Dear Parents,

What virtues do you want your child or children to have? Is the virtue of gratitude amongst those you value and endeavour to hand on?

Gratitude is a quality of being thankful and to show appreciation for and to return kindness. It is a very welcomed quality and behaviour in our society as it is one that allows the giver and the receiver to experience a sense of goodness and thankfulness. It does not always come naturally and may need to be taught.

In Jesus’ time gratitude also needed to be taught. There are Gospel stories which tell of the importance of gratitude. The Forgiving Father (Luke 15:11-32) and the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19) two of the best known. In today’s world how do we see the same type of gratitude shown by the Father and Leper who came back? Is it in our simple ‘thank you’ to each other? Is it more than that? I am sure you have experienced gratitude and know how important the virtue is for building relationships and in turn a better world. Perhaps this week you can observe your family to identify times when gratitude is evident and built on this to improve relationships with each other. You may like to look outside your family to observe others in our society who show gratitude. Is it the refugee, the lonely, the homeless, your neighbour, those who need to be fed literally or spiritually? Who have you recognised to have been shown kindness and have responded with gratitude? Perhaps as a family you can discuss the importance of gratitude and challenge each other to be more grateful and to think of ways to show gratitude to others.

The Year of the Jubilee of Mercy is a concerted effort to show gratitude and kindness. It began when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica on 8 December 2015 and concludes when he closes that same door on 20 November 2016. Pope Francis has declared the Jubilee Year of Mercy to encourage us all to consider how we can live our lives bringing mercy to others as a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives. The motive for the year, Merciful like the Father, serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love and forgiveness instead just like the Forgiving Father in Luke’s gospel. Our Parish Priest, Father Michael has asked us to decorate our doors at school, and at home, to show how we can show love, forgiveness and mercy to others. Will gratitude be a virtue which is also evident in our decorated doors?

As a school we have much to be grateful for as we work together towards providing a respectful, nurturing and engaging learning community. There was a great attendance from parents for the “Meet and Greet” conversations held last week. Thank you for your support in working in partnership with the teachers. If you have not taken up the opportunity to do so please contact your child’s teacher to make an alternative time. It is important that you communicate with your child’s teacher so your child’s teacher knows your child as best as they can. The Parents and Friends Association organised a very successful welcome school picnic last Thursday after school. Thank you for your efforts in bringing us together and to the musicians, Alex Terhorst, John Stephensen and Dean Britt who provided the entertainment. The Parish Mass on Sunday was well supported, especially by the newest students and their families. The Parent and Friends Association provided an after Mass cuppa which was well received. Thank you to Robyn and helpers.

Let this week be a week where we show gratitude to all we meet and where possible feed the hungry, literally, in kind or spiritually.

God bless you.

Rhonda J Boyd, Principal

SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to families who have made the Student Levy payment, due last Friday 19 February. If you are choosing to pay the Family Fee in term instalments the first instalment of $470 was due on Friday 19 February.

Building Fund

Click here for information about our school Building Fund.

Monday February 22, Term 1 Week 5

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RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AT OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

Our Lady Star of the Sea staff continue to build on their professional learning and implementation of Restorative Practices. Restorative Practices facilitates the building of positive and healthy relationships and establishes a supportive environment that is fair, consistent and democratic. The underlying principle is that relationships are important. When a harmful or disruptive incident occurs, the focus is on the harm caused to the relationship and the subsequent repairing of that harm; rather than; what rule has been broken and therefore what consequences will be imposed. This approach endorses the reality that when individuals live in healthy and life giving relationships with significant others, there is abundant personal growth, capacity for character building and a high level of achievement in all areas of endeavour.

All classes continue to do Circle Time which is one of the Restorative Practices strategies. It supports all students feeling a strong sense of belonging and importance within their class group as well as providing an engaging and fun setting for their social and emotional learning.

The practice of Affective Questioning will also continue this year. Affective questioning supports the idea that every misbehaviour is seen as a learning opportunity and enables the student to reflect on their behaviour but also think about who has been affected and how things can be made right or repaired.

They are as follows:
1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time? What are you thinking now?
3. Who was affected? How were they affected?
4. What needs to happen to make things better?

What happened?

What were you thinking at the time?

What are you thinking now?

Who has been affected by what you did?

How were they affected?

PARENT HELPERS SESSION

Thank you to the following parents for attending the parent helper session: Alison Tunks, Shannon Graham, Emma Edwards, Trudi Kerr, Fiona Reid, Ako Irie, Danica Mitsud, Cassandra Harrington, Gerard Donovan, Sharon Ashton, Judith Grant, Peggy Peril, Kate Daiziel, Natasha Elliston, Kellie Clark, Jo Hackem, Hayley Bennett, Narelle Holmes, Rachael Fletcher, Rachel Flanders, Deb Maud, Jane Carr, Jenny Turner, Bree Russell. We are looking forward to having you on board to support learning.

Kerryn Sells, Deputy Principal

SACRAMENTS of RECONCILIATION and EUCHARIST

All students and their parents who are celebrating these Sacraments this year are expected to attend the Information evening on Wednesday 2 March from 6.30-8pm. Bookings are now open for the Sacrament celebration times. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use Parent Code whuf!

CLASS NEWS

Inclusions and Excursions

Prep – Year 2: Responsible Pet Handling Session today.
Year 6: Junior Rotary Award Guest Speaker Friday 26 February
Year 3/4: Hockey clinics Friday 26 February

1/2 and 3/4 Specialist Day Program

You may be wondering about the change to the specialist program for Red Hub (Years 1/2) and Purple Hub (Years 3/4) with their specialist classes being every second week instead of every week. In regard to why the change, fundamentally the specialist days are a way to provide release time for teachers, which they are entitled to through their Award. The Red Hub (Years 1/2) and Purple Hub (Years 3/4) teachers have opted to have their release time every fortnight instead of every week so the program for students and the time table correlates to the needs of teachers as well as students. The change is about ensuring quality learning time for students and improved planning time for teachers. This year a similar time will be given to subjects as was last year either through the specialist day program, another time during the school day. We are monitoring the effectiveness of the change from both aspects to ensure it is the best way to proceed.

Years 3/4 Swimming Program

Monday 29 February to 10 March. Permission notes will be sent home today via Parent Paperwork.
Prep R
Click here to view information regarding teaching arrangements for Prep R.

ROTARY JUNIOR COMMUNITY AWARDS 2016

Our Lady Star of the Sea Year 6 students are invited to participate in the Rotary Junior Community Awards (RJCA). The program aims to assist students to gain a more informed and balanced view of our community. It also offers students the opportunity to develop personal skills. This is done by the students designing a series of activities to take place during the program based on similar lines to the Duke of Edinburgh Award that is offered to older students. Year 6 students who are interested in the program have been asked to discuss their interest with their families. Arrangements have been made to fully discuss the program further with interested parents and their child, and to assist with decisions that need to be made with regard to participating in the program. This meeting will take place, with a Rotary Club of Ocean Grove representative, on Monday 7 March in the school library, commencing at 5 pm.

Danielle Brennan, Teacher Liaison for RJCA

Our Lady Star of the Sea School, John Dory Drive Ocean Grove. Phone # 5255 4308
Our school office is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4pm. Email: newsletter@staroceangrove.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.staroceangrove.catholic.edu.au

Monday February 22, Term 1 Week 5
CAMP
The Camp Program offered at Our Lady Star of the Sea provides an opportunity for students and teachers to develop relations and to experience different learning opportunities not provided within the regular school day. In 2016 the Year 3/4 students will have an overnight stay at Sovereign Hill. Wednesday 10 - Thursday 11 August: 3/4LK, 3/4BC, 3/4TA Thursday 11 August - Friday 12 August: 3/4RO, 3/4JR, 3/4JD The Year 5/6 students will have a two night stay in Melbourne between Wednesday 5 – Friday 7 October. Camp costs have been included in the 2016 School Fee statement. Payment for Year 3/4 camp is due by Friday 22 July and for Year 5/5 camp by Friday 9 September.

STUDENT ACTION GROUPS
Safety Club
The Kid’s Safety Club is a school initiative that involves some of our Year 6 leaders taking on some of the responsibility to identify hazards in the school and then planning a way to fix them. Recently the Safety Club identified that the Middle and Senior playgrounds needed more soft fall mulch and discussed the integrity of the equipment. The Safety Club are currently working to solve these problems. Thanks and stay safe.

Travelsmart
National Ride2School day
Our Lady Star of the Sea will be registered for this event. Practice the safe routes to school as you walk, scoot or ride to and from school. Click here for the Safe Routes map.

SPORTS NEWS

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<tr>
<th>SPORTS DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bellarine Swimming</td>
<td>Friday 4 March</td>
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<td>Championship at Kardinia</td>
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<td>Pool.</td>
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<td>Cross Country at Shell</td>
<td>Friday 18 March 11.30am-</td>
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<td>Road Reserve oval Years</td>
<td>1pm</td>
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<td>3-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tabloid Sports at Shell</td>
<td>Monday 21 March 11.30am-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road Reserve oval Prep –</td>
<td>1pm</td>
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<td>Year 6</td>
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<td>School Athletic Sports at</td>
<td>Wednesday 13 April</td>
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<td>Landy Field</td>
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Tahnee Allen & Danielle Brennan, Sport Leaders

MATHS NEWS
Check out some Maths about ourselves in Purple Hub.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Today your child will bring home the school photo envelope. Please return this envelope to school on photo day, Tuesday 15 March. Do not send payment to school before this day. Your child will need this envelope to hand to the photographer. Family photo envelopes are available from the school office.

ACTIVE TRAVEL AND ROAD SAFETY
Bicycles and Scooters at School
All bikes and scooters are to be stored in the racks provided at the junior and senior playgrounds. They are to be locked in place for the day with a personal lock. Students are to wear an approved bicycle helmet that is fitted and positioned correctly with the chinstrap adjusted correctly and secured. Students are to walk their bikes and scooters when in the school grounds, at the front of the school and over the school crossings. Use the School Crossing
School Bus Travellers News
We are most fortunate to have a bus driver of the quality of person as Graeme who will go the extra step to care for the children however I ask that you allow Graeme to collect and drop the children from each bus stop without delay so as he can stay on time. This is important for the safety of all children, especially those who are waiting at bus stops further along the run. If you are not at the bus stop at pick up or drop off time Graeme is not permitted to wait, or to leave the bus to take the children across the road. You will be required to meet the bus at another bus stop or as necessary back at school at the end of the run. I understand that as the children get older they may be permitted to walk independently from the bus stop and this needs to be clearly stated through the school office. In turn this will be relayed to the bus driver. Regarding changes to your child’s daily travel arrangements, please contact the school office, who will in turn relay the messages to the bus driver. If your child is on the bus of a morning then the bus driver expects they will be there at time unless told differently and often spends valuable time at the end of the school day trying to locate children who are not accounted for and therefore the bus is not running to scheduled time.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE
Our Lenten goal is to send $900 to Caritas to assist with projects throughout the world which sustain poor communities. Through Pancake Tuesday donations Our Lady Star of the Sea has already raised approximately $575. From the Easter Egg raffle the school hopes to forward another $325 to Caritas. The remainder of money raised from the raffle will go towards updating the senior playground areas. Each year the students are delighted to participate in the Easter Egg Raffle, to be drawn on the last day of Term 1. This year we are inviting families from Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 to donate easter eggs. These can be of any shape or size. The Parents and Friends Association will be sending home raffle tickets in coming weeks.

CANTEEN ROSTER
Volunteers are asked to help just before and during lunchtime for approximately 1 hour. To be on the roster please reply to newsletter@staroceangrove.catholic.edu.au or text Sarah on 0432 989330. Please indicate your preference of day, Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Thank you for your support.

Sarah Cooper, Canteen Manager

STAR OF THE SEA UNIFORM SALES
COASTAL UNIFORMS Monday–Thursday 9am–4pm
21 Smithton Grove, Ocean Grove (Industrial Estate)
Phone: 5255 4897

RECYCLE UNIFORM SALES
The next opening date will be Friday 26 February 9-9.45am
Summer school dresses. The last of the new summer dress stock is available for purchase from the Second Hand Uniform Shop this Friday. Cash or cheque payments only. If you are unable to attend on this day and would like to purchase a dress please send correct money or cheque to the school office in a clearly labelled envelope. Sizes 4, 6 12 and 14 are available.

PARENTS and FRIENDS NEWS
Click here for PFA 2016 Contacts List. As a suggestion, this list could be downloaded and saved on your device.

Dough Raiser Program and Travel purchase donations
Our Lady Star of the Sea has fundraising programs in place with both Bakers Delight and Helloworld Travel at Ocean Grove Marketplace. If you are purchasing from either of these businesses and you mention our school a percentage of the purchase will be donated back to the school. The more members of our school community that participate, the more money we’ll raise! Please show your support to these businesses and in return our school will benefit. Please remember this is only available at the outlets located at Ocean Grove Marketplace. A big thank you from the Parents & Friends Association.

Gillian Newland, PFA

Our Lady of the Sea
Social Golf Day
Ocean Grove Golf Club
9 Guthridge St, Ocean Grove
Sunday 17 April
Shotgun Start 2pm
Individual entry $25 per person
12 Hole-4 person Ambrose Teams (Teams to be allocated)
Families of the players please join us for some fun kids games with BBQ and drinks from 4pm

RSVP and money due Wednesday 13th April
Places limited so get in early. To book your place contact Alanna Mills on 0409 865849 or email alanna.b@oirmus.com.au

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Website: www.staroceangrove.catholic.edu.au
HOLY TRINITY PARISH Tel: (03) 5258 1673 Email: htqcliff@bigpond.com
Children’s Liturgy
First Sunday of the month. Next Children’s Liturgy is Sunday 6 March during the 9am Mass.

Parish Lenten Studies
Each Thursday of Lent @ 2pm. This program will be held in the Ocean Grove church. $8. Enquiries at the Parish office on 52581673 or George on 52541240.

Lenten Dream Program
Another opportunity is available at Santa casa, Queenscliff. This 6 week journey is facilitated by Sister Jean McGonigal and will include prayer and reflection. All entries can be left at the school office no later than Thursday 11 March 2016. Entries will be displayed at Bendigo Community Bank in Barwon Heads from Wednesday 16 - Sunday 20 March. 1st prize valued $50.00. 2nd prize valued $ 30.00. 3rd prize valued $20.00, supplied by Camera & Photo Ocean Grove. Photos will be judged on most creative image. If further information is required contact Pamela on 0412 126 436.

REMINDERS
Care and Concern
The school community at Our Lady Star of the Sea can offer support by helping out with meals when families are in need of support due to sudden illness or death of a family member. If you ever know of someone who could do with support in the form of meals or would like to volunteer for the roster please email secretary@staroceangrove.catholic.edu.au. Care and Concern upholds confidentiality and regards the sensitivity of family circumstances. Distribution of meals is through the school. Thank you in advance for your help.

Erin Hamilton. Care and Concern Coordinator.

COMMUNITY NEWS
St Joseph’s College
St Ignatius College Open Day

Clonard Open Day
Click here to view information regarding Clonard College 2016 Open Day.

Sacred Heart College Open Day
Tuesday 22 March 2016.
Register online at: http://www.shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au/
Option 1 - Tour at 4pm then an information session at 5.30pm.
Option 2 - Tour at 5pm then an information session at 6.30pm.
For more information, please contact our College Registrar, Chrissie Johnson on 5222 0490. Siblings of current students enrolment applications close Friday 18 March 2016. Closing date for general enrolment applications is Friday 20 May 2016.

Festival of the Sea Photo Competition “Heads at the Barwon”
A creative, interesting competition is open to primary school age children, to celebrate heads at the Barwon. Photos must include a shot of the Barwon River and a head - human, animal or created image. Photos can be black and white or colour and maximum size is A4. All photos to be printed and labelled on back with name, age, address and phone contact. All entries can be left at the school office no later than Thursday 11 March 2016. Entries will be displayed at Bendigo Community Bank in Barwon Heads from Wednesday 16 - Sunday 20 March. 1st prize valued $50.00. 2nd prize valued $ 30.00. 3rd prize valued $20.00, supplied by Camera & Photo Ocean Grove. Photos will be judged on most creative image. If further information is required contact Pamela on 0412 126 436.

Bethany Saver Plus
Click here to access information regarding the Bethany Saver Plus program which can assist eligible families with educational costs.

Barwon heads Football and Netball Club

Pancake Flipping skills are tested on Shrove Tuesday

Pancake cooking had some very willing helpers.