Dear Parents,

It has been a very calm start to the school year. It has been wonderful to see our students so engaged in their learning and making the most of every opportunity. Thank you to all parents for your support in ensuring that your children arrive at school on time ready for the day. Fr Jacob MST our new Parish Priest visited the school this week and met the students. He also celebrated Mass with the students from our three Parish Schools at the Ash Wednesday Mass. Please join us at our Parish Mass this Sunday for our beginning of the school year Mass and welcome Fr Jacob.

Last Thursday we had our first student led assembly for the year. Our Term 1 student leaders are Luca, Chloe and Sienna P, during the year every Year 6 will have an opportunity to lead and prepare this assembly. This assembly will be held every two weeks at 2:45pm. It is a time when we celebrate birthdays, acknowledge achievements and students have an opportunity to share their learning. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend as the students really appreciate their parents being there. Teachers will let you know if your child is participating in the assembly. During the assembly our 2016 FIRE (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education) Carriers were commissioned. Congratulations Alex, Mikaela, Francis and Julia and thank you to our 2015 FIRE Carriers Andrea, Ashleigh, Maggie and Daniele. Our FIRE Carriers will lead us as a community throughout 2016 in recognising and developing our understanding of our Aboriginal people and their culture.

Parent Information Evening
Thank you to all parents who were able to attend the Information evening held on Tuesday. If you were unable to attend information was sent home with your child yesterday. Please take some time to read the information in the packs which was prepared by the staff.

On the night we shared our 2016 - 2019 School Improvement Goals which have been developed as a result of the External Review process which was held in 2015. They are as follows.

Education in Faith
To strengthen the Catholic identity of the school and faith life of all members of the school community.

Learning and Teaching
To ensure a collaborative, whole school approach to enhancing student engagement and improving learning outcomes.

Student Wellbeing
To be a vibrant outward facing community that builds partnerships with families as well as local and global communities.

School Community
To be a vibrant, outward facing community that builds partnerships with families as well as local and global communities.

Leadership and Management
To continue developing a performance and development culture to enhance student outcomes.
Jane Gough our Student Wellbeing leader shared a video clip about the importance of having a growth mindset. As a staff we are very mindful of the language that we use with our students and helping them to develop such a mindset which will support them in all that they do throughout their lives. Carol Dweck A study on praise and mindsets: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWv1V

Personalised Learning has been our goal during the last School Improvement phase. Personalising the learning is embedded in our learning and teaching practices at Mother of God. Miranda Montalti our Learning and Teaching leader shared a video clip about student centred learning with parents at the Information evening. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6ieXLVCss4
We believe that the best student outcomes occur when teachers and parents work in partnership. I encourage each of us to continue to build positive relationships with each other as we work together to support each child through their primary schooling.

Parent Representative Council (PRC)
The Parent Representative Council met last week and welcomed Pasquale De Maria who has become a member this year. As Principal I appreciate the support and advice we receive from Council members. The 2016 PRC Members are:
Chairpersons: Jane Mancini, Claire Kelly
Secretary: Katherine Vago
Treasurer: Stephanie Monardo
Events: Rita Bresciano
Members: Kristina Murray-Hally, Pasquale De Maria
Jane Mancini spoke about the goals of the PRC which fit under our School Community Goal. She also announced that the $9000 which was raised during 2015 through fundraising has gone towards the purchase of 18 Chrome books for student use in Years 3-6. These Chrome Books have been ordered and will hopefully be in the classrooms early in March.

Communication
It is important to be aware that our main form of communication is the MOG fortnightly newsletter. It is an expectation that all parents read the newsletter so that they are informed. Our other main form of communication is TIQBiz which is used for reminders, classroom news and alerts.

Emergency Management
At MOG we have a detailed Emergency Management Plan and have worked with Dynamiq Emergency Management Consultants during the past two and a half years. Staff have revisited and familiarised themselves with all procedures. We will be having some evacuation drills with students during the next few weeks. Parents will be alerted through tiqbiz when this occurs.
It is important that all visitors (which includes parents) to our school report to the office, sign in and wear a visitors badge.

Drop off/pick up
A reminder to all that students can be dropped off at school from 8:30am onwards when a teacher is on duty on the top yard. It is expected that students are picked up at 3:25. A teacher is on duty on the bottom yard until 3:45. Out of School Hours Care is available through OSHClub. Parking at the front of the school is a 5 minute park zone only. If you need to come into the school please find a park in the street. Traffic officers will be in the area and drivers will be booked for illegal parking at this time. Please also ensure that you do not make a u turn at the front of the school at these times ensuring the safety of all.

School accounts
2016 School fees and charges have been sent home today.
It is a policy of all Catholic schools that fees are kept up to date so that we can provide a full range of learning experiences for our students.

Fee concessions may be granted in cases of financial hardship or where other special circumstances exist. If this is the case, please contact me to arrange an appointment to discuss the matter.

Camps, sports & excursions fund (CSEF)
The CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

To be eligible for the fund, a parent of legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:
- On the first day of Term 1, or;
- On the first day of Term 2;
  - Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  - Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  - Submit an application to the school by the due date.
Parents you are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February 2016, so that payments can be made from March 2016. However we can accept parent applications up until 03 June 2016.

For more information please see the attached flyer or visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

**Working Bee – diary date**
The first working bee for 2016 will be held on Saturday 19 March from 8.30 – 10.30am. All families are welcome. More information in the next newsletter.

**Welcome to School BBQ**
It was a wonderful way to start the year by having the Welcome to School BBQ last Friday. A big thank you to the PRC for the BBQ and drinks. Special thanks to our Year 5/6 students and staff for organising the activities on the top yard and having such fun together.

Louise McGrath
Principal

**RE NEWS**
Yesterday was Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. This is a forty day journey to Easter. During Lent the focus is on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In this Year of Mercy it is appropriate to think how we can all be ‘Forgiving like the Father’ with the children we encourage you to take time to share a prayer at meal times. We are also encouraging the older children to think about with their Lenten promise how they can be more merciful. This may be just trying to be more patient or show some extra kindness to others.

To mark Ash Wednesday the students from the three schools within the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe gathered together at St Bernadette’s Church for Mass. This was a wonderful celebration and a chance for all of the students to meet Fr Jacob.

**CPI Beginning of school year mass**
This Sunday all families are invited to Mass at Mother of God Church at 10:30 on Sunday. This is one of the four masses each year where the school makes a special effort to involve the children in the Parish mass. Children are to wear their school uniform. This is a wonderful opportunity to come and meet our NEW PARISH PRIEST FR. JACOB.
Weekly Masses
Last Tuesday the year 5/6 children celebrated the first class mass for the year. The children were fantastic and made Fr Jacob very welcome.

Next Tuesday is the 3/4O Class Mass at 9:15. At these masses parents are most welcome to attend from all classes. A morning tea is held after each mass.

Class Masses

Sacrament of Reconciliation
A Family Faith night for this sacrament will be held on Tuesday 8 March at St Bernadette’s Cunningham Centre, commencing at 6:30pm. This is a chance to explore what the sacrament of reconciliation is about with your child.

Sacrament Dates
Reconciliation: Tuesday 22 March at 11:45am
First Eucharist: Sunday 11 Sept at 10:30
Confirmation: Sunday 22 May @ 2:30 at St Patrick’s Cathedral

Parish Farewell Gathering for Fr Thang:
Date, time and place have been confirmed with Fr Thang for a Mass & Parish farewell Gathering on Sunday 6 March 2016 at 2:30pm in Mary Immaculate Church. Mass will be followed by Afternoon Tea in Mary Immaculate Hall. All are invited and welcome.
— Chris Dixon, on behalf of the Parish Leadership Team.

Learning & Teaching
Parent helper program
Welcome back to another year of learning at MOG. 2016 has started off smoothly and throughout the school students are working with their peers and teachers, enjoying the challenges which come with a new year.
Thank you to all the parents who have already contacted me about our parent helper program. Parent helpers in classrooms will begin: Monday 29 February. A time table will be sent home on Friday 26 February.
Training sessions for parents who are not currently part of our parent helper program will be held on:
Friday 4 March 2:30pm-3:25pm
Friday 11 March 2:30pm-3:25pm
Friday 18 March 2:30pm-3:25pm
Friday 15 April 2:30pm-3:25pm (First Friday in term 2)
I welcome all parents to come along to these sessions. The invitation is extended to current parent helpers who would like a refresher.
Please fill out the attached form if you are attending the training session. Current parents helpers who have not yet signed up can also add their availability to this form (please remember you are free to assist in other classes, not just your child’s/ren).
If you require further information or have any questions please feel free to contact me.
Miranda Montalti—Learning and Teaching Leader

PARENT HELPER TRAINING:
I will be attending the parent helper training sessions.
Name:
Child/ren’s names:
Contact number:

CLASSROOM PARENT HELPER:
Name:
Child/ren’s names:
Contact number:

Days, classroom/s, times I am available to help:
(Please be specific eg. Every second Monday, 1/2HM, 9-11am)
LIBRARY NEWS
Author/Artist and long time friend of Mother of God School, Leigh Hobbs has been named as the new Australian Children’s Laureate.
He takes over from Jackie French and is the official domestic and international ambassador for children’s writing.
Leigh has visited MOG on a number of occasions and has always been a great supporter of children’s literature (particularly humorous books) and libraries in schools. We have a number of his artworks in our school.
We congratulate him on this wonderful honour and look forward to enjoying many more of his books.
He was featured in an article in the Age Newspaper on February 8 and Mother of God School is being mentioned in his interview on ABC radio today.

This Saturday, February 13 Leigh Hobbs, along with other illustrators will be conducting FREE workshops at the State Library. Learn how to draw amazing pictures and invent crazy characters at the Kids' Big Book Spectacular. Details: slv.vic.gov.au

STUDENT WELLBEING NEWS – Parent Seminar Thursday 3 March
Mother of God Primary School, along with Mary Immaculate and St Bernadette’s Primary Schools are offering all parents a seminar on Thursday 3 March called ‘Building Resilience in Children & Supporting Children with Anxiety’. It will be held at MOG at 7pm and I strongly encourage all families to be represented. The topic is a most timely one, with research indicating that anxiety is a growing problem in Australian children. All families have received the information flyer in the ‘showbags’ given out at the Information Evening this week. The flyer is also attached to this newsletter. Please return the RSVP slip at the bottom of the flyer to indicate your intention to attend.
Looking forward to seeing you there!
Jane Gough - Student Wellbeing Leader

CANTEEN
We are fortunate to be able to use The Ivanhoe East Primary School Canteen again this year. The canteen will operate from Tuesday to Friday each week. Lunches are given at first recess. Please write the order on the front of a brown paper bag, child’s class and enclose the correct money. A summer menu is attached to the end of this newsletter.

CDF STUDENT BANKING
Teach your child the good habit of regular saving…with a CDF Student Account.
A welcome gift to all students who open an account.
Bankbooks are collected on Monday morning and returned on Thursdays each week.
Application forms are available from the office.

UNIFORM SHOP
The uniform shop will be open next Thursday 18 February 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 - Congratulations to all the Preps for settling in so beautifully! Well done.
Isla for creating a beautiful mosaic of an apple. Well done Isla!
1/2S - Eva for making a positive start to the school year by showing respect and kindness to all.
Adeline for the fantastic effort she has make in learning times.
1/2HM - Sebastian for the fantastic attitude he shows when completing new tasks. You're a star!
Liam for always listening and working hard during learning times. You are a star!
3/4O - Patrick for making a great start to the year and involving himself in class discussion.
Max for his focussed approach and effort when completing learning tasks.
3/4G - Mason for his respectful manner and enthusiasm for learning.
Anouk for her caring nature toward others.
5/6P - Yor for his positive approach to leadership and taking initiative.
Mikaela for displaying a growth mindset when completing maths tasks.
MOG families,
We are asking that you kindly donate quality Easter eggs to go towards our annual Easter raffle. Please bring eggs to school office by 4th March so we can create delicious prizes!
Many thanks,
PRC & events
St. Bernadette’s, Mother of God & Mary Immaculate Primary Schools present:

‘Building Resilience in Children & Supporting children with Anxiety’

7pm Thursday 3rd March
@ Mother of God Primary Ivanhoe
66 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe

Parents learn:
• Practical strategies to support their child to build confidence
• Effective and practical parenting styles that foster resilience & independence
• How to teach their child to become independent
• How to teach their child positive and effective thinking habits
• The importance of creating a calm 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-concepts
• The fundamental life skills that all children need to be happy, confident and successful

Parents are supported to teach their child how to:
• Lessen their anxiety
• Cope with life’s ups and downs
• Develop independence and persistence
• Become more resilient and confident
• Develop independence and self-efficacy
• Develop healthy friendships
• Solve problems independently and deal with conflict effectively
• Approach life with a positive outlook to create success

Parent Reply Slip – Please return to the office as soon as possible:

‘Building Resilience in Children & Supporting children with Anxiety’
Parent Seminar  7pm Thursday 3rd March
I would like to register my interest for this parent seminar

Name/s ________________________________
NIRODAH COUNSELLING SERVICE AT MOTHER OF GOD

Mother of God School uses a counselling service provided by NIRODAH. NIRODAH’s primary goal is to provide exemplary services and training to enhance the physical, social and emotional health of people in our community.

NIRODAH’s ADVANCE Program provides an easily accessible service to the community by utilising the Medicare Mental Health Rebate System to place psychologists/social workers into schools and provide a service that is can be accessed by all members of the school community.

With a referral from a GP, psychiatrist or pediatrician stating a Mental Health Plan in place, a client will have access up to ten individual sessions per calendar year through Medicare. Group sessions are also available.

This is at no cost to the family.

NIRODAH offers counselling for individuals with a range of presenting issues such as depression, anxiety, grief/loss, social skills, sleeping difficulties, trauma and many more. The service provides significant benefits to the school and its community:

- School setting is a safe environment for students to access counselling services
- Little disruption to school attendance as the sessions are timetabled within the school day
- Qualified and experienced psychologist or social worker(s)
- Behavioural and emotional issues within the school are targeted with professional guidance
- Commitment to provide communication with the referring doctor, client and/or guardian and school staff
- No travel and time issues for parents

Siobhan Hannigan who will be working in this school weekly on Mondays, is a very experienced psychologist and an associate member of the Australian Psychological Society. She has extensive experience providing counselling services to a broad client group including children, adults and those with special needs.

Other programs that NIRODAH offer include the Respect Ambassador Program (Primary & Secondary), Cyber Wise and Be the Hero (Secondary) which aim to educate staff, students and parents about the factors that motivate violent behaviours.

To access this service contact your school welfare team. Also check the website www.NIRODAH.com
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 will be 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

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Canteen SUMMER Menu

IVANHOE EAST
Term 4 2015 & Term 1 2016

Hot Food Daily Specials
MONDAY
No lunch orders available-counter sales only!

TUESDAY
Chilled Chicken Burrito 4.50
Chicken and salad in a mild taco sauce 4.50
Super Snag 3.00
Handmade butcher’s beef sausage in a roll 3.50
Coleslaw (optional) – extra 30 cents

WEDNESDAY
Fried Rice 4.50
(Vegetarian option also available)
Super Snag 3.00
Handmade butcher’s beef sausage in a roll 3.50
Coleslaw (optional) – extra 30 cents

THURSDAY
Beef or Eggplant Lasagne 4.50
Super Snag 3.00
Handmade butcher’s beef sausage in a roll 3.50
Coleslaw (optional) – extra 30 cents

FRIDAY
Home-made Sausage Roll 3.30
With tomato sauce extra 0.20
Hot Dog 3.20

Everyday
Fresh Salad bowl – lettuce, tomato, carrot, cucumber, capsicum & beetroot 5.50
Additional fillings: cheese, avocado, egg, chicken, ham 0.50 each

Sandwiches, Rolls & Wraps
Choose from wholemeal or white.

Salad 3.50
Lettuce, grated carrot, tomato, cucumber, cheese, capsicum and currants
Tuna 3.50
Lettuce, tuna, sweet corn, red capsicum and mayonnaise
Chicken Salad 3.80
Fresh chicken, lettuce and coleslaw (cabbage, carrot, apple, celery and mayonnaise)
Roast Beef 3.80
Roast beef, lettuce, tomato and tomato chutney
Chicken and Cheese 3.50
Ham, Cheese and Tomato 3.50

Build your own sandwich/roll/wrap
With one filling 3.00
Additional fillings 0.30 each

Choose from: (GREEN) cheese, egg, pineapple, hummus, tomato, carrot, beetroot, cucumber, roast beef, chicken, lettuce OR (AMBER) ham, vegemite, mayonnaise
Toasting / heating 0.30

Counter Sales
Available at recess and lunch times
Can be purchased over the counter or in lunch orders

Smoothie (200ml) 1.50
Seasonal fruit, light milk, yoghurt in a reusable cup (Tuesday & Wednesday only)
Bottled water (350 ml) 1.00
Fresh light milk (plain) 200ml 1.00
Snack Items (see menu for individual prices)

Ice-creams
Fruit sticks 0.50
Moosies (lime, chocolate, strawberry) 1.50
Paddle Pop (chocolate, triple swirl, banana) 1.60
Icy Twist 1.50
Cola Mini 1.00
Muffins (Changing Flavours) 0.50
Large 0.50
Small 0.20

Drinks (amber=sometimes)

Fruit Juice 1.30
Apple, blackcurrant and apple, paradise punch
Big M 2.00
Chocolate, strawberry
Mineral water 1.50
Cola, lemon lime, orange

All orders to the canteen by 9.30am. If there is not enough money in the order items will not be supplied. If a paper bag is supplied by the canteen there is a charge of 10 cents. No staples on paper bags please. Smoothies and plain milk served in reusable cups.

CANTEEN Phone: 9499 2171 Ext. 238
Dear Parents and Families,

What a wonderful week at OSHClub we have had. Our theme this week has been Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide to help promote Sun Safety within our program. The sun sure hasn’t disappointed us yet. The children have had a fantastic opportunity to put what they have learnt into practice. They have made posters to display round our room to inform other of what ‘Slip, Slop, Slap, seek and slide’ includes. The children have even begun a donation tin to raise money for the Cancer Council Australia and are very excited to see how much they raise by the end of Summer.

Next week is ‘Random Acts of Kindness’ or ‘RAK’ week. The children at OSHClub are dedicating their time and effort this week to happiness of others. During this weeks fun and engaging activities we are going to be focusing on the RAK’s 12 Kindness Concepts which focuses on inspiring and empowering students with kindness skills that prompt them to act kindly toward others and share kindness.

**OSHClub Themes/Activities**

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<td>Before School Care</td>
<td>RAK Cards</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Kindness</td>
<td>Chain Tingy</td>
<td>Imaginative Camping</td>
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<td>Wordsearch</td>
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<td>After School Care</td>
<td>Fingerprint Painting</td>
<td>Recycled Penguins</td>
<td>Snow Globes</td>
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**Parent Information**

OSH Club program phone: 0408 724 893  
Email: oshclub.elanhoeast@gmail.com  
Coordinators: Meghan Buchanan & Ella Cawley  
Assistant: Rachel Travis, Jordan Kynigosopoul, Brittany Mcmillan, Kate Laidlow  
OSH Club Head Office: 03 8564 9000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at [www.oshclub.com.au](http://www.oshclub.com.au) all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program before 9am.
OLMC welcomes applications for Year 7 in 2017, 2018 and 2019. For a Prospectus or for information regarding enrolments, please call our Registrar, Merri O’Halloran on 94592511 OR visit our website to download an Application Form.

The closing date for Year 7 2017 applications is Friday 26 February 2016. Please note - if you currently have daughters enrolled at OLMC, you need to complete a separate Application Form for younger siblings.

School Tours are a great opportunity to see how our school operates on a normal school day.
Term One Tours -
Monday 8 February 9-10.30am
Friday 12 February 9-10.30am
Tuesday 23 February (twilight tour) &
Wednesday 16 March 9-10.30am
Please ring College Reception on 94592511 to make a booking.