Dear Parents,

I hope the closure of the school yesterday didn’t cause too many difficulties for families. It was a difficult decision but one I made because my main priority as a principal is to ensure all staff and students are safe. I was very concerned about the buses on the roads and for our staff (including me) that travel down from Hobart each day. In the future I would encourage all families to use the school website as your first ‘port of call’ with important information, as it can only be updated by Mr Dwyer or myself. The closure of the school was also broadcasted on three local radio stations. Hopefully the long weekend gave a number of students an extra break to get over the numerous bugs we have going around the school at the moment. Since returning from the May holidays we have had a significant number of absentees.

I would like to congratulate the staff and the students for getting through the last couple of weeks ordinary weather conditions. Unfortunately we have been stuck inside for most playtimes but everybody seems to coping very well. Our new learning spaces and resources are making a massive difference with the students having adequate space during lunch times to entertain themselves. I ask all parents to be extremely careful in our carpark and turning circle during these conditions, as it is difficult to see at times. Please ensure all children are supervised at all times when walking in the carpark area in the morning and that children are picked up from the home line in the afternoons.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 14th July       Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thurs 21st July       5/6 Team travelling to St James’ College
Mon 1st August       Catholic Education Week
Fri 5th August        5/6 Excursion
Mon 8th August        Feast of Mary MacKillop
Tues 9th August       SHCS Cross Country Event
Fri 12th August       P&F Movie Night at SHCS
Letters & Sounds Program

It was great to hear at our staff gathering last Wednesday afternoon that our new spelling (& reading) program ‘Letters & Sounds’ is having a positive impact on the students. We implemented this intensive phonics based program at the beginning of 2011 and we are extremely excited by the results. Thank you to the P&F for their support in donating thousands of dollars to fully resource this program. We are hoping (when the weather is better) to have some parent information sessions, so parents can support this program at home.

Southgate Shopping Centre - Book Exchange

I would like to thank the Southgate Book Exchange Centre in Dover for their continued support of our school community. At the P&F meeting last week we were presented with another cheque for $300 from the centre to assist with the purchasing of resources for the school. Please support this great local service if you are in the area.

New Initiatives

Over the past few years we have implemented numerous initiatives to support the students academically, socially and spiritually. These include the Rainbow Program (support for students that have experienced loss), Cool Kids Program (support for students and their families that experience anxiety), Letters & Sounds, Multi-Lit Reading Intervention Program, just to name a few. This term we are launching two new programs in the school:

1. Better Buddies Program is a program that is run through the Madeline and Alannah Foundation to support our younger students in the school to match them up with a buddy in our upper primary grades. This program will see the Grade 5/6 Team working with the Prep students to ensure their first full time year at school is a successful one.

2. We are also launching our Junior Joey Leadership Program. The Junior Joeys will be a group that meet regularly at school to ensure we continue to live daily the vision of our Founders the Sisters of St Joseph. These students will be responsible for many initiatives that support families in our school community and the wider community. Mrs Eva Dunn, our Parish/School Associate will facilitate this group. Their first activity will be to organise a fundraiser this term to support our friends at the Cambodian Children’s Trust. There will be a selection process for this group and training for the students. Students will have to commit to regular lunch time meetings and other gatherings in their own time.
Reports & Parent/Teacher Appointments

Hopefully families found the reports that went home last Friday informative. Teaching staff spent countless hours preparing these in their own time. Parents that requested a Parent/Teacher interview should have been informed in writing today of the time. We have only limited times available on Thursday afternoon and as I explained previously I am reluctant to have parents and staff on the roads late at night in these ordinary weather conditions. As you are aware this year we are trialing online appointments and because of this it is crucial that all appointments run on time. I will be ringing a short bell every ten minutes to signal the end of the each interview. Teaching staff have also been briefed on the importance of keeping to the time frame. Another appointment can be made if you find that the time wasn’t adequate enough to cover all the points.

For those parents using Skype – please see the below Skype addresses for each team:

- KINDER: shcsgkinder
- Prep: shcsgprep
- ONE/TWO: shcsgone
- THREE/FOUR: shcsgthree
- FIVE/SIX: shcsgsix

Those parents who are going to skype in need to ask the staff to accept them as friends. I would suggest that this is done ASAP to ensure all is working smoothly before the interviews on Thursday.

FOR EXAMPLE – To ask Mrs Longey in Prep

Step 1 – Login to Skype
Step 2 – Go to Contacts (top tool bar)
Step 3 – Go to ADD CONTACTS
Step 4 – add shcsgprep and press find
Step 5 – Hit request friend button
Step 6 – Mrs Longey will accept your friendship

This is for Mac computers. PC computers will have a slightly different set up. If you youtube ‘adding contacts on Skype’ there will be a video explaining how to do it.

Please remember this is a trial and we are implementing it to support families that find it difficult to get to school or have to travel considerable distances (in ordinary conditions) for a 10 minute interview.
Keep up your support for our McCAIN School Veggie Patch

We are off to a great start and we thank local supporters for the points donations made so far. We are eager to continue our McCAIN School Veggie Patch adventure and urge everyone to keep up the great work by collecting McCAIN barcodes for our school.

Every barcode from McCAIN frozen vegetable or McCAIN Purely Potato packs purchased will provide points that we can redeem for gardening tools, seeds and equipment such as wheelbarrows, water tanks and compost bins for our school veggie patches.

To show your support and earn points for our school, simply collect barcodes from any pack of McCAIN frozen vegetables or McCAIN Purely Potato and send them into your child's teacher or drop them into the collection box in the school office from now until 30th September.

To find out more about School Veggie Patches, please visit the website mccainveggiepatches.com

For any further information on our involvement in McCAIN School Veggie Patches please contact Maree via the school office.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Kari Thomas & Hugh Sanderson on the birth of their son, Ekamai Thomas Sanderson. The children were very excited to hear the news today!

Welcome
Last week we welcomed Miss Anna Domarco to our staff team. Anna is replacing Kari Thomas while she is on maternity leave.

Have a great week

Stuart Kelly
Principal
On behalf of the children who received their Confirmation and First Eucharist we would like to thank the teachers who attended, Mr Kelly, Mr Grey, Miss Turnock, Mrs Doherty, Mrs Reynolds, Miss Keenan, Mrs Watkins and Miss Cane.

It was very much appreciated by us all.

Thank you.

Also a big thanks to Mrs Dunn and Father Greg.

CCT Footy Points Margin Tickets

Round 16 Winner was Robert Clark (Dover)

This weeks game is:

Round 17= Adelaide V Essendon

Name: ........................................ Grade..............

I would like to purchase Season Ticket $12

OR

I would like to purchase ........Round 17 tickets at $1

Please send to school by Thursday to ensure you receive your ticket.
NEW CHALLENGE
NEW ADVENTURE

Junior Joeys Group
starting this term!

Students in Grades 4-6
are eligible to join this group
dedicated to follow
in the footsteps of
St Mary of the Cross McKillop,
Father Julian Tenison Woods
and the
First Sisters of St Joseph
in learning to

“FIND HAPPINESS IN MAKING OTHERS HAPPY”

LEARN
DO
PRAY

Interested students will be invited
to an information meeting next week.
As a family, you might like to discuss the value and the privilege
of being a leader in the school through membership in this
Josephite group concerned with strengthening all that is good
and spreading neighbourly care
in outreach programs of the group’s choosing.

Group Coordinator: Eva Dunn, Pastoral Associate
Ever wanted to try further study but not sure how you’ll go? What does it take to be a mature age distance student?

**INFORMATION SESSION**

**LOCATION**  
Huon LINC, 1 Skinner Street Huonville

**TIME**  
3.30 – 6.30pm

**DATE**  
Thursday *7th July*, 2011

*Short presentation at 3.40 then repeated at 4.15, 5.10 and 6.00*

**Hear about:**
- Studying as a mature age distance student
- VET, undergraduate and postgraduate distance education opportunities
- Local support e.g. Huon LINC Study Circle

**What skills do I need?**

**What options are open to me?**

*What can I study in the distance mode?*
- Hobby courses
- Vocational courses
- Study Skills courses
- Undergraduate courses
- Postgraduate courses

**Costs of study**

What are the costs involved in studying?
- Fees
- Fee assistance
- Other costs of online study

**Balance Study with your Lifestyle**

Can I study, work, look after my family and have a social life?

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*This session is not sponsored by any institution*