Dear Parent/s and Guardian/s,

Reading, like sport, requires practice. We are a community that embraces sport. Our weekends and evenings are often committed to supporting our children in wonderful, healthy activity which gains them fitness, teamwork, community connection and feelings of success.

Reading is no different to mastering a sport. In order to achieve we need to set goals, break down the complex moves into simple steps to learn, celebrate success, challenge our personal bests and perform in front of others.

Why do we want our children to read well? Because it is the most vital key in education. Being a confident and capable reader means as an adult we can find out about something of interest, entertain ourselves, expand our knowledge and understanding. Learn something new, keep ourselves safe and avoid contractual situations which might cause distress.

Our kids are not performing well in reading. This is a sad but honest truth. They are outstanding in sport but we are not matching results in reading. Why not? There are many reasons but one of the most critical is lack of focus and encouragement at home. Without interest from parents about the quality and ability of reading, children will also reflect that lack of interest.

Once children are able to read silently and independently it does not mean that they have mastered reading. We use a broadband level to assess children from Prep to Grade 6. This system uses A to Z for identifying the stages of becoming a proficient reader. Children are expected to reach Level M by the end of Grade 2 (the old level 30). Over the next four years of school the growth is slower as the level of complexity of sentences, vocabulary and ideas is much greater. By the end of Grade 3 children should be on Q, end of Gr 4 on T, Gr 5 on W and Gr 6 on Y.

This year we will be working with children and parents on helping students set achievable but aspirational reading goals. Those students who read confidently and strongly will be capped at the end of the following year - thus a Grade 2 student reading well above age group will be capped at Q which is the Gr 3 goal. This is to allow students to read widely and confidently in texts that are appropriate for their age group. Just because students can watch TV shouldn't mean they watch M+ rated films. This is also true of reading; just because they can read the words doesn't mean they should be exposed to emotionally challenging concepts such as death, relationships, mythical monsters and situations that leave them powerless, frightened and anxious.

My challenge to you is take on the Matthew Effect with your children. This sociological principle is that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. If you practice something you get better at it, find it easier and are more likely to keep doing it. Think about your non-reader at home - what are they passionate about and what do they practice?

Increasing the reading stamina of your child won't be easy. They'll resist a bit. Some will need rewards, others consequences but think of it as the fitness training that happens at a sport club - it is tiring but if done in a spirit of challenge, comradeship and encouragement, great improvement is found.

Let me know how you go. I'm looking forward to hear about the reading successes here at school! When we all work together our children can excel in every area of life.

Regards, Kate Dourley
2016 TERM DATES

Term 1: 27 January (Staff) - 24 March
Term 2: 11 April - 24 June
Term 3: 11 July - 16 September
Term 4: 3 October - 20 December (Tues)

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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.

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 136 families at school, so jump in and get on board this fantastic program.

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held at 4.00pm – 7:30pm on Thursday, 18th February and 4.00pm – 5:50pm on Tuesday, 23rd February. You can now book interviews at times that best suit YOUR FAMILY. INTERVIEWS ARE STRICTLY 10 MINUTES ONLY.

You can assess the link via tiqbiz (select interview link) OR go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au. Follow the instructions below. BOOKINGS CLOSE 24hours prior to each day.

The school event code is PLBLG all in lower case.

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The school event code is PLBLG all in lower case.
ALL FAMILY WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD IN THE SCHOOL CONFERENCE CENTRE AT 7 pm.

Confirmation
Confirmation Family Workshop - Wed, March 9
Retreat – Thurs, April 14 during the school day
Confirmation will be on Sat. April 16 at 7 pm at St Laurence’s, Leongatha.

Bishop Patrick will be conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please note that it is an expectation that a family member attend the family workshop. In the event you are unable to get a family representative to attend in your absence, it is your responsibility to call Father Aju (5662 2020) to put in your apology.

HOUSE SWIMMING 2016

A great day was had last Thursday, 11th Feb at the Korumburra Pool where our annual house sports were held. St Joseph’s & Chairo Christian School are also a part of these sports.

Pleasing was the number of students participating in the main stream events freestyle, backstroke & butterfly whether it be over 20m or 50m distance. The children’s effort and their achievements are a terrific testimony to our swimming teachers.

There was a most pleasing turnout of parents and grandparents to support their family members—and this involvement is always appreciated.

Our team to compete at district level for the swimming carnival at Korumburra on Friday, 26th February will be chosen from our house sports. Those children chosen will receive all the details later in the week.

SWIMMING TEST—THURSDAY 18th FEBRUARY

Tomorrow (Thursday 18th), swimming testing will be conducted for all children in grades 3—6. Children will go in the pool in their swimming levels and not their grade groups thus a different bus timetable will apply. Details on the noticeboard. Children levels 4, 5, 6 & 7 will need to bring the appropriate clothing as per note that went home previously.

It is important that ALL children attend the testing. Next years’ levels are based on the results.

Lord God,
You call us out of the darkness.
Fill us with your light.
Amen

Fasting: Fasting is about more than avoiding certain indulgent foods, like chocolate or ice-cream. Eating is just one of many activities in which we are prone to overindulging.

You can try:

Taking half serves— for one day, let hunger really bite; pray for those whom hunger is constant Cutting back—a pleasurable activity that steals you away from your family. Give up gossip— let the bad news stop at you or quit blaming others—practise acceptance and responsibility. There are other ways of fasting.

2015 SCHOOL YEAR BOOK DVD’S: PLEASE COLLECT AND PAY FOR YOUR DVD’S AS SOON AS YOU CAN. There is a number of extra copies for those who didn’t request one last year and would like a copy.

PREP TRANSITION

No School for Preps:
Wednesday 24th Feb
Preps attend every day from 1st March.
**CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSION FUNDING**

**CSEF eligibility:** To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-Government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;

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. *A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef) Closing Date applications close 29 February 2016. CSEF payment amount

- Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

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**50 YEARS OF PROJECT COMPASSION**

God of all people, we offer you our Lenten journey. May we learn to walk as one human family, remembering in a special way the men, women and children around the world who are most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Bless our prayers, our fasting and our Lenten gifts to Project Compassion, in this its 50th year. Through these actions, we show our love for your Son, Jesus, and answer your call to love one another. **AMEN.**

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**NEW RECORDS:**

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<td></td>
<td>11 Robbie Reardon</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**AGE CHAMPIONS:**

- **9yrs**  Audrey McGannon, Mitch Croatto
- **10yrs** Oscar Murdoch, Montana Kranen
- **11yrs** Seb Lamers/Will Croatto, Phoebe Hinds
- **12yrs** Taite Cumming, Heidi Tieman

**Carmel Kennedy Individual Medley Medallion:** Taite Cumming 3.3min & Phoebe Hinds 4.12min

**HOUSE POINTS:**

1st **REARDON (Gold)** 620pts
2nd **PHELAN (Phelan)** 470pts
3rd **COYNE (Blue)** 480pts

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**PHONES, TABLETS, IPADS**

If your child needs to bring a phone or tablet/ipad to school, it must be handed in at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the day. It is not acceptable to have these items in school bags or in class.

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**SWIMMING HOUSE SPORTS**

**FREESTYLE**

9 yrs  Audrey McGannon 51 secs 58.6 secs
12 yrs Taite Cumming 40 secs 42 secs
11 yrs Robbie Reardon 40 secs 42 secs

**Pictured are our age champions. Absent from photo is Taite Cumming.**

**Gold Team with their winning ribbons and shield.**
School Photographs

Wednesday, 9 March 2016.

School photo envelopes will be handed out on Monday, 29th February.

To ensure that your photos are returned back as quickly as possible, please follow these quick and easy guidelines.

- Please write clearly on your child’s envelope (Block letters preferred)
- If possible, please don’t use small change as this can break or fall out of your envelope, if this is not possible, please tape up the sides or put the money in a freezer bag then inside your envelope.
- For online orders, complete an envelope and record the Order Number in the “online Order#” section on the envelope.
- All children must have their own envelope with them when being photographed.
- Do not use one envelope for multiple children.
- Children without an envelope when having their individual photos taken will not have an order placed against their name.
- For Family Portraits, please enquire at the office for an information flyer and red family envelope.
- Do not place a family envelope inside another envelope or an individual envelope.
- We will only photograph siblings with a completed family envelope.

ONLINE PRE-ORDER : Simply follow the links below to place your order. Once completed, print out your confirmation invoice and include in your child's envelope.

   Individual Photograph Packs
   Family Photograph Orders

If you have any inquiries, please contact SPARGO directly on (03) 5942 5234.