Dear Parents, Friends & Students of St Joachim’s Community,

The school will finally come to a close as we stop to celebrate the birth of Christ and to take that well earned rest.

May this Christmas bring you the joy of family, the laughter of children and the blessing of peace within your lives.

Don’t let the first chance to enjoy Christmas be when you’ve finally cleaned up, after family and friends have gone home, or to bed.

Make yourself stop and see the smiles of your children, listen to the laughter of stories told about days and experiences shared while sitting around a table, or when those small arms wrap around you to give you a hug that says that you are the most special person in the whole world. Enjoy the Spirit of Christmas.

May Christmas renew the child in you so that you can experience the awe and wonder of Christmas through the eyes of the child that is within you.

On behalf of all the staff I wish you a peaceful and Holy Christmas, and hope that the last three days of this school year are lived and enjoyed to their fullest.

Mr Desmond Noack
Principal

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**NEWSLETTER NO.41**
**FRIDAY 14TH DEC 2012**

**LAST DAY OF TERM 4**
**PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

**ST JOACHIM’S 2012 AWARDS CEREMONY**

PARENTS WISHING TO ATTEND THE AWARDS CEREMONY SHOULD ARRIVE AT SCHOOL AND BE SEATED IN THE HALL AT 1:00PM

1:10pm – 2:00pm .................... Awards Ceremony
2:00pm ................................. Balloon Releasing
2:10pm ............................... Students Return to Classrooms
2:30pm ............................... Dismissal From Classrooms

**SCHOOL CROSSING**

Please note that regulations state that, John, our friendly crossing supervisor is unable to man the crossing till 2:30 on any day, including next Wednesday, the students last day of the year.

May we take this opportunity to thank John for his tireless work in keeping our students and their family’s safe while crossing the road.

**REPORTS WILL BE SENT HOME WITH ALL STUDENTS ON MONDAY**
DATES FOR THE DIARY

18 Dec .................. Gr 6 Graduation Dinner
19 Dec .................. End of Year Award Ceremony
19 Dec .................. Last day for students, 2:30 finish

2013 DATES

30 Jan .................. First day of Term 1 for Gr 1 – 6
4 Feb .................. First day for 2013 Prep student

CDF BANKING

CDF banking has closed for 2012 and will recommence when school resumes in 2013.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Pam Zosky who donated a fabulous amount of plants for our vegetable garden.
We really appreciate your generosity.

MASSTIMES

10th DECEMBER — 16th DECEMBER

Wednesday 9.30am—Holy Family
Thursday 9.15am—St. Anne’s Church
Friday 10.00am—St. Joachim’s
Saturday 6.00pm—St. Anne’s Church
Sunday 8.30am—St. Anne’s Church
Sunday 10.00am—St. Anne’s Church

This Weekend’s Gospel

Each week, our students learn about the coming weekends Gospel.
It provides for them an insight into their journey of faith and the opportunity to understand the faith story of their family and parish community.

First Reading

Zep 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.
Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is
the great and Holy One of Israel.
1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

Second Reading
Phil 4:4-7
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
The Lord is near.
I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I
repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your
tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very
near. There is no need to worry; but if there is
anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with
prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God,
which is so much greater than we can understand, will
guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation
Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)
Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel
Lk 3:10-18
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
What, then, must we do?
When all the people asked John, ‘What must we do?’
he answered, ‘If anyone has two tunics he must share
with the man who has none, and the one with
something to eat must do the same.’ There were tax
collectors too who came for baptism, and these said
to him, ‘Master, what must we do?’ He said to them,
‘Exact no more than your rate.’ Some soldiers asked
him in their turn, ‘What about us? What must we do?’
He said to them, ‘No intimidation! No extortion! Be
content with your pay!’
A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,
who were beginning to think that John might be the
Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise
you with water, but someone is coming, someone
who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to
undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with
the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his
hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the
wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a
fire that will never go out.’ As well as this, there were
many other things he said to exhort the people and to
announce the Good News to them.

Food For The Soul

I want you to be happy
I once went to a talk given by the Dalai Lama. In
answer to a question he made it clear that Buddhism
does not believe in God, but he said that a Christian
who in faith uses the term ‘God’ is talking about
‘Infinite Love’.

He said that the proper relationship to Infinite Love
would be what he called ‘submission’ which would do
away with self-centredness. This would have the same
result as the Buddhist practice of selflessness, thus
reducing the occasions for jealousy, hatred and other
divisive attitudes.

It is interesting that, as an outsider, the Dalai Lama
perceived the essence of Christian belief about
Divinity. Far better than the still not-uncommon image of God issuing demerit points for
infringements of various rules.

The populace at Philippi had their own image of
divinity’.

About 30 years before Christ, Marcus Antony had
defeated Brutus and Cassius at Philippi and many
Roman soldiers settled there.

They and their households had an idea of the divine
as despotic absolute power, just as likely to throw you
to the lions as to put a garland around your head.

St Paul, in the line of the Jewish prophets, was
impelled to write to the Philippians adopting God’s
utterly different attitude to human beings:
‘I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord. I
repeat, what I want is your happiness.’

Thomas Aquinas, the greatest Catholic theologian,
says the goal of human life is ‘Happiness’, being
flooded with bliss: one’s whole bodysoul brimming
with contented satisfaction and fulfilment of who one
is – Beatitude.

We can experience it even now. When that happens,
then we are taken well beyond the realm of negativity,
keeping the rules, doing deals.

Of course there are prohibitions. John the Baptist
tells the tax collectors and soldiers: ‘You must not use
your position to exploit and financially ruin those
vulnerable to your power.’ But that merely clears away the ugly side of life. It is a minimalist approach. John the Baptist challenged his followers: ‘If anyone has two tunics he must share with the one who has none. And the one with something to eat must do the same.’

But, he sensed it needed an impetus beyond his role and power. ‘There is one coming after me who will immerse you in the Holy Spirit and fire.’ That is what happened at Pentecost. Our Risen Lord immersed his followers in His Holy Spirit and the disciples experienced this ‘as if it were wind and fire’. We are told they sold all their possessions and distributed to such as had need, especially the widows and other vulnerable classes in that society.

I have seen this same impetus affecting this congregation. At Baptism and Confirmation you were immersed in the Holy Spirit and fire. It is not surprising, but still wonderful, that you should be so generous in your giving to the poor as a matter of social justice.

How can we be less than generous when, in two weeks time, we will celebrate the unparalleled generosity of the gift of the Divine baby in the manger? Then we will celebrate the fact that God is ‘Infinite Love’ with one desire: to become as close as possible to humanity. And with one message for us: ‘I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord. I repeat, what I want is your happiness.’

© Fr Michael Tate

"Christmas doesn't come from a store, maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more...."
— Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas
St Joachim’s Carols
Wed. Dec. 12, 2012

Happy Christmas 2012
On Friday 7th December the Middle School had a Portfolio Presentation Evening and School Sleepover. In total, 61 students slept over. All families were invited to the portfolio presentation and to stay for dinner. I’ll tell you some more about what happened...

While I was waiting for my time slot to present my portfolio, I played with my friends, showed mum my classroom and had dinner. At 6.45pm I showed my mum my portfolio.

At 7pm the boys played against the girls in a game of ‘Loveball’. The boys won and then the parents said ‘goodnight’ and left. We got our beds ready and got into our pyjamas. We watched ‘Home Alone’ and then went to bed. It was hard to sleep because I was so close to the floor and people were snoring!

The next morning we had toast for breakfast and watched ‘Merry Christmas Mr Bean’ because it was still early. After that, we played outside and waited for our parents to come and pick us up.

I had the best time at the sleepover! It was AWESOME!!

By Joshua Bennett (MTO)
On Tuesday the 27th of November, Scientist Mike from Monash University came to visit the Grade fives and sixes. Mike introduced himself to the group and told us some interesting things about himself. He then explained to us what we were going to do in the hour that we had. We got into our groups of four and some groups of three. First we measured the diameter of a hula hoop which represented the Sun. Then we divided it by one hundred and four which gave us the size of the Earth compared to the Sun. Next we cut the Earth out. After the Sun and Earth we had to make the Moon four times smaller than the Earth. We used tiny beads to represent the Moon.

Mike gave us a piece of string so that we could put the Moon and Earth onto it, to attach it to the top of our hula hoop (Sun). We could see that the Sun is huge compared to the Earth.

Next was the best bit of the session. We held up the sun which had the Moon and Earth attached and we had to flick a two cent coin and try and hit either one. We recorded our results so that we could see how hard it really was. We were trying to work out the area of the Sun, Moon and Earth. We are so grateful that Mike came to our school in his spare time; we all had an amazing time and we learned a lot.

By Caitlin and Carley
OSHC NEWS

Hi everyone! I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather. I can’t believe we are so close to the end of the year it was gone by so quick.

I just wanted to say a HUGE thank you to all the parents children for making me feel so welcome since I’ve started at St Joachim’s. I cannot wait to see you all next year.

As you all know this month we have started a food drive for the RSPCA to get more involved with community so this Thursday we will be welcoming nurses Ebenee and Kelly from Carrum Down Vet Clinic who will be coming in to talk to us and the children about animal care.

WHAT’S ON THIS WEEK

This week we are continuing with our Christmas theme; a lot of the children have come up with great craft ideas. We also will play group games and cooking on Monday & Tuesday.

REMINDERS

How to get started before using our programs register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Visit our website to begin www.campaustralia.com.au

Once registered you can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day online.

Save on Care You can save 50% or more on Before and After School Care fees with the non-means tested Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343 Monday to Friday.

www.campaustralia.com.au