Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2016 to all our Mother of God (MOG) families. I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable holiday ready to come to school energised, excited and ready for all the exciting learning opportunities that will be on offer this year.

A special welcome to Fr. Jacob our Parish Priest for the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe. Fr. Jacob celebrated Mass with the staff from the three schools in our Parish at Mary Immaculate yesterday. At Mass he shared how he is looking forward to getting to know us and hearing our stories. He will be visiting the school next week.

In future newsletters we will be reflecting on this ‘Jubilee Year of Mercy’.

Welcome to those families who are new to our community and we invite all families to our MOG Welcome Barbecue next Friday 5 February from 5:30pm in the school grounds. Please see the flyer in this newsletter.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Hally family who welcomed Seraphina Victoria born on the 17th January. A much loved little sister for Theadora.

A special welcome back to the MOG staff for 2016. This year we begin to implement our 2016 - 2019 School Improvement Plan. The spirit of collaboration and purpose was recognised as a key feature of our MOG staff during the 2015 External review. This collaboration is certainly evident in 2016 as staff during the last two weeks of the holidays they have been meeting together to ensure they are fully prepared to welcome the students and together create a positive learning environment as we begin the school year. Performing Arts is to be a key feature of the 1st Semester. Hayley Sims will be facilitating the Performing Arts lessons for our Prep - 4 students. Melody from Creative Melody will be working with Rachel Perissinotto and our Year 5/6 students on a weekly basis to learn about the craft of creating a piece of music in Songroom.

During 2016 we will have access to the SPACE Centre on a Wednesday for Physical Education lessons and Mass will be celebrated each Tuesday at 9:15am in the MOG Church. Classes will be rostered to attend a class Mass throughout the term. Parents/grandparents/friends are welcome to attend these Masses.

**Prayers to Begin a School Year**

God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin a new school year.

Bless them and their families, teachers and staff,
Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy - ‘Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful’ (Luke 6:36).
**Communication / TIQBIZ**

Mother of God’s main form of communication is the fortnightly newsletter. Newsletters are published on the 1st Thursday of each term and every second Thursday after that. It is an expectation that parents ensure they read the newsletter so that they are up to date with what is happening at MOG.

The fortnightly newsletter can be accessed through TIQBIZ on the Mother of God website through news and events or can be emailed if requested.

At our upcoming information nights and at the beginning of each term classroom teachers will publish a term overview for each class. This will inform parents of the key teaching foci for the term, upcoming incursions/excursions and class mass dates.

The tiqbiz APP is our main means of communication. Newsletters are uploaded onto this APP and classroom teachers are able to share some of their class news through the APP throughout the year. The calendar will be uploaded and you will be sent reminders through this APP on your mobile device. Video links as to how to download and update the APP are below. If you experience any difficulties please contact Rebecca in the office.

**FOR NEW FAMILIES TO FIND & TICK SCHOOL LINK;**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=En7a2RFnGzl

**FOR CURRENT FAMILIES TO UPDATE 2016 CLASSES**
For Apple users: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCTVszuZYR9A
For Android users: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KEZqWpe3Mg

**UNIFORM** – Our school uniform is to be worn with pride. We ask parents to support us in ensuring that students are wearing the correct uniform. School hats are to be worn every day between September and May. Please see the Uniform policy which is included in this newsletter.

Sports uniforms are to be worn on the following days for each class:
- Monday – Year 4s to Year 6 are asked to bring their sports shoes to school on a Monday in their bag for training.
- Wednesday – All year levels
- Friday – All year levels

The staff and I are as always open to working with you in partnership to ensure each student in our care reaches their true potential. I encourage parents to consider supporting the school through volunteering at events or on the Parent Representative Council through being a classroom representative or a classroom helper. More information about how you can become involved in your child/children’s school will be available at the MOG Welcome Barbecue and Parent Information evening which will be held on Tuesday 9 February. More information about this evening will be sent home next week.

Let’s continue to work together by supporting each other here at Mother of God.

Louise McGrath
Principal

**UNIFORM POLICY**

School uniform is compulsory at Mother of God Primary School. The appropriate sport/physical education uniform is to be worn for sport and physical education activities.

Track pants/runners are only to be worn on sport/physical education days and not as part of the normal school day uniform.

**BOYS – SUMMER**
- Short sleeved printed polo top
- Navy shorts (longline)
- Navy anklet socks
- Black shoes

**BOYS – WINTER**
- Long sleeved printed polo top
- Long navy pants
- Maroon school jumper
- Navy socks
- Black shoes

**GIRLS – SUMMER**
- Check school dress
- White anklet socks
- Black shoes

**GIRLS – WINTER**
- Maroon tunic
- Navy pants (students in Year 5/6 have this option.)
- Long sleeved printed polo
- Maroon school jumper
- Navy sock/tights
- Black shoes

Navy Japara (waterproof jacket) is also available
SPORTS UNIFORM

- White short sleeve school polo
- Maroon sports shorts
- Track pants
- Rugby school top
- Sports school socks or ankle white socks.

Hats are compulsory in 1st & 4th terms.

It is also recommended children wear hats on other warm days throughout the year.

THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE HAT IS A SCHOOL HAT.

There are two choices of hats – maroon school legionnaires hat or maroon school slouch hat. There is a maroon school bag.

Jewellery/nail polish

Students are allowed to wear watches. Necklaces and rings should not be worn and can be dangerous in game situations. Silver or gold studs are recommended as ear rings.

Students should not wear nail polish to school.

Hair – Hair that is below the shoulder should be tied back at all times. Maroon, white or blue ribbons/head bands are recommended.

SCHOOL FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2016

Mother of God School fee increases are based on the Average Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC) index. The AGSRC are based on state and territory government recurrent expense data over 12 years. The AGSRC movements are irrespective of CPI changes. A school fee letter and account will be sent home during week 3 of term 1.

The schedule of school fees and charges for the 2016 academic year are as follows:-

- Tuition fee $2600 per family
- Levy fee $480 per student
- Technology levy $80 per Student
- Maintenance Levy $150 per family (attend one working bee to receive a rebate)
- Alexandra Adventure Resort $390 per Senior School Student

RE NEWS

Welcome back to another year at Mother of God. This year a focus throughout the school will be Mercy. The Pope has declared 2016 an EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY. Over the next week or two the children will be discussing and coming to an understanding of what Mercy is? We will be focussing on the symbolism of ‘Opening the Doors of Mercy’ which is how Pope Frances commenced the Jubilee year back in November by opening the doors on the Basilica but then also even more symbolically visiting a small local church in Rome that cares for the homeless and Opening the Doors of this Church. You will learn and hear a lot more about this over the year. You may like to reflect on what mercy means to you?

Coming up very soon is also the start of Lent which commences on Wednesday 10th February. All children from Years 1 to 6 will attend a mass at St Bernadette’s on this day.

On Sunday 14 February will have our Beginning of the Year Mass where we join with the Parish at the 10:30am celebration. We encourage you to come along on this day and meet Fr. Jacob.

Class Masses

Tuesday 9 February Year 5/6P @ 9.15 in the Church.

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

Looking forward to a great year.

Brian Anderson

LIBRARY NEWS – Welcome to 2016!

Library classes commence next week and once again, we’re looking forward to another year of great literature related activities throughout the year.

Research shows that school libraries have a positive impact on a range of learning areas including reading, literacy development and broader learning areas of the curriculum.
School libraries can also make a positive difference to student’s self esteem, confidence, independence and a sense of responsibility in regards to their own learning. Our students are fortunate to be able to participate in a weekly library session to help support the curriculum programs in the school.

During their sessions the students experience a range of literature, develop research skills and have the opportunity to browse and borrow books. This year we will again have a host of author visits, performers and Book Week, of course! Book Week dates for 2016 are Saturday 20 August - Friday 26 August.

The Book Week theme will be **Australia: Story Country**

More details about this week will be published in newsletters closer to the date.

Could you please encourage your child(ren) to return their books every week and ensure that they have a library bag to protect books.

Library classes are as follows:

MONDAY – Prep, Year One and Year Two
WEDNESDAY- Years 3 to 6

The Library is also open at lunchtime on Wednesdays 1:50 – 2:15 and after school on Thursdays until 4 o'clock. **Students must be accompanied by a parent on Thursdays after school.**

Looking forward to another exciting and literature filled year!

Vicki Gualano

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**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.

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

The uniform shop will be open next Thursday 5 February from 8.45. All short sleeved polo tops have arrived and are available for purchase. 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.

Thankyou - Noelle & Susie
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PARISH PRIEST</strong></td>
<td>FR. JACOB MST</td>
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<td><strong>PRINCIPAL</strong></td>
<td>MS LOUISE McGRATH</td>
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<td><strong>DEPUTY PRINCIPAL / RE LEADER / PHYS ED</strong></td>
<td>MR BRIAN ANDERSON</td>
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<td><strong>LEARNING &amp; TEACHING</strong></td>
<td>MS MIRANDA MONTALTI</td>
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<td><strong>LIBRARIAN / READING RECOVERY</strong></td>
<td>MRS VICKI GUALANO</td>
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<td><strong>STUDENT WELLBEING</strong></td>
<td>MRS JANE GOUGH</td>
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<td><strong>LOTE – ITALIAN / LITERACY SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td>MRS ROSA PELLICCIOTTA (WED &amp; THURS)</td>
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<td><strong>PREP</strong></td>
<td>MRS BONNIE MARSHALL</td>
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<td>MS HAYLEY SIMS</td>
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<td><strong>Yr 1/2HM</strong></td>
<td>MRS JACINTA HARWOOD (TUES, WED, THU)</td>
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<td>MS MIRANDA MONTALTI (MON &amp; FRI)</td>
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<td>MRS RACHEL PERISSINOTTO</td>
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<td><strong>STUDENT SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td>MRS WILMA PALADINA (MON, WED &amp; FRI)</td>
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<td>MRS ANNMARIEE ROBINSON (MON, TUES THURS &amp; FRI)</td>
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<td><strong>ADMINISTRATION</strong></td>
<td>MS REBECCA HOOLOHAN</td>
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MOG WELCOME BARBECUE

FRIDAY 5TH FEBRUARY FROM 5.30PM

ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

BRING A PICNIC RUG, FOOD AND DRINKS

COME AND HAVE A CHAT
IN SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

The Creative Melody School’s Instrumental Music Program is directed by Melody Bell and our team of experienced music teachers who offer high quality and affordable music lessons in an enjoyable and fun-learning environment, whilst developing a strong musical foundation for all students. Teaching Methods prepare students of all ages step-by-step for a successful musical learning experience, and provides them with essential music skills such as reading music, listening in a group context, music theory and performance. Our multilevel program allows students of varying abilities to play together in an ensemble, and learn valuable team skills.

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP LESSONS: Group lessons provide an excellent introductory foundation in a social interactive environment. Lessons are held for 30 minutes once a week on a rotating basis during school hours. Individual lessons are available for advanced students or students wishing for a one on one approach. Lessons will be 30 minutes in duration once a week on a rotating basis.

BAND/ENSEMBLE: Held once a week during lunch times. This class gives students the opportunity to come together (even if not taking part in group or individual lessons) for musical development, covering a wide range of musical styles and giving pure enjoyment in a big group environment, and also creating our own percussion instruments. Please complete the below enrolment form and remember to note down what instruments you can play.

All students enrolled with Creative Melody for Instrumental lessons are able to also join a theory/aural class once a week at lunch/recess at no extra cost. (Please tick or circle theory in instrument choice).

Creative Melody Instrumental Music Program Enrolment Form

Childs Details (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS – ALL FIELDS REQUIRED)

Name: …………………………………………………………………… School: ………………………………………………… Grade: ………………

Parents / Guardian: ……………………………………………………… Phone: ………………………………………………..

Email: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Lesson choice: (Please circle)

Voice Saxophone Flute Percussion Ukulele
Clarinet Guitar Bass Guitar Piano/Keyboard Recorder Theory

Lesson Type (Please circle)

Big Group (4-5 students) @ $22 per lesson Little Group (2-3 students) @ $27 per lesson
Individual Lesson @ $36 per lesson Band @ $10 per lesson

What instruments can you play: ……………………………………………………………………… Years of experience: ………………………

Payment Method: …………………………………… Instrument Details: (Please circle)

Cash Cheque Online Deposit Has Own Instrument Instrument Hire Required

Contact Melody Bell: 0433 797 301 Email: giveusabell@creativemelody.com.au
MOG CHESS CLUB 2016

Think! Concentrate! Gain Confidence! Have FUN!

Coach: Jim Cannon, PhD (UMelb), Dip Ed (UMelb)  Email: jimphd2000@gmail.com

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NEW STUDENTS: Commencement Date (first lesson) / /
RETURNING STUDENTS: Please do NOT fill in this form unless updating your details

SPECIAL OFFER (TERM 1 ONLY):
PAY FOR THE YEAR AND PAY ONLY $200 (SAVE $20!)

Term 1 fees ($55 / child) due: THURSDAY 11/2/16

Payment Options: Please circle payment method used:
1. EFT* (preferred)  2. Cash  3. Chq (to “J.F.Cannon”)

*EFT (JF Cannon, 037-138 55-4211) with name, school and date in description eg “J BROWN MOG T1”

Unless using EFT, this form must be lodged together with your payment in an envelope at the office

Name of Child(ren)  1. ______________________ in Year P 1 2 3 4 5 6
                        2. ______________________ in Year P 1 2 3 4 5 6

Name of parents / guardians 1. ______________________ 2. ______________________

Signature of parent / guardian ______________________ Date / /

Phone: Home____________________________ mcb____________________________

Email ________________________________

✓ Please tick “Term enrolling”

MOG

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2016 Mother of God Parent Calendar

School Closure Days and Sports Day to be confirmed

Term 1: 27 January (school teachers start) to 24 March

27 January: Teachers start school

28 January: Students first day at school

28 January: Welcome Morning Tea for all families in the Marian Centre - 9am

5 February: Welcome to School Picnic in Mother of God Playground 5:30 – 7:30

9th February: Parent Information Evening

10 February: Ash Wednesday Mass at 10:30am at MIPPS

14 February: Family/School Mass at Mother of God 10:30am for the beginning of the school year. (Students to wear school uniform to Mass)

24 February District Swimming

3 March: Wellbeing4Kids Parent Seminar

8 March: Family Reconciliation Workshop (Year 3 families) 6:00pm at St Bernadette’s Cunningham centre

14 March: Labour Day Holiday

14 – 20 March: Catholic Education Week

15 - 18 March: Camp Alexandra Adventure Resort - Year 5/6 Students

22nd March Reconciliation @11.45am- MOG

27 March: Easter Sunday

Term 2: 11 April to 24 June

19 April Family Confirmation Workshop: 6:00pm and 7:30pm at St Bernadette’s

20 April: School photos

25 April: ANZAC Day

27 April: Caritas Leadership Day - St. Kevin's Templestowe

1 May: School/Family Mass - Open Day -- BBQ or morning tea after Mass

5 May Mother’s Day Morning Tea
5 May Mother’s Day Stall

8 May: Mother’s Day

11 May Confirmation Retreat Day: Wednesday-Amberley

18 May District Cross Country

20 May Rehearsal at St. Patrick’s at 10:30am

22 May Confirmation St Patrick’s Cathedral (Trinity Sunday)

13 June Queens Birthday Holiday

24 June End of Term 2

Term 3: 11 July to 16 September

19 July Family Eucharist Workshop @ 6:00pm and 7:30pm at St B’s Cunningham Centre

5 August Basketball Hoop time 2016

22 - 26 August: Book Week - 70th Anniversary - Australia Story country

1 Sept Father’s Day Breakfast

2 Sept District Athletics

11 Sept Sunday First Eucharist MOG 10.30am

16 Sept End of Term 2

Term 4: 3 October to 16 December

1 November: Melbourne Cup Day

25 November END OF YEAR COMBINED SCHOOLS MASS FRIDAY at 10:30am at St Bernadette's.

16 December Last day of school students dismissed at 3:25pm