Dear Parents and Carers

I wish you all a very warm welcome to the start of our school year. This first week has been very smooth with the children and staff starting off on the right foot. It was very clear to me that students and parents were glad to see Monday come around. I am delighted to see learning taking place so quickly, as it should. I would like to publically thank the staff for the preparation they did to get the year off to a flying start. They worked hard to set up their classrooms to be both attractive and interesting.

**Early Learning Centre**—Our preschool children and staff look settled and comfortable, even in this first week. It is a delight to have these little ones with us. Congratulations parents for having your children ready for preschool. Successful transitions like this don’t happen by accident, so well done. We welcome new ELC teachers: Miss Shanahan (Joeys) and Miss Holgate (Echidnas) and Miss Barbara (After School Care).

**Kindergarten**—What a sensible group of young people we seem to have. One of the biggest ‘crowds’ we get all year is the first day of Kindergarten. On Monday we really did have a large group of smiling and happy family members here to encourage our Kinders and to wish them well. It was a great start. Somehow we managed to find enough parking spaces for our visitors.

**New Staff**—We welcome Miss Lewis (1L), Miss Vorster (1HV and music), Mrs Leighton (2LN), Mrs McGregor (4M), Mrs Stincic (6SC) and Mrs Sluis (Butterfly Room) to our staff. They already have made a positive contribution to our school in this first week. I am sure they will enjoy their time at St Jude’s.

**Parent Information Night (Kinder to Year 6)**—Tuesday 9/2/2016 at 7pm in the hall. We have a different format this year. The evening has two agenda items: 1) a cybersafety presentation aimed at parents. In each of the last three years in first term we have had ‘issues’ with some of our students and their unsafe use of smart phones / computers away from school. I am very keen for parents to be made aware of the dangers and solutions to keep children safe. Two presenters will speak at the meeting and there will be an opportunity for Q and A. This is suitable for all parents from Kinder to Year 6; 2) available on the night will be class information sheets for each child’s parents. Timesheets, from which you can choose a time to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss your child in the near future will be available for each class. Each year, in the first few weeks we encourage parents to meet with teachers. These are not meetings where teachers give a report on student progress, but rather an opportunity for parents to inform teachers about their child.

**Opening School Mass**—Our school captains, house captains, peer leaders and all Year 6 students received their badges at our Opening School Mass today. These badges were presented to acknowledge the leadership role all Year 6 students have in our school.

**Student Leaders in 2016**

**School Captains**
Jessica Charles and Liam Prichard.

**House Captains**
- Mulley House: C - Poppy Gevorgian VC - Spencer Bassett
- Dixon House: C - Matthew Lewis VC - Clare Maguire
- Hindmarsh House: C - Jessica Velloza VC - Olivia Kirkcaldie
- Streeton House: C - Sam Shillington VC - Charliee Bale

**Peer Leaders**
Josh Hedditch, Rebecca Rainey, Audrey Faulkner, Estella Brown.

Peter Galvin
Principal
**School News**

**Firewood**—A local arborist has left a pile of wood (suitable for open fires or slow combustion wood heaters) for community members to take. The wood is green, but with a bit of drying will be suitable for burning. Feel free to help yourself to the wood which is located just down the slope at the eastern end of the large school car park (past the basketball court).

**Years 5 and 6 Camp**—Camp in 2016 will come upon us very quickly this year. Each year our Years 5 and 6 students go on camp at the start of the year. Our camp this year is early (week 6) so no doubt there will be a mad push for forms to be sent out. Shortly and then chased up so all is right to go for March 7–9. The venue is Birrigai near Tharwa. Having camp early in the year will encourage and allow opportunities for the students to get to know their classmates in a relaxed and enjoyable format. It will be a good opportunity for team building. It is also a good opportunity for staff to understand and learn about the students in their class and help to build positive relationships for the year.

**Fete Date 2016**—As most of us know, the fete is the Community Council’s biggest fundraiser each year and its success depends upon the efforts of many. Our fete will be on SATURDAY 19 MARCH. To run a fete is a big deal, so please consider where you might be able to assist. Class groups should nominate early if they have a desire to organise and run a particular stall – get in early! Please keep your eye out for further information and assist where you can. It is a great day and a lovely opportunity to contribute and get to know all of the fantastic members of our school community.

**Classes for 2016**—
- Kindergarten: KL Mrs Lloyd / Mrs Gibson and KC Mrs Chant / Mrs Gibson
- Year 1: 1HV Mrs Henry / Miss Vorster and 1L Miss Lewis
- Year 2: 2LN Mrs Leighton and 2L Mrs Laudenbach
- Year 3: 3F Mrs Feerick and 3OB Mr O’Brien
- Year 4: 4M Mrs McGregor and 4OB Miss O’Brien
- Year 5: 5H Mrs S Hart
- Year 5/6: 5/6S Miss Sallecchia and 5/6SC Mrs Stincic

**Medical Action Plans**—If your child has a medical action plan for allergies and/or asthma, could you please ensure the front office has an up to date copy.

**Newsletter**—will be going home this week (and this week only) to the eldest child in each family in hard copy. As of next Thursday, our newsletter will be available on our website under ‘Newsletters’. To keep up to date with school news, dates and events, please make sure you take the time to read our newsletter each week.

**Skoolbag**—Please subscribe to Skoolbag! Skoolbag keeps you up to date with the latest information from school. The school uses SKOOLBAG as one way of communicating with you, the parents and carers. We encourage you to download the app appropriate for your device and install it onto your phone or tablet. You can view the school calendar for upcoming events, record sick notes and other absences for your child, and importantly, subscribe for alerts relevant to the grade your child or children are in.

Instructions for downloading the app are located on the Skoolbag tab of the school website. Once downloaded you must also configure the app to receive Alerts. You may choose to receive alerts for all grades and classes, or just those grades that are relevant to your children. You can subscribe to various alert grades by tapping on “more” then “setup” in the app. Alternatively, you can provide an email address to receive alerts that way. Please go to the school website, click the Skoolbag tab for more information.

**Year 4 dinner**—A year 4 parents dinner is being organised for Saturday 27 February, 7.30pm, Meating Room, Cooleman Court. Please put this in your diaries and contact the year 4 parent reps for further details, Emma Fulton and Therese Scarano.

---

**ELC News**

Happy Birthday to Heidi, Jack, Michael, Benjamin, Alyssia, Samuel and Finn who all celebrated their birthday in January.

A very warm welcome to all of our new ELC families. We hope you have enjoyed your first week at St Jude’s and look forward to seeing lots of ELC families at the school’s Welcome Picnic tomorrow evening!

We would also like to welcome our new staff to the ELC, Miss Shanahan (Joeys), Miss Holgate (Echidnas) and Miss Barbara (After School Care). A big congratulations to Ms Thomas on the safe arrival of her beautiful baby boy last week.

The Joeys and the Wombats have settled beautifully into preschool this week. They have been exploring their new playground and learning space and had their first visit to the library. They have been getting to know one another, making new friends and talking about ‘belonging’. Welcome to the Echidnas who had their very first day of Preschool today and are also settling in beautifully.

**Student Information**—To ensure we have accurate student information, we have sent home an information checklist for parents to check and return to the ELC.

**ELC Parent Information Night**—Will be held next Tuesday night at 6:30pm, in the ELC.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**—Will be held at the ELC in week 3, from 15 February. Booking sheets will be available next week.

Michelle Parkes

Director
RE News

St Jude's Leadership Mass—Today we celebrated Mass for the first time this year where the Year 6 leaders for 2016 received their leadership badges. As a parish we pray for the Year 6 students as they endeavour to be great leaders and role models in 2016. Thank you to Milly R and Anna B for altar serving.

Season of Lent—The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday February 10 with a whole school Mass where ashes will be received on the foreheads of those present. All are welcome to come and celebrate Mass on Ash Wednesday at 12:15pm.

Lent is a time that encourages us to look at our relationship with Jesus and to pay special attention to prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation to celebrate the most important celebration of the Church’s year, Easter. Beginning next week, 2 students will have the opportunity to give to those who are in need in our world through Project Compassion.

Prayer cloths—If there is a parent or grandparent who is a keen and able sewer our teachers would really appreciate your help to sew some prayer cloths. Please let me know if you are able to help.

Year of Mercy—This year at St Jude’s we are celebrating the Year of Mercy. The Jubilee of Mercy began when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica on 8 December 2015 (the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council) and concludes when he closes that same door on 20 November 2016.

The motto 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.

Sometimes, when we think of the word mercy, we picture someone throwing themselves on their knees before a cruel villain, pleading to be spared some punishment. This is not our understanding of God’s mercy. We do not ask for God’s mercy because we are afraid of incurring his wrath as punishment for our sins. Rather, when we call on God to have mercy, we are calling on God in the only way we know him—as one who responds with compassion to those in need. When we show mercy to others, we are responding as God responds, with compassion.

A useful link to explain the Year of Mercy in children’s language is below.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAxrKubZr8s

Yours in Christ

Susan Chant
Religious Education Co-ordinator

Sports News

Welcome to another sports filled year.

The first important event for this year is our School Swimming Carnival which will take place on Wednesday 24 February at the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre.

Notes will be sent home with all of the information you need early next week.

Our carnival wouldn’t be a success without parental support so please mark this date in your diaries and stay tuned for further information.

If your child has participated in a sporting event, and you would like him/her to be acknowledged for their efforts, please send me an email via office.stjudes@cg.catholic.edu.au

Sports days are Wednesdays & Fridays,
Please wear full sports uniform.

I will inform you of any upcoming sporting registrations as they come up, ie representative opportunities.

Tim O’Brien
Sports Co-ordinator
Welcome back!

Library classes for 2016:
ELC – All classes are on Wednesday this year
Tues – Kinder, Year 3 and Year 5/6S
Wed – ELC & Year 1 and Year 5/6SC
Thursday – Year 2, Year 4 and Year 5H

All children in kindergarten to year 4 need to have a Library bag to borrow books (any type of bag will do). Children may borrow / return books on any day that the Library is open and after school as well as during their class sessions.

Thank you to the two families who donated preloved books to the Library.

Wanted: Volunteers to help out in the Library. If anyone could spare ½ hr after morning assembly on Friday to help return and reshelve children’s books that would be great! Perhaps you are a champion book cover and would be happy to add your name to the list. Please contact me in the Library. Thanks!

Happy reading!

Verna Comley
Librarian

Mulleygrub Café

Master chef — Friday

The Brettargh family — They will be making Peppermint Slice

The ingredients are: Arrowroot biscuits, peppermint crisps, condensed milk and milk chocolate.

Please note that changes have been made to the menu. Some items have increased in price and new items have been added. There are two items that didn’t quite make it to the menu. They are bottled water $1 and plain milk $1.

Kim Hekimian
Canteen Manager

Mulleyduds Shop

Mulleyduds welcomes you all to the new school year!

The shop opened this past Saturday and it was CRAZY busy! Thank you so much to Angela Clark, Julianne Brettargh, Nancy Csaki and Natalie Vickers who helped out on the day. You ladies are awesome and the shop couldn’t open without you!

Speaking of wonderful volunteers, the shop is completely run by parents for parents. Money raised goes back to the parents committee to be used to benefit our children. So I’m wondering if you’d like to join our fabulous team? It’s a great way to meet other parents and it only involves half an hour of your time on a Friday afternoon 3-3.30pm, for a couple of times a term. Send me an email if this sounds like something you might like to try at uniformstjudes@gmail.com

I hope everyone is feeling as though they have all the appropriate kit for school now.

However, if you are like me, and the thought of washing uniforms mid week makes you run for the hills, just pop in and see us during opening dates or send me an order via QKR and we can get you some more supplies.

A reminder that we gratefully accept donations of second hand uniforms which can be left at the front office. We will have all second hand uniforms for sale at very reasonable prices on our opening dates.

I hope to catch you in the shop.

Susana Lloyd (Mum of Rosie KC, Jacob 2L, Caleb 5/6S)
Week 1—Term 1

School Community Council

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday the 16 February. This first meeting is our AGM, where the positions of Chair and Secretary will be up for nomination. Please send your nomination via email to Peter and myself at Peter.Galvin@cg.catholic.edu.au and sylvgallagher@gmail.com. I recommend you consider nominating yourself for these positions as they are a great way to give back to this fantastic school and community.

I would like to welcome Susan Rowell as Treasurer this year, taking over from Kerry Veloza. Thank you Kerry for your hard work as Treasurer over the past year. July Ford is 1 year into a 2 year term as Vice Chair, and will retain the position for the next 12 months. Donna Roucsch has been the Secretary for over two terms and has done a fantastic job. Thank you Donna for your hard work. It is volunteers like Donna that make this school the great community school it is.

Hope to see you all at the picnic this Friday night from 6.

Sylvia Gallagher
Community Council Chair

ST JUDE’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mulvey Street, Holder ACT 2611
Ph: (02) 6288 7688  FAX (02) 6288 7101
EMAIL: office.stjudes@cg.catholic.edu.au
WEB: www.stjudesps.act.edu.au

Welcome Back Family Picnic
-Preschool to Year 6

From 6pm this Friday, on the school oval, all families are invited to come along to celebrate the start of another school year. This is a BYO everything, including food and drink, cricket sets, footballs, netballs, etc.

The Community Council will be operating a sausage sizzle on the night for those who do not bring a picnic along.

I hope you can make it as it is a good opportunity to catch up with people you may not have seen for a while or for those new to our school it is a great opportunity to meet others.

I hope to see you there.

Warm regards

Peter Galvin
Principal
3/2/2016

School Community Council

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday the 16 February. This first meeting is our AGM, where the positions of Chair and Secretary will be up for nomination. Please send your nomination via email to Peter and myself at Peter.Galvin@cg.catholic.edu.au and sylvgallagher@gmail.com. I recommend you consider nominating yourself for these positions as they are a great way to give back to this fantastic school and community.

I would like to welcome Susan Rowell as Treasurer this year, taking over from Kerry Veloza. Thank you Kerry for your hard work as Treasurer over the past year. July Ford is 1 year into a 2 year term as Vice Chair, and will retain the position for the next 12 months. Donna Roucsch has been the Secretary for over two terms and has done a fantastic job. Thank you Donna for your hard work. It is volunteers like Donna that make this school the great community school it is.

Hope to see you all at the picnic this Friday night from 6.

Sylvia Gallagher
Community Council Chair
St Jude's 'Spirit' Fete 2016

The 2016 St Jude’s 'Spirit' Fete is being held on Saturday 19th March, 10.00am - 2.00pm. Our school fete is the biggest fundraiser for the school each year and its success depends upon the efforts of many and the generous support from local businesses and the local community.

As the main fundraiser for the school we hope you will all help in any way that you can. The key thing we need is volunteers as well as any donations you can make. As a first step, could you please let us know if you are interested in running a stall or if you would like to coordinate the same stall as last year. Once we have the final stats confirmed we will look at doing the online volunteer sign up register again.

You will notice in the coming weeks your children will be bringing home some plastic slips for donations for the Tombola stall. It would be good if you could fill these plastic zip lock bags with some items valued around $5 that are suitable for children or adults. Some ideas include bouncy balls, matchbox cars, bubble blowers, stationary items, small lego bags, jams or chutney and lollies.

As those of you who have already volunteered for the fete know the value your children place on your involvement in their school. The fete is a great opportunity for all families to get involved in a fantastic event that brings pride to our children and our community.

We understand that everyone is busy but would be grateful for any time you can make to volunteer on the day. Thank you to those who have already contacted us and volunteered, if you haven’t done so yet can you please get in contact with the fete committee organisers or please get in contact with your year coordinators.

Information on ways that you can help will come out in the next couple of weeks so watch this space.

We look forward to your responses and look forward to seeing you on Friday at the St Jude’s Welcome BBQ.

Thanks
Fete Committee Organisers
Nicky Bouikle, Sylvia Gallagher & Kerri Argall
stjudesfete2016@gmail.com

FETE MATE is back!
Fete Mate had so much fun at last year’s fete that he/she is back again this year. Fete Mate is such a good mate, fete mate will even shout you lunch, a drink and other fun stuff on fete day. Look out for more information and order forms in the coming weeks.

Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers

Welcome Picnic
This Friday, 5 Feb
from 6pm
on the school oval
BYO picnic, chairs etc.
The Community Council will also be running a sausage sizzle

ELC Parent Information Night
Tuesday 9 Feb
6:30pm – 7pm