Dear Parents

For you I have Destiny and a Hope"

Taken from the scripture of Jeremiah.

This week we are preparing for the beginning of school lay liturgy.
It would be great to see all the school community join us on Sunday at 9.00am.

During the liturgy we will be blessing badges for the school leaders and welcoming new families and their children to the school community.
There will be a cuppa provided after the liturgy. If you would like to bring a plate to share that would be great. As this is school event the students are required to wear their school uniform.

This week we also conducted our first School Advisory Council Meeting for 2017.
Items discuss:
- Development of the grounds, welcoming of our new members and the role and expectation of the Advisory Council.
- A reminder to the school community that the Advisory Council works for a common good of the school community. The Advisory Team is there to support and guide the development of the School. These members give up their time once a month for a formal meeting and I thank these parents for their commitment for 2017. If issues do arise throughout the school year please follow the correct procedures.

It is with great delight that we announce our new SRC for Term 1. SRC stands for Student Representative Council. The children meet for a formal meeting and discuss any issues that are happening in classroom and yard. They also share what are some positive activities that are occurring in their classrooms.

Congratulations to:
P/1 Levi and Cassie
2/3/4/ Johnny and Soraya
5/6 Jesse and Amalie

The value of the week is:

Inclusion. Making the students include others into their games.

Have a great week.

Yours Sincerely
Anne Ruddell
PRINCIPAL

OPENING SCHOOL YEAR LITURGY
Children have been given special roles for our opening school liturgy. This is a special celebration and would really appreciate if you and your child/children are able to attend. If you are unable to attend can you please contact Mr Cole so we can make other arrangements? Also at this liturgy the Sacramental families will be making their commitment to the preparation of their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.
Welcomers: Chloe & Jennifer
First Reading: Genevieve
Responsorial Psalm: Amalie
Second Reading: Poppy
Gospel Procession: Grade 6's and their Prep buddies
Prayers of the Faithful: Lucas, Joe, Johnny, Charlie, Andrew, Mitchell & Tristan
Collection: Paddy and Tyler

ALSO
Sacramental News....
Welcome to Lucas, Joe, Johnny, Charlie, Andrew, Mitchell and Tristan and their families as they will come on Sunday to make a commitment to continue their sacramental journey through the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Preparation for Reconciliation will begin on Friday February 24th at St Brendan's school beginning at 11.45 - parents are invited to attend these sessions and share them with their children.
Thank you
Liz McGuane

SWIMMING PROGRAM
Our 2017 Swimming Program will commence next Wednesday 22nd February and will continue each Wednesday until Wednesday 22nd March. We are returning to Colac Blue Water for our Swimming Program.

Although our Prep children do not attend school on Wednesday until March 15th they are very welcome to join our Swimming Program. Parents are welcome to drive them into Blue Water Fitness or the children can be brought to school at 1.00pm and catch the bus with the other students.

Please make sure all your child’s items of clothing are clearly named including their towel.

EYE TESTING
On Friday 24th February we will have the Eye Testing Van visit the school. This is a free service, but this is not compulsory for your child to participate.
Permission form attached today. Please return by Wednesday 22nd February

FAMILY FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME
The Ballarat Diocese will continue this year with the Family Fee Assistance Scheme. This scheme offers a Tuition Fee concession to families who are eligible. To be eligible you must hold a current Health Care Card that was valid on 1st February 2017. To receive this you must complete a form which is available at the office.

Families who hold a valid Health Care Card are also entitled to apply for a Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund. To apply for either of the above schemes you must complete the form and present your Health Care Card at the office no later than 28th February 2017

TISSUES
As usual at the start of the School Year we ask that each child supply 2 boxes of tissues for use in their classroom. Thank you.

Administrative Forms:
Thank you to everyone who has so promptly returned all the forms you received last week. We still have a few outstanding. It would be appreciated if these could be returned as soon as possible. Thank you.
Students receive many forms/permission slips during the school year and it certainly assists administration if these forms are returned promptly in order to facilitate the smooth operating of the school.

MEET AND GREET
On Friday 3rd of March it will be time to Meet and Greet with your classroom teacher about the goals and wishes for your children. This is only a 10-minute conversation, which will be held throughout the courses of the day. Normal classes will run during these conversations. A Timetable is attached to today’s Newsletter. We will endeavour to match your selected time but unfortunately this is not always possible.

**PREP/1 NEWS**

In the P/1 room we have been learning about our school matrix and its 3 major rules: ‘we are safe’, ‘we show respect’ and ‘we are learners’.

Reading Eggs details have been attached inside student reading diaries. Reading Eggs is an online reading program that the school has paid for and can be accessed at home via the website. The app can also be downloaded to devices.

Spelling words have gone home with grade one students. The test will be on Monday. They have the first 5 THRASS words: **bird, rabbit, cat, kitten** and **duck**.

Leo the lion is spending some quality time with the Armistead family this week! We look forward to reading Leo’s diary and hearing what he and Jimmy have got up to!

Integrated Curriculum topic this term is: **What is in my backyard?** This explores local geography, nature and animals.

Bounce Back focus this term is ‘relationships’ and ‘building friendships’. We will be exploring what it takes to be a good friend and a good classmate. Bounce Back is our social teaching and resilience program.

kparker@sbcoragulac.catholic.edu.au

Thanks,

Kate

**YEAR 2/3/4**

Homework was sent home yesterday and is due back this Friday 17th February. Each time homework is given out instructions will be included in the homework books.

Our first unit for R.E. is Community of Believers. In this unit students will discover ways in which they can contribute to the Church – through actions of unity and justice. They will be encouraged to recognise ways in which the Holy Spirit empowers them to live, work and love like Jesus. They will be given opportunities to identify the different ways in which the Church community proclaims the Good News.

I am still waiting for the Year 4 diaries and they will go home ASAP.

Our class is starting a Kindness Challenge with our goal of performing 100 acts of kindness by the end of term. You will be able to see our Kindness Tree grow over the coming weeks.

For Integrated Curriculum we are investigating landmarks in our local community.

In maths we are revising 2D shapes and objects and their properties.

If you have any queries regarding your child please contact me at school or by email on msutherland@sbcoragulac.catholic.edu.au

Star of the Day awards go to:

George Armistead, Joe Chant, Tasha Day, Abigail Sutherland and Anna Rowland.

Congratulations on your excellent work.

Cheers

Mandy
PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

Welcome to new families----Please find some information about the ‘Parents and Friends’ attached to today’s Newsletter and have a chat to Anne Ruddell if you’d like to know more. We encourage all new families to make the most of their St. Brendan’s experience; you will have fabulous memories to look back upon.

Wicked Success!----The bus trip to Geelong Performing Arts Centre for ‘Wicked’ a few weeks ago was highly successful and enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who assisted (esp. Michelle C), a stellar effort and great start to our fundraising.

School Uniform Shop-------This year the Uniform Shop will be open at the end of each month. For Term 1 it will be Wednesday 1st March and Wednesday 29th March. It will be open between 2.45 and 3.15pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

Wednesday is a day of rest for the preps until after Labour Day week-end in March.

FEBRUARY

15th
No school for Prep children

19th
Opening School Year Liturgy 9.00am

22nd
Swimming Program commences 1.30-2.30pm
No school for Prep children

24th
Eye Testing Van at school

28th
THRASS Meeting for interested parents

MARCH

1st
Ash Wednesday Children to attend Mass in Colac
Swimming Program
No school for Prep children

3rd
Meet and Greet for parents

6th
School Photo Day

8th
Swimming Program

13th
Labour Day Public Holiday

15th
Prep children commence attending school on Wednesdays

22nd
Swimming Program

31st
End of Term 1

Cororooke Hall Market       Saturday 25th February 9.00am - 1.00...pm
Jumping Castle, variety of local produce and crafts, Devonshire Tea and Sausage Sizzle.
Something to suit everyone! Bring a friend.
Enquiries: Eppy Hickey 0408 149685 or Helen Bell 0438 765214

ALSO

Cororooke Hall Working Bee -----today 5.30-6.30pm.
We’d love you to join the Working Bee at the Cororooke Hall.
Mulch the garden and smarten the hall up for the market. BYO Cleaning equipment and spades.
St. Brendans Parents & Friends

WHAT WE DO...

Support each other and connect to our community

Take care of our school grounds & environment

How you can be involved...

Fundraising
- Stalls, Sausage Sizzles & Events
- Buying equipment for our children

Meeting people
- Connecting to your local community
- Sharing ideas and role modelling to our children

Social events
- Family BBQ's, footy nights and markets
- Supporting community events