Dear Parent,

We are approaching the end of the school year, and also the end of the Church’s liturgical year. Advent is almost upon us. The end of the year is a very busy time for us all, however Advent calls us to make time for quiet reflection and prayer, to open our heart and mind and spirit to the knowledge that God loves us and invites us to share that love with others. It is a time to reflect on how well we have responded to that invitation as individuals and as a community, and to renew our commitment to be God’s love in the world.

One of the most popular symbols for Advent is the Advent wreath. The Advent wreath of evergreens decorated with candles was a symbol in northern Europe long before the arrival of Christianity. The circle symbolizes the love of God which has no beginning and no end while the evergreens and lighted candles signify the persistence of life in the midst of winter.

In Catholic churches, the most popular colours for the Advent candles are violet, and rose, corresponding with the colours of the liturgical vestments for the Sundays of Advent.

STAFF NEWS

Miss Erin Nolan and Mr Matthew Galea will be leaving Our Lady’s at the end of 2015. It is with thanks and gratitude that we wish them both all the very best as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Thank you for all you have done for the Our Lady’s school community and in particular for the children you have had in your care. I’m sure you will all join me in wishing both Miss Erin Nolan and Mr Matthew Galea all the very best for all their future endeavours.

Advent
Dear God,

During Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, we think about all the people in the Bible, who waited for hundreds of years for Jesus to come to earth. We think about Mary and Joseph, going to Bethlehem, to register in their home town, and then waiting for Jesus to be born.

Help us, God, in this time of advent, bless our eyes and ears, that we see and hear Jesus.
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception & Father Peter’s Farewell Mass

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is our school and parish Feast Day. It falls on Tuesday the 8th of December and on that day we will honour Our Lady and give thanks for all the many blessings she has bestowed upon our parish and our school. This year it will be extra special because it will also be Father Peter’s Farewell Mass. It is also an opportunity to give thanks for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate who have been working in our parish and school for nearly 20 years. Their contribution to our community has been immense.

The mass will be at 2 o’clock and we are hoping that you will join us in our celebration. We are very happy that Bishop Vincent Long will join us and the Our Lady’s School Choir will be singing throughout the mass. This mass will be an opportunity for the staff, students and parents to thank Father Peter for his great contribution to both the school and parish. It will be very sad to see Father Peter leave and with him the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. They have left an indelible stamp on our community and given us the great legacy and charism of St Eugene De Mazenod. We have been fortunate and enriched by their presence amongst us and we will forever be grateful for all that they done for us.

We give thanks for the following Oblates who have served in our parish and school:

Father Lewy
Father Vin
Father Harry
Father Daniel
Father Vincent
Father Slawek
Father Marcus
Father John
Father Oswald
Father Peter

May God’s Blessings Be Upon Them

The Parents and Friends Committee will be providing a free tube for all the children on Tuesday 8 December in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
Dear Families,

Pre-Christmas Holiday Program at Recwest Footscray on 21, 22 and 23rd December 2015. Summer School Holiday fun! If you’re looking for loads of awesome activities to keep your kids busy during summer school holidays, check out our Summer School Holiday Program. These school holidays we are running loads of fun and exciting activities. Book online now to secure your spot!

www.childrensservices.ymca.org.au

Sun smart policy After School SunSmart policy is implemented from beginning of Term 4 until end of Term 1 to ensure all the students and staff attending the school are protected from harmful rays of sun.

For afternoon tea, a large fruit platter is served in addition to the items listed above. Afternoon Tea and the Daily Activities may change due to circumstances on any given day. Our program is designed for children of different ages and differences. Outside play is encouraged when the weather is fine. Children have a choice to participate in inside or outside activities.

If someone else is picking up your child (children) early on your behalf or your child/ren are not attending After School Care, please let OSHC coordinator know (phone number: 0401 700 401 from 2.45-6.00pm).

**DAY** | **ACTIVITY** | **AFTERNOON TEA**
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**MONDAY** | Kids choice art and craft, soccer, playground | Salada with spread
**TUESDAY** | Ice cream stick craft, colouring activity sheets, soccer, playground | Garlic Bread, biscuits
**WEDNESDAY** | Construction with boxes, soccer/cricket, playground | Rice cake, crackers
**THURSDAY** | Origami, kids choice activities, soccer/cricket, playground | Cruskits
**FRIDAY** | Paper mosaic, soccer/cricket, playground | Bread sandwich

**HELP NEEDED!**

The Grade 3 children need two Santa Claus costumes to fit them for a Christmas Play they are performing in on December 10th. Can anyone please help us by lending them to us for our Performance?

Many thanks,

*The children of Grade 3E and 3F*

**LIONS CLUB - SUNSHINE**

The Lions Club of Sunshine have Christmas Trees for sale at Bunnings Sunshine on December 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20.

Trees cost $60.00
Gospel
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

I can help my family by

I can help my friends by

I can help those in need by

Find the opposite of each word, then rearrange the circled letters to complete the sentence below.

MAN  
UNDER  
OPEN  
SAD  
ALWAYS

“the Son of Man will be seen, coming in a cloud with great _____ and glory.”