Dear Parents,

Last night the Parish provided a session on the parables of Luke that was facilitated by Fr Brendan Byrne. His presentation made links with this, The Year of Mercy. For this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has chosen ‘Merciful Like the Father’ as its theme. Through this, the Holy Father challenges us to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love and forgiveness instead. During this Lenten season, let us strive to meet the challenge from Pope Francis and grow in compassion for all in need, in our school, in our families and in our communities.

Let us pray this Lent that God will touch our hearts and deepen a sense of solidarity with all people, particularly those in greatest need. Fr Brendan Byrne will provide a further session next Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Community Centre that parents are welcome to attend.

YEAR 6 CAMP
The Year 6 students had a sensational time at The Briars Camp in Mt. Martha last week. The students were challenged to partake in a myriad of activities which tested their courage. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the teachers that attended as well as David Witchell’s successful organisation of the camping experience.
PREP NEWS
The prep students have settled in well and the teachers are well underway with their individual assessments occurring on Wednesdays. Given it was so hot yesterday I am sure the preps appreciate the rest day today.

CONFIRMATION EVENING
Last week we had our Confirmation Information Evening. This weekend it is time for our Confirmation Candidates to express their commitment to preparing for the sacrament at either the Saturday evening Mass (6pm) or the Sunday morning Mass (10am).

BUILDING UPDATE
Meetings have continued over recent weeks regarding the future Parish/School building plans. Further consultation with leadership groups within the Parish/School will occur in March.

In regard to the school building program there has been some discussions over the last year as to whether to refurbish the P-2 building or build a new facility. During our recent discussions we have determined that a new facility would be preferable. Building a new facility in the location of the specialist rooms (portables) will limit the level of disruption to student learning during the development. We also believe this will provide a better outcome. The scope of the building will include 9 classrooms as well as break out areas. We will develop the full brief within the next month so that we can get preliminary drawings from the architect. As stated in the first newsletter of the year we do not believe any major works will begin until the start of 2017. When the building brief and plans are further developed I will make them available to parents.

SCHOOL PHOTOS - THURSDAY, 3rd MARCH
Please ensure that students wear their full summer uniform:
GIRLS: School dress, white socks covering their ankles and black lace up shoes. Ribbons are school colours.
BOYS: Blue shirt, grey shorts, grey socks covering their ankles and black lace up shoes.

All photo order envelopes must be returned by Monday 29th.

2017 PREP ENROLMENTS
Enrolment Forms are available from the office for Prep 2017. Current families are asked to collect your enrolment form from the office or phone them to have one sent home. New families can contact the office and an enrolment pack will be mailed. To assist our planning it would be appreciated if existing families can lodge enrolments over the next couple of weeks. Our Open Day and Information Evening are scheduled for Tuesday 15th March.

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS
TUESDAY, 1ST MARCH—STUDENTS YEARS 1-6. WHOLE SCHOOL DISMISSED AT 1PM. On Tuesday, 1st March interviews will be held for parents, students and teachers to meet to discuss students' progress. The focus of the March interview is to set goals for your child/children in line with their testing results. Children are encouraged to attend these interviews. The booking site will close today at 4pm. If you miss placing a booking please call the school office.
PAC MEETING (Parent Advisory Council)
On the 11th of February we had the first of our meetings. The main agenda items included:
- an initial review of the PAC Charter
- discussion regarding our school's Annual Action Plan
- input from Master Planning Group.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 10th.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
Please note that there will be a Pupil Free day on Friday 11th March. Staff on this day will be organising the framework for the new Semester 1 student report.

HEALTH CARE CARD/CAMPING
If you hold a valid means tested health care card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF). The annual CSEF amount for primary school students is $125.00. The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion expenses for the benefit of eligible students. Parents are encouraged to lodge the application by 29th February 2016 so that payments can be made from March 2016. The school can accept parent applications up to 3rd June 2016. We are unable to accept late applications. Applications are available from the school office. The school also requires a copy of your current health care card.

PARENT HELPERS/WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK
All parents assisting in the school are required to complete a working with children check. Those who have already placed an application will have received a receipt or a WWC Card. If you have either of these you are eligible to assist in classes. We do want our parents to be involved in the classes so please complete the necessary application online as soon as possible. If you have any queries please contact the school office.

God bless,

Dane Malone
Principal