Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

**The Joy of the Gospel**

I include with the newsletter today the third section of Pope Francis’ Joy of the Gospel in which he passionately invites us to be drawn into a relationship with Jesus.

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them: I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her; since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk: whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: “Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace”. How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another “seventy times seven” (Mt 18:22) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards.

**Mass at St John Fisher**

Attending Mass is an integral part of life at St John Fisher and we are incredibly blessed to be able to do this on our school site. As all parents are members of the Parish you are very welcome to attend all Masses whether they involve your children or not. Masses take the following format:

- **Monday Parish Mass** - Each grade is rostered on attendance at the 9.15 am Mass in the Mass Centre one Monday each term. The focus is on experiencing the Mass and there is no special involvement by the children.

- **Friday Parish Mass** - Twice a year each grade will be rostered on a 9.15 am Friday Mass. The class will take time in the preparation of the Mass and the children will be involved in parts of the Mass. We would particularly love to see family members at these Masses.

- **Whole School Masses** - These are held in the school hall typically twice a term and celebrate either an important event in the Church year such as Ash Wednesday or a community even such as Mother’s Day.

Fr Raul and Fr Alex are also very keen to see families at the weekend Masses which are on Saturday evening at 5 pm, Sunday morning at 8.30 am and Sunday evening at 6.00 pm during Daylight Savings and 5 pm at other times. Please remember Fr Vlad also has an online blog which has a reflection on the weekly readings. This week he gives us a real insight into the need for prayer. It can be found on http://www.frvlad.blogspot.com.au/.

**Opening Whole School Mass / Ash Wednesday**

Next Wednesday at 9.15 am in the hall we will be celebrating our Opening Mass as well as Ash Wednesday. We would love to see you there.

Please note the message included in today’s newsletter regarding no meat or chicken in the canteen next Wednesday as it is an expectation that we abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**Pastoral Care**

I include with the newsletter a Summary of the Pastoral Care Policy and Procedures Booklet so we can work together to achieve quality behaviour with the children.
P&F News
Thank you to Louise and Colleen for organising the Kindergarten Afternoon Tea last Friday. There was a great roll up to celebrate a very successful first week for the children. I offer a special thank you to the Year 6 buddies who have been outstanding in their pastoral care.

P&F Updates
Next Friday 20th February we are looking forward to our opening community event for the year at the Big Arvo. Please make an effort to come along and welcome all the new families to our school.

Please keep Tuesday 3rd March open for our first P&F General Meeting at 7.30 pm in the LARC.

Parent Information Night
Thank you to all the parents and guardians who took the time to come along to the Parent Information Evenings last night. There was a great sense of a community working together for the good of the children. Next week the teachers will be looking to hear your input on the children’s needs at the Goal Setting Meetings.

Afternoon Pick-up
It is wonderful to see so many families using the afternoon pick up but for the council to allow us to continue we need to keep the traffic flowing in Hansens Road so please consider:

- If you have children in Years 3-6 do not come to drive through before 3.25 at the earliest. The children are supervised until 3.35 and if you can wait these extra 5 minutes it is quicker for everyone.

- Please ensure whoever is picking up the children they have their family name clearly visible so the teacher can call the children.

Sports Update
Congratulations to Thomas M and Parker R for their selection into the Polding Softball Team and I wish them good luck at the State Softball Competition.

Dance Fever
Every Tuesday this term all children are enjoying a dance lesson from our visiting dance teachers from Dance Fever. They are highly engaged in learning a number of dance styles. We will organise a time in the last week to invite parents in to view their progress.

God Bless
Barry Shanley
Principal

LARC NEWS
We are looking forward to another busy and rewarding year in the LARC! During Term 1 all children from Years 1 – Years 6 will be working on Cyber Smart units. They will be learning how to stay safe on the internet, about cyber bullying, appropriate behaviour when using computers and much more.

We access safe and informative programs from the ACMA (Australian Communications and Media Authority) site; many of these programs are very enjoyable as well as educational. Please ask your children what they are doing in the LARC and how they can be cyber smart.

You might like to explore the great resources on this site too!
Web address - www.cybersmart.gov.au

Once again I am looking for parents to cover books! We still have a great many books just waiting to get onto the shelves and into the hands of eager borrowers. You can take books home to cover and materials are supplied. Please let me know if you are able to help.

I have decided to experiment with book covering and let children take a book and the piece of contact or plastic to cover the book when they borrow it. If you are unable to cover the book, simply return it uncovered when read. It would be greatly appreciated if you could assist in this way!

Many thanks and happy reading, Mrs Higgins

Cyber Safety
Take a look at the Cybersmart online resource for parents. This program is designed to help you work with your children so they have safe and positive experiences online. The Cybersmart program is a national cybersafety education program managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, as part of the Australian Government’s commitment to promoting online safety for children and young people.

This resource is divided into five themes, each covering a number of current cybersafety issues which are presented in a video format. Using the menu, you can either work through all of the videos, or just the ones that interest you. Each video covers one key cybersafety issue. It offers a snapshot of the topic, with an example of how this might effect a child or teenager, and provides some simple tips on how to protect and educate your child. www.cybersmart.gov.au

With thanks, The KidsMatter Team

CANTEEN NEWS - IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ!!
AS NEXT WEDNESDAY IS ASH WEDNESDAY
THERE WILL BE NO MEAT OR CHICKEN FOOD ITEMS FOR SALE AT RECESS OR LUNCH.

All other recess and lunch food items are available as usual. In place of meat items for lunch the below items are available:

Fish Cocktails: 5 for $3
Fish Fingers: 5 for $2
Fish Burger (fish cake & either tomato, bbq or tartare sauce): $3

With thanks, Mrs Higgins

Fish Cocktails: 5 for $3
Fish Fingers: 5 for $2
Fish Burger (fish cake & either tomato, bbq or tartare sauce): $3
This year we will be running the Mini Vinnies program at St John Fisher. The program is designed for primary school students who are interested in social justice. Mini Vinnies students get together within their school to help those in need within their school, local or international community. Mini Vinnies introduces children to social justice issues, The St Vincent de Paul Society and to living faith through action. We currently have 29 children from year 5 and 6 who are in the Mini Vinnies group.

Each Term there will be a different focus for the group. This Term our focus is raising money for Caritas Australia through project compassion. Over the coming weeks Mini Vinnie leaders will be visiting classes to help raise awareness for this project.

Jenny Dickson

Caritas Student Leader Day: by Annelise B
Last Friday 8 students from our Mini Vinnies group, along with Ms Dickson spent the day at a Caritas Student Leader Day at OLR The Entrance. The day was led by Brendon and Sophie from Caritas Australia. They spoke to us about Social Justice and how we all have a responsibility to help those who are less fortunate than us.

Brendon demonstrated how wealth was distributed around the world. Do you know that 40% of the world’s population live in poverty and this 40% share only 1% of the world’s wealth? It made us realise how much we all actually have and how lucky we are to live in Australia.

During the day we were given the opportunity to brainstorm and come up with ideas about how we can implement Project Compassion at our school. We are looking forward to putting our ideas into action in the coming weeks.

This was a fantastic day and I would like to thank Ms Dickson for organising it and Mr Shanley for allowing us to participate.

Stay tuned for more updates from SJF Mini Vinnies

Annelise B, Kialiah B, Amelia H, Rory C, Lacey B, Bree P, Halle B and Samuel S

P&F

The P&F Executive Committee will be meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th February. If there are any items that you wish to have considered for the General Meeting on the 3rd March, please email them to sjfpandf@gmail.com by Monday February 16th.

MERIT AWARDS

MRS BURDDET
Samuel S, Jacksun C and Allana C

MRS BURKE
Sam B, Logan B and Thomas O

MS DICKSON
Thomas F, Lauren T, Oscar W and Tara S

MR EDWARDS
Olivia J

MR FRAZER
Ella M and Chelsea M

CANTEEN ROSTER

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY
Kate Hooke Barb Middleton Julie Allen Kathyrn Siever

MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY
Vanessa Bonham Melanie Keys

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
Lyndall McDonald

FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
Rachel Kohl Amanda Sophocleous Vanessa Sims

CALENDAR 2015

FEBRUARY
16  Mass Year 2
17  Parent Information Evening
17  P&F Executive Meeting 7.30pm
18  Ash Wednesday
18  Opening School Mass 9.15am in Hall
20  Big Arvo 6-8pm
23  Mass Year 5

MARCH
2   Mass Year 1
3   P&F General Meeting 7.30pm
6   Cross Country – Sport-a-thon
9   Mass Year 4
13  Mass Year 5
13  Kindy Mums – Dinner at Mingara
16  Mass Kindergarten
20  Mass Year 4
23  Mass Year 3
27  Mass Year 1
30  Mass Year 6

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