Dear Parents,
This week we enter the season of Lent with the children. The season of Lent asks us as Christians to prepare for Easter in three ways: prayer, abstinence and almsgiving. Over the next five weeks the children will hone in on these three elements of Lent so that we are prepared for the Easter season. Today Year 1 to 6 children celebrated Ash Wednesday. Each child was marked with the Sign of the Cross and challenged with a special message. Let us take that message to heart and try and be better people during the season of Lent.

SCHOOL BANKING 2013
Thank you to the parents who ran the Commonwealth School Banking program in 2012. We are now searching for two or three parents who can volunteer 60 to 90 minutes of their time each week to run the program. One of the benefits of the program is that we are teaching our children ‘Financial Literacy’ i.e. the value of saving, spending etc. and the program is great at rewarding children with little gifts for children who save regularly.

Some background for those parents who may be interested in helping out given to me by those who co-ordinated the program last year:
- the person does not need to have banking / bookkeeping experience
- it will suit parents with young children at home because the banking is performed in a separate room within the library and therefore young children can be present
- a handover session will be given to the coordinators by Olympia our Commonwealth Bank representative
- banking day is flexible, so it can be set to suit the new coordinators

If you are interested please email me at principal@olbrunswickwest.catholic.edu.au
Please note that this program will not run in 2013 if we cannot get sufficient parental assistance.

LEARNING ENRICHMENT CENTRE
Over the past two years we have been associated with Ivanhoe Grammar School in facilitating the Learning Enrichment Centre. We were presented with a business case for such an innovative program and it was trialed both as an afterschool extension program, and then in order to try and boost numbers as a holiday program. Unfortunately due to lack of numbers in the program it will not continue in 2013. We thank Deb Sukarna, Head of Junior School at Ivanhoe Grammar, for taking the ‘risk’ and pioneering this program at our school and for the general community. It is not surprising that every parent who enrolled their child in the program were thrilled with the content and their child’s development as part of the program. Unfortunately in the end it was not financially viable from Ivanhoe Grammars perspective who fully financially funded the program costs.

PRINCIPAL FORUM
This year I am introducing something called ‘Principal Forum’. Held four times a year this is an opportunity for parents to gather over a cuppa and discuss ‘anything and everything’ with the Principal. My hope is that this will provide another avenue of Parent Input in the absence of a Parish Education Board. The date of these meetings will be as follows: 27th February, 15th May, 14th August, 13th November. We hope to generate some really good ideas and initiatives from the group.

PARKING AROUND OUR LADY’S SCHOOL
As an inner city school parking in and around our school is at a premium. Looking at our immediate area there are businesses (Eg. petrol station), residents, long term parkers who catch the tram into the city and of course our school. Since starting at Our Lady’s School four years ago we have been in constant negotiation with City of Moreland to assist in this area.

In October 2012 Council put in place a number of 5 minute “Kiss and Ride” parking spots on Miller Street and Nicholson Street. Parents who wished to stay longer would need to find alternative parking further from the school.

City of Moreland By Laws Officers regularly visit the streets around our school enforcing parking limits and the onus is up to parents to do the right thing as this not only impinges upon other families but more importantly the safety of children.

Some things to consider:
- Please do not come to the office to complain about being fined for doing the wrong thing. Complaining to Council is a more appropriate pathway.
- Just because other parents are doing the wrong thing doesn’t give you the right to do the wrong thing also. “Two wrongs don’t make a right”. Just because there are no 5 minute parks doesn’t give you the right to park across a driveway which is always illegal no matter how long. Residents always have the right to enter and exit their driveways.
- School personnel will never be asked to move parents out of a minute zone and/or enforce traffic bylaws. That is not our job. Our job is to teach the children to behave, not teach the parents to behave appropriately behind the wheel.
• That if parents cannot do the right thing they will face further restrictions, sanctions and council fines in the future.

TERM 1 FEES DUE BY 22/02/13
All Families should have now received their Annual School Fee Statement. Payments are expected to be made in a timely manner.

TERM OVERVIEWS - TERM ONE 2013
One of the great ways we keep parents informed is through Term Overviews. These are sent out in hard copy to pin on the refrigerator and appear on the school website. The Term Overviews provide an insight into what each level is doing each term: the content, the themes and the objectives. Please take the time to read these and use them as a conversation starter with your child. So when you ask your child "What did you do at school today?" "Nothing much" should be the response that you do need to hear in the future.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICIES 2013
Last week we distributed Acceptable Use Policies to all children in Year 3 – 6 after an E-talk in the Centenary Centre. Please read these as a family, sign and return to school. When returned your child can begin to use computers and the internet as part of the Specialist and regular classroom activities.

ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
At ‘Meet the Teacher’ your classroom teacher would have given you a survey about ways you can support your child’s learning and the school. If you have not already done so, please take the time to fill this in and return to your class teacher ASAP. Thank you for your on going support.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

FEBRUARY
14th February – School Closed due to Industrial Action
18th - 22nd February – Foundation C/G – 8.55am to 3.30pm
19th February – 2014 School Tour for Prospective Families
20th February – Foundation Interview Day – No school for Foundation C/G
22nd February – Term One School Fees due
25th February – Foundation C/G are now full time
26th February – MJR Leadership Day for Year 5/6
27th February – Principal Forum @ 2.30 pm
27th February – Sacrament of Confirmation Parent Meeting @ 7pm
1st March – Clean Up Australian Schools Day
5th March - 2014 School Tour for Prospective Families
11th March – Labour Day Public Holiday – no school today
14th March – St. Pat’s Day Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral for Year 6 representatives
16th March – Sacrament of Confirmation – Year 6
16th March – Working Bee – A to K families – 9 to 12 noon
20th March – Sister teachers arrive in Australia
21st March – Welcome Picnic – 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm
26th March – Purple Day for Epilepsy
26th March – School Mass and Way of the Cross
27th March – School Photos – All Classes
28th March – Term One concludes at 1pm
15th April – School Closure Day #1 – Personalising Inquiry with Jenni Wilson
16th April – Term Two commences at 8.55 am

Want to be a Brunswick Dragon? The Brunswick Junior Football Club invites all boys and girls from 7 to 11 years (age as at 1 January 2013) with a passion for football to join us for season 2013.
What you need to know:
Home ground and training is at Gillon Oval, Pearson Street, Brunswick.
Pre-season training starts the week of 25 February. Throughout the season training will be on Wednesday evenings for under 11s, under 12s and under 13s (5.30-7.00pm), and Friday evenings for under 9s and under 10s (5.30-7.00pm). Note that for February and March only, under 11s, under 12s and under 13s will train on Tuesday rather than Wednesday evenings.
Games are played on Sunday mornings in the Yarra Junior Football League.
Visit our website (http://www.brunswickjfc.org.au) or contact our Secretary, Libby O’Connor (0458317222; libby.oconnor@dbi.vic.gov.au), for further details.

NEWS FROM CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE MELBOURNE
With a federal election due this year and no new funding arrangements confirmed beyond 2013, fair funding for Catholic schools will continue to be an important issue for public discussion.
The Prime Minister has said school funding reform will be an important policy issue during the election. Details of the Australian Government’s plans are limited, and so the funding Catholic students might receive under the funding model is still unclear.
In the lead-up to negotiations between the Victorian and Australian Governments, Catholic schools have asked the Victorian and Australian Education Ministers for additional funding for our schools to close the funding gap with government schools. On average, Catholic students currently receive 20 per cent less government funding than if they went to government schools.
Catholic schools try to keep fees low, so that more families can choose a Catholic school for their children. When parent fees are included, most Catholic schools operate on around 90 per cent of the cost of government schools. With this in mind, government funding to Catholic schools will also need to keep pace with the cost of educating a child in a government school. If this funding is frozen, or fails to keep pace with government school funding, Catholic schools will be forced to increase parent fees.
If fees go up, parents may have to take their children out of Catholic schools, putting pressure on government schools. To make sure this does not happen, it is important that governments fund Catholic schools properly into the future. You will receive more information about school funding in the next Catholic Education Today magazine, due out at the end of February.

DETERMINING DESTINY
Dear Parents,

Our first Parents Association Meeting for this year is next **Monday 18th February at 7pm** in the Community Room.

For those new to our school, the Parents Association has two main objectives at our school.

- The Parents Association fundraises for our school through different fundraising activities Eg. Walk-a-thon, Mothers and Fathers Day Stall, Raffles etc.
- The Parents Association organizes different functions through the year that encourage 'connectedness' between school families Eg. Welcome Picnic will be held at our school on Thursday 21st March 2013. We will welcome new and existing families to our school.

The Parents Association Constitution (**on the school website**) stipulates the Executive positions of:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

In 2013 the positions of Treasurer and Secretary will be filled by Mr. Ross Weber and Mr. Michael Carrick respectively. The positions of President and Vice President are vacant. The Parents Association cannot function without these two Executive positions and as such it is crucial to the ongoing viability of the Parents Association that parents attend the meeting on Monday night to help in any way they can. The children would be the ultimate losers if we were unable to put together a Parents Association in 2013. Past fundraising by the Parents Association has purchased the two Adventure Playgrounds, the Vic Centre Computers, the Chess pieces, Interactive Whiteboards etc....things that **all** the children use each day they are at school.

Parents Association dates for 2013 are already on the school website and meetings generally run for 90 minutes. If we are able to fill these two Executive positions other parents can nominate as general committee members. Following this we will then be calling for Parent Reps for each of the 13 classes at our school.

I hope to see as many parents as possible at the meeting on this coming Monday night.

Philip Cachia
Principal
SCHOOL BOMBER JACKETS FOR YEAR PREP TO YEAR 5

February 8th 2013

Dear Parents,

In preparation for the winter terms [2 & 3] it is time to place our order with the manufacturers of the school bomber jackets. If you wish to purchase a jacket, it is necessary to complete the order form below and return with payment by Friday 22nd Feb 2013.

Please note, closing date for order forms to be returned back to the school office is STRICTLY Friday the 22nd February 2013.

****PAYMENT MUST BE SENT WITH ORDER FORM****

Unfortunately, we will be unable to accept any late orders.

Please note that the jacket is an optional item and is not a substitute for the knitted school jumper. The Uniform shop does not stock Bomber Jackets as they are made to order only once per year. Now is your opportunity to order for 2013.

The jackets are made of quality navy fleece fabric with knitted bands with stripes as per our jumpers. It has an embroidered logo on the left front panel and press-stud centre closure. If you wish to view a sample item, please visit the Uniform Shop on a Friday from 9am.

- PRICE $44.00

The jackets are available in the size range:

6 / 8 / 10 / 12 / 14 / 16 [or made to measure if required].

Regards,

School Office

---

Bomber Jacket Order for Year Prep - 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child's Name</th>
<th>Classroom</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

☐ I have enclosed payment of $........................by cash/cheque (please circle) (for credit card/efpos payment, please visit the school office to pay in person)

Name of parent: ........................................................................................................

Signature: ..................................................................................................................