Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week is the start of Advent, the time of preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. We are also celebrating a special event during this time of Advent, the start of the Year of Mercy on the 8th December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

I would like to share with you an extract from Pope Francis’ announcement of the Year of Mercy;

“I have often thought of how the Church may render more clearly her mission to be a witness to mercy: and we have to make this journey. It is a journey which begins with spiritual conversion. Therefore I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a holy year of mercy. We want to lie in the light of the word of the Lord: “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36). I am confident that the whole Church will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God’s mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and woman of our time. Do not forget that God forgives all, and God always. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness....”

At this special time of the year and in preparation for the coming of Jesus, we can prepare ourselves and ask who do we need to forgive, and what do we ask to be forgiven for? Be merciful to ourselves and others.

Orientation Day: Over the past month I have been fortunate to meet the wonderful children who will make up our Preps for 2016. Yesterday we held our whole school orientation where all students had the opportunity to meet their teacher/s and class mates for next year. We welcome 29 new Preps, 3 new students and 2 are returning from overseas to go into the other classes. This gives us a total of 221 students for the start of 2016.

Prep Information Night: It was wonderful to have most parents attend the Prep Information Evening last night. Thank you to those families. For those families who did not attend, your child’s prep pack is available for pick up from the office. Thank you to Bridget, Julie and Christy for their time and care in making the transition easy and enjoyable for our new Preps.

DIGITAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR YEAR BOOK: This year, the Year Book will come out in Digital Form (DVD). No hard copies. An expression of interest form has gone home tonight. NO MONEY required at this stage.

AN ALL SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS NEED TO BE PAID AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE: An important component of the school’s financial budget is reliant on the fees paid by parents. At this stage, there is about $35,000 in outstanding fees. As you can appreciate this creates pressure across all aspects of school operations. Account notices have been sent home to all families and we are asking that unless you are on a payment plan, accounts must be settled by FRIDAY, 11th DECEMBER. Contact the school to make an appointment to see me if you will have difficulty meeting this commitment. If you would like more information or to set up a payment plan or direct deposit please contact the school.

SCHOOL FINISHES AT 3:15pm: YOU CAN COLLECT YOUR CHILD AFTER THE END OF SCHOOL MASS ON 16th DEC. PLEASE SIGN THEM OUT BEFORE YOU LEAVE.
SUNHATS

In Term 4, St. Laurence’s blue school sunhats are to be worn. Hats are available from the school office.

“No hat, No play"

Cricket Style $10.00

Please note that it is not acceptable to have a frayed hat or have graffiti on hats.

SLUSHIE ROSTER TERM 4

8th Dec: Di Marinou, Jo Denbrok, Rachel Simpson

We wish to thank the outgoing executive committee members of the P & F this year: Mel Neill, Jo Denbrok, Bec Meadley who have done wonderful work fundraising and purchasing much needed resources and equipment for our school. Your enthusiasm and commitment to the school is very much appreciated. It was a particularly hard year with the P & F having no President and one of our major fundraisers not being able to go ahead, the ball, however, there was much success with the Easter Raffle, Mothers Day Stall, Fathers Day Breakfast, Adventure Lap-a-thon, Disco, Book Club, Hot lunches & Icy Poles & Slushies, 2nd hand uniform shop just to name a few of the things they have run this year. There has been several social morning teas and a mothers evening held. We wish to thank Deb Carmody and Krista Evans for their tireless work in the canteen this year and to their support crew. We truly thank all those who have helped out in any way this year—without your support we would not be able to raise these much needed funds.

The AGM for the parents and friends was held on the 25th November. We thank all those who attended and offered assistance in the upcoming year. The new P & F executive committee members are:

President: Jo Denbrok
Vice President: Mel Neill
Treasurer: Bec Meadley
Secretary: Kylie Wright

The Christmas Raffle is the last fundraiser for the year so get behind it and support our school and the P & F. Great prizes on offer:

1st Prize One night accommodate at the RACV Resort Inverloch with Breakfast valued at $238.
2nd Prize The Esplanade Resort and Spa gift voucher $200
3rd Prize $100 AGA Shopping Voucher
4th Prize Family Pass at ‘Jump & Climb’
5th/6th Prize Voyage Fitness membership voucher for 3 months

Tickets are $2 each.

To be drawn at the end of year mass on the 16th. Raffle books are to be returned to school sold or unsold by Monday 14th December please.

YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE END OF YEAR
SCHOOL MASS
IN THE CHURCH
11:30AM
16th December

All Most Welcome to attend.
School finishes at 3:15 this day. However, you are most welcome to take your children home after Mass. You will need to sign them out before you go.

ASSEMBLY - Friday assembly is at 9:00am in the Big Shed. All parents welcome.
A B C VOX POP

**VOX POP QUESTIONS:**
1. What does ABC stand for?
2. Who is someone that shows respect in your class?
3. How do you show that you care for others?
4. Give an example of how you can be responsible.

**Alex Battersby: Age 11**
1. Act Responsible, Be Respectful, Care for one another
2. Cambell R. He is always nice to others
3. Helping people if they are hurt and sad
4. Always being organised with school work and homework

**Zara Littlejohn: Age 11**
1. Act Responsible, Be Respectful, Care for one another
2. Tom F- He is always polite and willing to help others
3. Help people in the playground if they are hurt and sad
4. Always remain on tasks during work time

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**SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

Don’t forget about Michael’s Supa IGA Community Rewards program. Have you changed your old white tag to the new black ones? To support our school community simply present your black tag during checkout OR you can donate your points to the school. See in store or contact the office for more information.

As the program is solely reliant on the number of active tags to generate the funds, the question is, how many supporting families do we have? In other words if the majority of our school community families are not using the program, we are missing a great opportunity. The number of tags that have contributed to our school is 45. We have 139 families at school, so jump in and get on board this fantastic program.

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**BAKERS DELIGHT SCHOOL REWARDS: EASY FUNDRAISING.**
When you buy your bread and baked goods at Bakers Delight mention that you would like your points to go to St Laurence’s Primary School. A portion of your purchase goes to the school. At the end of the year we receive a cheque that goes to the P & F to buy resources for our school.

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**BOOK WEEK**

How fantastic was book week? With your generosity and love for books, together you purchased just over $3000 worth of books which will give the library approx. $800 worth of books in commission. So thank you all.

**MORNING TEA:** We had another successful morning tea for parents who could have a cuppa while perusing what was on offer.

**BOOK EXCHANGE:** I wish to thank everyone who brought in books for the book exchange. This was very successful and enjoyed by the children. I was left with only 3 books.

**PARADE:** The parade was another highlight of book week. Children come dressed as characters from a book. What a display of costumes and imagination.

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**JUNIOR ATHLETICS SPORTS**

The Prep/1/2 Athletics Sports are being held on this Friday, 4th December. This is always a lovely day for family and friends to attend and to support and cheer on the children. Bring a blanket, picnic lunch and a chair or consider helping out. The day will start at 10:30am on our oval. More helpers are needed so please contact the school if you can lend a hand. Could those who have offered to help please be at school by 10:15am for instructions. See you there.

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There is a box or basket in each of the classrooms for donations of non-perishable items for the St Vinnies Christmas Appeal. All items need to be within the best before or used by date. A good rule of thumb for donating is to only donate what you would appreciate if you were in a situation where you needed assistance. Christmassy items would be great as well. Items need to be at school by Wed 9th Dec.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHILDREN WHO MADE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ON THE 18th NOVEMBER.


SPECIAL HOT LUNCH ORDER FOR THE END OF TERM

The P & F would like to cook you all a hot lunch again before the end of this term to give our wonderful parents a day off. Due to so much going on in the last week we will be having it next THURSDAY 10TH OF DECEMBER.

Noodle Cups – Chicken $2.00
Chicken & Corn
Beef

Party Pies $0.50c
Sausage Rolls $0.50c
Hot Dog (with or without sauce) $2.00
Spring Rolls $0.50c

DRINKS

Juice Boxes – Apple & Blackcurrant $1.00
Apple
Orange
Orange & Mango

Little Big M’s – Chocolate $1.50
Strawberry

Please write on an envelope your lunch order and please try to have correct monies inside. This will be a PRE-ORDER lunch so if you can have them in by next Tuesday or Wednesday that would be much appreciated. There will be a Hot Lunches slot at the office.

Thanking you kindly
Deb Carmody & Krista Evans
P & F Association

DISTRICT AND REGION KANGA CRICKET

On Thursday 19th November, we had six teams (3 girls teams & 3 boys teams) competing in the District Kanga Cricket Carnival which was held on the town cricket grounds. We had one girls and one boys team make it to the Grand Final. The girls won their game and moved onto Region and the boys were most competitive, well behaved and showed good sportsmanship.

On Tuesday 24th November, our girls' team: Emily Clarke, Merrin Giles, Jessie Fowkes, Rachel Carlisle, Tara Beavis, Trixie Bishop, Meg O’Loughlin, Sam Dyke & Jess Stephens, travelled to Traralgon to play other Gippsland District winners,

The team played Yarram, Lucknow and Bairnsdale West in the preliminary rounds which they won and qualified for the Grand Final against Sale. Sale batted first and their opening pair got their team off to a great start. Our girls were on the back foot but fought back very well but fell fourteen runs short to qualify for the State Finals which are held on the MCG. Many thanks to Sharron Stephens and Julie Fowkes for their support and help.