental life skills that all children need to build healthy friendships
- How to teach their child to solve problems independently and effectively

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**Workshop Details**

9am – 1pm Friday 29th April  
Mother of God Ivanhoe

- Maximum of 20 parents per workshop  
- Supportive small group with enough time to ask questions and receive support  
- Cost: $120 per parent  
- Yummy morning tea provided  
- Bookings via email: please register your interest to georgina@wellbeingforkids.com.au and payment details will be given.

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Enquiries: Georgina 0419 026 851
Community Update
Message reference number: 217861
Blue Green Algal Bloom Murray River
Issued: 09/03/16 3:27 PM
This update is being issued by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning for the Murray River.

Incident Information:
High levels of blue-green algae have been detected in the River Murray between Lake Hume and Barham/Koondrook, the channels servicing the Murray Valley Irrigation area, the Torrumbarry Irrigation area east of the Loddon River and the Loddon River between Cairn Curran and Laanecoorie. Lake Hume, Lake Mulwala, Lake Moodemere and Lake Boga are also part of the affected area.

High levels of blue-green algae do not always colour the water blue or green. The water can look yellow, brown, red, blue or green, or there may be no visible colour change at all.
It is not known how long the blue-green algae will remain at high levels. Goulburn Murray Water and the Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee are continuing to monitor the situation closely and will remove the warning when blue-green algae returns to a safe level.

Health & Wellbeing Information:
- Blue-green algae is potentially toxic to humans. For your safety, avoid direct contact with the affected water.
- Do not use the water for cooking, drinking, washing or showering. Boiling the water will not make it safe for these purposes.
- If you do come into contact with the affected water, wash your skin immediately in clean cool water. Medical attention should be sought if you experience any symptoms resulting from contact with algae including skin rashes, itchiness, sore eyes, ears or nose, nausea or vomiting.

Water Supply:
- Town water supplies provided by Urban Water Authorities remain unaffected and is safe for drinking and domestic use.
- People on non mains water should contact their relevant water provider for advice and support.
- An alternative water source should be used, where possible, for spraying and irrigating crops.

Boating & Fishing:
- Boating and fishing is still allowed in these areas, however care needs to be taken.
- Fish caught from affected areas should be rinsed and cleaned thoroughly in fresh water, and internal organs removed from the fish and discarded before eating.
- Do not eat mussels, crayfish or yabbies caught from the affected areas.

Pets & Animals:
- Blue-green algae can be dangerous to animals. Do not let your pets and animals swim or drink the water in affected areas.

Other Information:
- Visit www.g-mwater.com.au/bluegreenalgae-alert/ for the most recent blue-green algae alerts and public warnings
- Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice or call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24.

Stay Informed:
- Visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- Tune to ABC Local radio and commercial radio stations.

AUSKICK @ CHELSWORTH PARK
Auskick Coaching at the Ivanhoe East centre at Chelsworth Park on Sunday mornings at 9.30am commencing April 17 2016.
Registrations are open via the attached link. It would be great to have some more MOG students involved this year.
Thankyou - Scott Heyes (a year 1 MOG dad!)

ALL STAR KIDS Sports Holiday Program
Ivanhoe Grammar School gymnasium, The Ridgeway.
Week 1 Tues 29 March – Friday 1 April
Week 2 Monday 4 April – Friday 8 April
Ivanhoe Grammar School with Tim Walsh an ex-AFL player with Western Bulldogs and accredited and experienced sports coach.
E: allstarkids@outlook.com.au or call Tim 0407 092 494
Flyers available from MOG Office for more information.
2016: LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER
The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe

RICHARD McKINNEY LENTEN LECTURES:
Presenter: Dr Michelle Trebilcock
Tuesdays at 8.00pm
Tuesday 1st March  East Ivanhoe Uniting Church
Tuesday 8th March  St. George’s Anglican Church
Tuesday 15th March  Mother of God Catholic Church

RECONCILIATION DURING LENT:
Second Rite – Communal preparation followed by Individual Confessions:
Thursday 17th March  7.30pm Mother of God

FRIDAYS OF LENT:  Stations of the Cross after 9.15am Mass at St. Bernadette’s
(Please note: Not First Friday of the month)
Stations of the Cross 7.00pm Mary Immaculate

PALM SUNDAY – 19th & 20th March:  Normal Weekend Masses & Korean Mass

Ecumenical Meal  Wednesday 23 March 6.00-6.30pm Ivanhoe Uniting Church

HOLY THURSDAY - Thursday 24th March:
7.30pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Mother of God
7.30pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper, St Bernadette’s Korean Catholic Community
10pm–6am Visit to Blessed Sacrament - St. Bernadette’s Korean Catholic Community

GOOD FRIDAY:  Friday 25th March:
10.00am Stations of the Cross Mary Immaculate
11.30am Ecumenical Walk of Witness
3.00pm The Passion of the Lord Mary Immaculate
8.00pm The Passion of the Lord St Bernadette’s Korean Catholic Community

EASTER VIGIL:  Saturday 26th March:
7.30pm Easter Vigil Ma St Bernadette’s With Korean Community

EASTER SUNDAY:  Sunday 27th March:
9.00am St Bernadette’s
9.00am Mary Immaculate
10.30am Mother of God
11.00am St. Bernadette’s Korean Catholic Community
Social skills for children

School brings different types of learning, including social interactions and how to make friends. Parents can lay the foundations at home by teaching their kids these 7 important social skills.

Children who are able to form friendships when they start school are happier at school and also learn better.

More significantly, positive friendships have long-term implications for social and indirectly academic success.

Friendships skills are generally developmental, but they don’t develop in isolation. Kids acquire these skills when they play with their siblings and interact with children and adults outside their family.

Today’s children grow up with fewer siblings, fewer opportunities for unstructured play and less freedom to explore friendships than children of even ten years ago.

Parents can help kids develop important social competencies by teaching them sociable behaviours at home, being good role models and providing opportunities for kids to play with each other in a variety of situations.

Here are 7 important social skills to help children to develop:

1. **Ask for what you want**
   - Help children ask for what they want. It means they don’t throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what’s on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. **Good manners**
   - Teach kids good manners, in particular the three “power words”. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people’s defences. These three words are: your name, please, thanks. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

3. **Sharing**
   - Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people’s feelings.

4. **Holding a conversation**
   - Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves.

   Children within conversations need to learn to ask good or interesting questions; to take turns when speaking and to show you are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting.

5. **Winning and losing well**
   - Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses.

more on page 2
Program Update

Dear Parents and Families,

This week’s theme of ‘Let’s work together’ has encouraged the children to get to know and play with different children that they might not normally. Through a variety of different games and activities the children have began to recognise the benefits and importance of being able to work as a team. The children were given opportunities such as working as a group to create a painting, working together in a cooking challenge and have had leadership opportunities to run child initiated group games. The children thrived from these experiences and had a great week!

Our theme for next week is Cultural Diversity Week. Throughout the week we will have different cultural activities including recognising the multicultural program we have at I.E.P.S OSHClub. We will be creating our own ‘Multicultural Room Book.’ On Thursday we will also be celebrating St Patrick’s day, on this day the children will get the opportunity to make Potato Leprechauns.

OSHClub Reminders

- Holiday Program begins from March 29 - April 8. If your child is interested in attending please make a booking. Bookings are filling up fast, especially for excursions! Our Excursions are to The Melbourne Zoo on Wednesday 30th March and Clip and Climb on Friday the 8th April. Look online for more information and we will have more details in the OSHClub room very soon.

- From Term 2, OSHClub has partnered with ‘Play on Sports’ to begin the first ever AFL endorsed OSHC program, extending on our current Auskick model. An AFL trained Footy Coach will provide 8 weeks of coaching and games for up to 30 children, at a low cost to families. The trial period will be for 8 weeks on Wednesdays in Term 2. April 18th – June 17th. Further information will be coming soon.

- OSHClub would love some parent participation in our Term staff meetings. We would appreciate any feedback that will help us to continue to improve our program. Please contact Meg if you are interested on 0404 724 893.

Kind regards,
Meghan Buchanan, Ella Cawley, Jordan Kynigopoulous and Rachel Travis

OSHClub Themes/Activities

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Parent Information

OSH program phone: 0404 724 893
Email: oshclub.verbhoocest@gmail.com
Coordinators: Meghan Buchanan, Ella Cawley
Assistants: Rachel Travis, Jordan Kynigopoulous, Alex Maxwell
OSHClub Head Office: 03 8364 9003