Dear Parents/Carers,

WELCOME BARBECUE
It was very pleasing to see so many families here last night to meet staff and other families. I hope that everyone enjoyed the occasion and were pleased to have a night off from cooking. We have a lovely community and it was great to see all the interaction.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS
Last night we held a very informal Annual General meeting and were able to elect a new committee for the 2014 year. The committee is as follows:
President – Amanda Alush
Vice-President – Tina Sutera
Secretary – David Velardo
Assistant Secretary – Lena Picoula
Fundraising Committee – Dom Paulino, Emma Beik, Josie Donovan, Paulina De Los Reyes, Rachel Hardwick, Tracey Ibrahim, Silvana Dimitrijovska and Elliot Donovan.

Congratulations and thank you to all our committee members. We look forward to a very fun-filled and productive year together, for the benefit of our children.

Our First Meeting for 2014 is to be held next Monday evening, February 17th, at 7pm in the staffroom. Those parents who are not new to the school, are asked to bring a small plate of supper to share.

Barry Ennis
Principal

FOUNDATION (PREP) CHILDREN STAY HOME ON WEDNESDAYS
I would like to remind all families with a child in Foundation that there is no school on Wednesdays, for the Foundation children, until Wednesday March 12th, the week after the long weekend.

HEAD LICE
We have a number of children at school at the moment who are being treated for Head Lice. Please be vigilant with your own children and inform the school if your child has head lice, so that we can inform other families. Children are permitted to be at school, once the lice have been treated.

LIBRARY BORROWING
A reminder that children, mums and dads, will be able to borrow books from the library on any day of the week. Katy Hall will be available at the start of lunchtime, each day, to supervise the borrowing of books for the children. Parents are very welcome to borrow books at any time during the day, before or after school. Please remind your child.

JELLYBEANS MUSIC
Please find attached a ‘Welcome Note’ form Jellybeans Music, the company that we contract to provide our music program.

SPORTS UNIFORM ON WEDNESDAYS THIS YEAR
This year, Miss Jaqui Perrett our physical education teacher, will be working on Wednesdays. Therefore we ask that the correct sports uniform is worn, by all children, on Wednesdays throughout the year.

UPDATE INFORMATION
Early next every family will receive a form with the current information the school has. If any information is incorrect, could you please change as needed and return to school as soon as possible. Even if your information has not changed, the form still needs to be returned to school. It is very important that we have the most updated information. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.
SCHOOL FEES
1st Term school fees together with Pupil levy and Excursion Levy were due on 10th February. Direct debit method is also available to pay school fees. Please see Connie at the office for details.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.
If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.
The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:
- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:
- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.
* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

For more information about the EMA, visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx

EMMANUEL COLLEGE ENROLMENT FOR YEAR 7, 2015.
The Closing Date for Enrolment Applications for Year 7, 2015, is Friday February 28th – just two more weeks!
Application forms and a copy of the college prospectus can be obtained by contacting Donna Grech (registrar) on 83255119 or email enrolments@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au
Alternatively, copies of the college prospectus and application form can be downloaded from the college website on www.ecmelb.catholic.edu.au

Mount St. Joseph Girls’ Twilight Open Night – Wednesday 19th February 2014, 4pm – 7pm
All parents are invited to our Open Night on Wednesday 19th February from 4pm to 7pm. During the evening you will have the opportunity to see our school in action, speak with staff and students and learn about how our College specializes in girls’ education. If you are unable to attend at this time, please contact the school to make arrangements for an alternative tour time. There are currently limited vacancies at some year levels. Applications for Year 7 2015 will close on 28th February 2014.
Enrolment application forms can be obtained from the website www.msj.vic.edu.au or by contacting the school on 8398 2000 or emailing the College Registrar at registrar@msj.vic.edu.au
**Calendar Dates To Note**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Parents and friends Meeting (7pm - 8pm) Continuing members please bring a plate to share</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td><strong>No school for Foundation class.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Zoo Excursion for <strong>Foundation/Year 1 class</strong> – includes a lesson “Healthy Habits”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Zoo Excursion for Years 2/3 – includes a lesson “Feathers, Fur, Scales and Skin”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td><strong>No School for Foundation class.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zoo Excursion for Years 4/5/6 – includes a lesson “Classy Adaptations”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No Phys. Ed. Lessons today – Summer Uniform to be worn, please.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Sports Uniform today, please! Phys Ed lessons will be held.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“I Want To Be” Cancer Day. (Children can dress as who, or what, they would like to be and are invited to make a gold coin donation to go towards Cancer research.)</td>
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| **Week 6**         |                                                                                       |
| Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Mar | Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Tuesday.                                                        |
| Wed 5<sup>th</sup>   | Ash Wednesday – Mass at 10a.m. – all welcome.                                          |
| Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> | **No School for Foundation class. (last Wednesday at home)**                          |
|                    | School Photos!                                                                          |

| **Week 7**         |                                                                                       |
| Mon 10<sup>th</sup> | Labor Day Holiday – No classes.                                                       |
| Tues 11<sup>th</sup> | Life Saving / Water Safety Lessons for all classes, at school. (Surf Life Saving Australia) |
| Wed 12<sup>th</sup> | **First Wednesday at school for Foundation**                                          |
| Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> | Yrs 4/5/6 Life Saving activity at the beach. (Surf Life Saving Australia)             |

**KARATE**

**PARENTS! GIVE YOUR KIDS THE CONFIDENCE TO SUCCEED AT SCHOOL**

**Where:**
- St Leo’s Church, 315 Mason St (Cnr Fourth Avenue)
- Newport Gardens PS Gym, Cnr Maddox and Woods St
- Altona North Bayside College Gym, Millers Road

**When:**
- Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 5:30-8pm
- Saturday 9-10:30am

**Who:**
- Kids 4-12 years old, Teens/Adults 13+ years old

**FREE Introductory Karate Sessions.** For more information contact Sempai Lay 0416 333 113

www.facebook.com/shindomartialarts
Family Barbecue Night
Why Can’t I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student “A”</th>
<th>Student “B”</th>
<th>Student “C”</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reads 20 minutes each day</td>
<td>reads 5 minutes each day</td>
<td>reads 1 minute each day</td>
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<tr>
<td>3600 minutes in a school year</td>
<td>900 minutes in a school year</td>
<td>180 minutes in a school year</td>
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1,800,000 words

282,000 words

8,000 words

90th percentile

50th percentile

10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student “A” will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student “B” will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)