We are sure the children would love to see a few familiar faces along the way to help cheer them on.

Our St. Al’s team of students and their families will take on the 6km course, starting at 8:30am from the Dunnstown Recreation Reserve, Old Melbourne Road, Dunnstown

Our best wishes to one and all for Sunday.

Have fun everyone!

If you would like to find out more about the day’s activities please visit –

www.mountainoffunrun.com

This Sunday, a team of our students, staff and families will gear up in St. Aloysius school colours and take on the challenge of the Mt. Warrenheip Mountain of Fun Run, Dunnstown.

This annual event is a major fundraiser for St. Brendan’s Primary School, Dunnstown and once again aims to put plenty of fun into fundraising.

The event offers two courses; a 12.5km run that climbs Mt. Warrenheip and an equally scenic 6km walk/run that circuits the rural landscape of Dunnstown.

Now if running up Mt. Warrenheip is not really your idea of fun, don’t be put off as there is still much to enjoy; you can join in with a walk or bring a chair and show your support from the sidelines.

Put your best foot forward to tackle a mountain of fun

Sunday, March 6th
Dear Families.

Today, we held our Open Day for families who were looking to enrol their children into Foundation (Prep) in 2017. The tours were led by our Year 6 student leaders and our Meet and Greet Team who did an amazing job of showing families around the school and answering questions they had. Our school captains actually addressed the families present and were most impressive. There is a final session tonight at 6.00 and I am sure we will have the same outstanding comments from the visitors about our children.

We had our 2 school closure days last week and what a great learning opportunity the days were for our whole staff. The days were led by 2 CEOB staff who will keep working with our school for the rest of the year. Under the leadership of Jo Townsend and Donna Bryce, along with the CEOB staff, our staff will develop more effective ways to teach literacy in their classrooms using the latest research findings and modern teaching strategies. There are 2 more days for us to attend later in the year and I will give families plenty of notice for these later.

Last week we sent home a colouring competition form for children to design their own racing silks. We do have more blank entry forms as there is no limit to the number of times children can enter silks for the competition. It will be a fun night on 10 March when winners will be announced at a family BBQ at Bray Raceway. The club has been most generous in their support of St Aloysius and it is important we return the support!

The Life Education Van visits our school next week and all our children will be involved in visiting and learning from the Van. We have a parent information session on Monday 7 March at 9.00am. I would advise parents to attend if you can spare the time as the concept of the Life Education Van visiting our school works really well!

School Photo envelopes were distributed to our families this week, please remember that these envelopes are to come back to school with your child on photo day - Monday, 21st March. Family photo order packs are available from the school office for families with more than one child at school who would like to have a family photo taken of their children. All children are to wear their correct SUMMER school uniform, including their school shoes, on photo day.

School Sports This year we will be holding our “Twilight Sports” at St Patrick’s College Oval on Wednesday 23rd March commencing at 3:30 pm. Children will come to school as from 1:00 pm on that day, having already had their lunch, and bring a couple of snacks to eat throughout the amended school day. Please note: Foundation children will attend school on this day. Further information will be sent home soon.

Enrolment applications for Prep (Foundation) are now open. All existing families now need to complete an enrolment application (available from the school office), for those who have a child starting Foundation in 2017. Once you have completed this application we will be in touch with you early in Term 2. If you have any queries please speak to me in the office.

We have our Friday morning Prayer Time again this week. Please make sure that your children are at school and ready for our prayer to start by 8.40. Families are invited and most welcome to join us as an opportunity for our entire school community to come together and pray.

Our assemblies are now each Monday at 3.00pm in the gymnasium. During these times awards will be presented to children and reminders will be given. Parents, you are invited and most welcome to join us each Monday.

School Nursing Program 2016 - A reminder to our Foundation families that the completed School Nursing Program forms are due back to school NOW.

Medical Forms: Asthma Action Plans, Anaphylaxis Action Plans, Allergies etc., Please ensure that the school office has up to date information for your child, this is essential – ensuring accurate emergency contact information is provided.

Family Fee Assistance As in the past couple of years the Catholic Education Office is once again offering financial assistance to those families who have an eligible Health Care card or pension card. An application
School Advisor Council March Meeting Update

The SAC met for our second gathering of the year last night and we had the opportunity to hear from Donna Bryce about her role as Leader of Teaching and Learning. This position was born out of our 2015 school review. Here, one of the key recommendations was to centralise the co-ordination of teaching and learning strategies being implemented across all three learning areas of junior, middle and senior, with consistency of practice being a key objective. Also under Donna’s care is the role of Special Education Leader. In this position, she was able to highlight for us the vital nature of partnership (shared between students, teachers and families) in achievement of personal best learning outcomes for all students. We thank Donna for her time and wish her well in this key leadership role.

We also had the opportunity to hear some details of the OLSEL (Oral Language Supporting Early Literacy) in-service that our staff participated in over Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. An initiative of Catholic Education Ballarat, staff had the opportunity to join with other Catholic primary school staff from within our Dioceses to learn more about the vital nature of spoken language in children’s broader literacy development. Taking a whole-school approach to this vision of literacy education, all our staff were given the opportunity to participate in what sounds like quite a hands-on professional learning experience, the results of which were already being rolled out in our classrooms this week.

With the funds raised through the great work of the P&F throughout 2015, planning is well underway for the purchase of new playground equipment. The SAC were presented with two models currently under consideration and we were most excited to hear that, after further community consultation, selection shall be made in the not too distant future.

The SAC also had the opportunity to examine and ratify the school’s (staff) Anti-Bullying policy which is part of the broader OH&S policy collection.

With next meeting being held on May 3rd I take this extra early opportunity to wish all our school families a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday break.

Regards,
Annette Hirth
Chairperson SAC

Important information regarding the distribution of our School Newsletters & School Fee Statements

Dear Parents, as you may be aware, we have been trialling the ‘Skoolbag’ app as a way to enhance our communication with families, and as this has proven to be an effective method we are now moving towards the Skoolbag app as our primary way to distribute the Newsletter to families. We are planning for this to be operational from the beginning of Term 2, 2016.

To assist us all with a smooth transition and to ensure that you do not miss out on important information we encourage all families who have access to a smart phone, iPad etc., to download the Skoolbag app, to receive your newsletter and other pertinent school information that will be distributed this way. If families do not have access to a suitable device, you can still obtain a printed copy of the newsletter by calling into the school office.

For School Fee Statements we are also moving towards electronic distribution and any family who has provided an email address will receive their fee statement via this. If you have not provided the school with an email address, please do so as soon as possible. Families who do not have email will still be provided with a paper statement. Thank you for your support with this process.
JUNIOR NEWS

Welcome to Week 6. We have been focussing on the nursery rhymes Humpty Dumpty and Baa Baa Black Sheep. We have focussed on the letters Hh and Bb. The children’s photo order forms have been sent home. Please ensure these are returned on the day of school photos if you wish to order. This coming week sees us visiting the Life Ed Van (we are still waiting on a number of permission forms for this incursion). Have a lovely week. The Foundation Team.

Welcome to Week 5. The term is moving along very quickly. The children continue to amaze us with their settled behaviour and work ethic. Congratulations to all families who are embracing our reading and spelling program with vigour. The children are enthusiastic each Monday when tested and regularly change their books each day. Last Wednesday and Thursday the whole school staff went to a wonderful in-service on OLSEL. This is a program specifically aimed to improve the oral language of children. With correct oral language in place, children have a greater chance of reading and writing correctly. The two days were very packed and the teachers are already implementing many aspects of the program. Ask your child - How do I stretch out a word? Or What is an antonym? Thank you for the opportunity for all staff to be fully trained and immersed in this program. Life Education Van The Life Education Van arrives at our school next Monday through to Thursday. This van aims at teaching children about how to live a healthier life through exercise and correct nutrition. Please ensure that the children have returned their permission notes to their class teacher.

Colouring Competitions for Bray Raceway Please return all colouring competitions of the jockeys to your classroom teacher as soon as possible. Thursday, March 10th Grade 1/2 H will be attending Mass at 9.30am.

Friday Whole School Prayer Thank you to all parents who are coming to whole school prayer and participating in our Liturgy. It is wonderful to see the children walk in so quietly even though they may be a little late. Have a great week and please come see us if you have any concerns, our doors are always open. Bev, Shay and Savior

MIDDLE NEWS

The middle of the term has come and the Middle Unit children are working so well as they have been learning to follow our 3 important norms. You may wish to ask your child to recall these for you at some stage. We have moved on in our Inquiry learning to focus on being the healthiest version of ourselves. Next week we meet Harold from the Life Education Van and so we are currently preparing our understandings of the 3 elements for good health; sound sleep, regular exercise and a healthy diet. In Religious Education the Middle Unit are studying the followers of Jesus and during Lent we will make a particular effort to be the best followers possible with prayer, sacrifice and fasting. In maths we are learning about numbers and perimeter. It’s amazing how many children have whizzed through the 2 and 3 times tables and have begun to learn the fours! Fantastic effort! In Literacy lessons the Middle Unit are writing a narrative and this week is also the week the children will complete the Pat Reading and Pat Maths Testing online. Last week we had quite a number of children forgetting to bring their completed homework so please assist your child to be successful this week at this task. Thank you for your patience in establishing homework routines and allowing us to find the correct level for your child. A reminder, also, that many items of clothing need to be labelled clearly in case they are lost. Have a great week everyone. Best wishes Jo, Anne and Kelvin

SENIOR NEWS

This week in the Seniors we have been reading our class novel ‘Charlotte’s Web.’ In response to the class novel we have been answering a range of questions to build our comprehension skills. For writing this week we have been introduced to Mystery Monday. Each week a child within the classroom is in charge of taking home a bag and filling it with objects that represent themselves. This could be a favourite childhood teddy bear, book, photos…. The remaining children in the class then have to make a prediction about who they think the bag belongs to based on the contents. On Thursday each week outside the senior classrooms we will be holding a stall to raise money for project compassion. Our mission team have been busy making little bracelets and origami birds which will be available to purchase every Thursday for the remainder of the term. The items for sale will range from 10 cents to 50 cents each and 100% of proceeds made will go to project compassion. Children in the mission team will visit each classroom to show them some of the items that are for sale throughout the week. Just a reminder that the senior children are encouraged to wear their sports uniform on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the rest of the term to assist us with practise for our upcoming Sports Day. Enjoy your week! June, Claire, Katherine and Tamara
Parents & Friends News

Would you like to help out?

Volunteer lists are up on the P&F display board in the school foyer, for any parents, carers and friends that would like to assist with any or all of the upcoming events and activities for the school year ahead. Please feel free to have a look and add your name if you can help out. Further information will also be sent home to families soon. Thank you!

- TUCKSHOP is now operating for school lunch orders each Friday.
- ICY-POLES are available at lunchtime for 50 cents each for the remainder of Term 1.
- Second-hand Uniform Shop If you are interested in having a browse through or are after a particular item, or would like to place a school uniform item for sale, please message - Bron Kennon, on a Thursday during school hours - on 0409 162 353.
- St. Aloysius Easter Raffle fundraiser

Dear Families, this year our P&F are organising an Easter Raffle as a fundraiser for our school and we are kindly seeking donations from our families to support this effort. Donations of Easter goodies, big or small; chocolate eggs, crafts, etc., can be placed in the basket in the school office before Tuesday, 22 March. Raffle tickets will be sent home to families in the next week.

Thank you again for your support.

ST ALOYSIUS SPORTS NEWS - CRICKET REPORT

On the 24th of February we played our last cricket game for the season. The scores were 109 to 33. We won the game and had lots of fun. Good job to Brady for his excellent bowling, Josh S for his excellent batting and everyone else for their batting and bowling. Lots of teachers came to watch even Mr Caruana. There was a crowd of people standing on the side watching and cheering for us cricketers. It was great to see how much everybody has improved over this season due to Mr Porter’s and Mr Rosenow’s great coaching.

Written by Brady Lucas

A big thank you to all the students and parents who have supported the St Aloysius Cricket Program.

Best wishes, Robert and Kelvin

CONNECTING SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY PLAYGROUPS

Come along and join our friendly playgroup on Friday morning from 9.15am - 10.45pm at St. Aloysius Primary School, 800 Ripon Street South, Redan.

The Playgroup operates during school terms and is a great opportunity for you to meet other people in your community, provide time for children to interact with others and play with your children in a safe and supportive environment.

We provide a fun and engaging program and activities for the children include; art, construction, singing and story time and cater for all ages from 0-5 years. The playgroup is supported by a playgroup coordinator and ACU students.

Please bring a gold coin donation and a piece of fruit or other snack for morning tea. Contact Louise Buckle-Smith on 0457 797 315 or louise@playgroup.org.au for further details.
Sacramental Dates for 2016 - Reconciliation (Year 4 children who have been Baptised and Confirmed)

Celebration date – 16th March

A Number of children from our school have begun their dismissal sessions in preparation for their Sacrament of Penance. This Sacrament is open to all children who have been Baptised and Confirmed, (in grade 4 or above) if you would like wishing for your child to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist this year then they must celebrate the Sacrament of Penance first.

Enquiries please contact the Parish Office on 5335 9460 or redan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

First Communion
(First Eucharist) (Year 4 children or older who have been Confirmed and celebrated Reconciliation)

Parent Meeting, 28th April 10am or 7pm
Celebration dates – 28th & 29th May and 4th & 5th June

Confirmation – (Baptised Catholic and in Year 3 or older)

Parent Meeting – 21st July 10pm or 7pm
Celebration dates – 20th, 21st, 27th & 28th August

Thursday – Parish Mass Times

Each Thursday Mass will be attended by a different class, please refer to the following schedule to see when your child’s class will be attending Mass. Families are invited to share this occasion with the children.

Thursday, 3rd March  Please note, due to a number of funerals to be held on this day the Mass for grades 3/4 E, 3/4 P & 3/4 T will be postponed to term 2.

Thursday, 10th March  -  1/2 H
Thursday, 17th March  -  1/2 K
Thursday 24th March  -  1/2 B

Dear Families,

Lent is the time when we prepare for the Resurrection of Jesus, the most important event in our Catholic year. Lent is a time for prayer and preparation. We as a school have a huge focus on prayer this year with our children praying in their classroom 3 times a day and we as a whole school community coming together to pray every Friday morning. Please make sure that your children are at school and ready for our prayer to start by 8.40am. Families are invited and most welcome to join us as an opportunity for our entire school community to come together and pray.

May I suggest that as a way of your family preparation for Lent that all electronic gadgets are turned off for a few minutes and that you do something as a family. A family prayer would be good!

We invite you to pray this prayer together as a family.

The Season of Lent

God of love,
May this time of Lent help us
to grow closer to you.
Open our hearts!
Change our hearts!
Turn our hearts back to You!
Help us to follow your son Jesus
in all that we do and say.

Amen
Term 1, 2016 School Calendar – Dates for your Diary

March

Wed 2nd  St. Aloysius 2017 Enrolment Open Day - School Tours 10am & 6pm
Sun 6th  Mountain of Fun Run/Walk - Mt. Warrenheip / Dunnstown
Mon 7th, Thurs 10th  Life Ed Van visit
Mon 14th  Labour Day – Public Holiday
Thur 10th  Mass - 1/2H
Tues 15th  P&F meeting – School boardroom 7:30 pm start
Wed 16th  Penance Celebration
Thur 17th  Mass - 1/2K
Mon 21st  School Photos
Wed 23rd  School Sports – held at St. Patrick’s College Oval
            Twilight Sports – School start for students at 1pm
Thur 24th  Mass 1/2B
Thur 24th  Last day of Term 1 - dismissal for students at 3:20pm
Fri 25th  Good Friday
Sun 27th  Easter Sunday

Please check the calendar each week for updates.

Thank you

BEAUFORT SECONDARY COLLEGE – Come & Try Day

The date for our “Come and Try” day is Tuesday, 15th March, The day after the long weekend.
The date of our Parent Information night is Thursday, 17th March at 7 pm in the school library. If parents
would like an individual tour of the school and meeting they can contact me and I will arrange a time.
Heather Higgins, Assistant Principal
Beaufort Secondary College - Phone: 53 492 305
You can install your Skoolbag app on your phone or tablet by following these instructions:

For iPhone and iPad users:
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

For Windows 8.1 Phone and Windows 8.1 or 10 device users:
1. Go to the Windows Store on your 8.1 Windows Phone or Windows 8.1/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 8.1 version Windows Phones, or Windows 8.1 and 10 devices.

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au
Help our Mission Team help Caritas.

Every Thursday until the end of term the seniors will be holding a stall to raise money for Project Compassion. Our mission team have been busy making little bracelets which will be available to purchase every Thursday for the remainder of the term. The items for sale will range from 10 cents to 50 cents each. 100% of proceeds made will go to Project Compassion. Children in the mission team will visit each classroom to show them some of the items that are for sale throughout the week. This week you can purchase a bracelet for 20 cents and next week we will be selling little origami birds. Thanks everyone!

Look who is in the news...
Congratulations this week’s award recipients.
Well done one and all!