Dear Families

What a fantastic turn out for our Fish’n’Chip night last Wednesday evening. I think it was of the biggest and best in my time at St Robert’s. It was great to see so many of our new families mixing and chatting with some of the more familiar faces of the place while the children were simply having a great time. The weather was perfect and it was again a great opportunity to enjoy each other’s company in a relaxed and very sociable atmosphere. Thanks everyone for making the effort to come along to make it the success that it was. Thanks also to all the teachers who were able to stay on after school to share some social time with the kids and their families.

Our Beginning of the School Year Mass will be held in our own chapel tomorrow morning at 9.15am. This Mass is primarily for the children, however parents who are able to attend would be most welcome. Morning tea will be provided for parents after the Mass for those parents who are able to stay and chat for a little while.

Following on from last week’s reference to traffic and parking issues it seems that another reminder would not go astray. I cannot stress enough the importance of the need for all to observe the traffic rules associated with parking in Nicholas and Mervyn streets and some crossing issues relative to the Children’s Crossing on Nicholas Street. Our Crossing supervisor has come to me with a concern that more and more parents are ignoring the basic rules associated with school crossings and that in doing so are putting the children at risk. Please do not pull up and drop the children off inside the crossing zone while the flags are displayed and always encourage the children to use the school crossing when crossing Nicholas Street. Our supervisors have also noticed children getting dropped off at the upper and lower ends of the street. Rather than walking down or up to the crossing to cross, some children have been electing not to use the crossing. There is no time or distance saved in doing this however the risk of an accident is considerably greater. Please encourage your children to always use the crossing even when accompanied by an adult. Parking over driveways is also a concern. Once again maintaining good relationships with our neighbours is very important and things can become quite strained when they have to constantly deal with parents who block their right of way. I know it may seem only a short time and that for many it is a one off time but the fact is, it only takes a few people doing a “one off” to cause a problem. Please do not park over driveways for any amount of time. If there are no available parks keep moving until one becomes available. The children are safely supervised while you are cruising so there is no reason for concern if you are delayed.

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD
The first meeting of the School Advisory Board will be held on Wednesday 13th March. This will be a transition meeting in that it will be the last meeting of the current board members and the first meeting for our newly elected members. We will begin the process of electing our new representatives next week and nomination forms will be distributed to parents from Foundation Year, Grade One, Grade Three and Grade Five with next week’s newsletter.

God Bless, and have a great week Mark

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Religious Education and Catholic Identity

Religious Education is at the heart of both the formal and informal Catholic school curriculum.

Our schools are characterised by a high proportion of Catholic teachers and students, with a visible Catholic symbolic culture and active sacramental and liturgical practices. The values, ideals and challenges of the Gospel, embodied in the person of Jesus Christ, find explicit expression in the curriculum and ethos of Catholic schools, as do the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.

The challenge for teachers in Catholic schools is to engage students in making sense and meaning of their everyday lives in the light of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the traditions of the Catholic Church.
A Lenten Prayer

God, heavenly Father,
Look upon me and hear my prayer
During this holy Season of Lent.

By the good works You inspire,
help me to discipline my body
and to renew my spirit.

Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with
Your Word of life
and make me one with You in love and prayer.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENT EVENING
The first enrolment evening for families participating in the Sacramental Program in 2013 (Grades 3, 4 & 6) will be held on Thursday 21st February at St Mary’s Basilica at 7:30pm. A parent must attend one of the two evenings. Children are not required to attend.

BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS
The beginning of Year Mass will be celebrated tomorrow, Thursday 21st February at 9:15am. As always parents are most welcome to attend, however, unfortunately limited space is available in our Mass Centre.

LOURDES HOUSE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION
As part of our Wellbeing Program, we will be celebrating our House Feast Days. We believe this is a great opportunity to promote positive, cross-age relationships among our students, to encourage that sense of belonging so important for positive mental health, and to reinforce the Catholic identity of our school.

Last week was the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, so this Thursday, February 21st, children from Lourdes House (red), will gather for ‘morning tea’ at 10.50am, and will then have some extra, supervised, play time. Children from Lourdes may wear an item of red clothing, eg. a t-shirt, socks or ribbon, and should bring along their normal recess snack. Some fresh, fruit platters will be provided for the occasion.

BIRTHDAYS
The St Robert’s School community wish to congratulate the following children on the celebration of their birthday this week and throughout the January:

20th February
Giarna Barker
Eliza Hannagan

21st February
Maya Lazzaro
Summer Madden
Laura Sanigorski

22nd February
Benjamin Costa

23rd February
Grace Pehar
Charlie Roache

26th February
Sophia van den Berg

STUDENT AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students who have received certificates this week for outstanding work.

Gr F CC
John Bird

Gr F CC
Meg Lappin

Gr F JP
Zoe Morrison

Gr F JP
Benjamin Costa

Gr 1MC
Matthew Johnson

Gr 1MC
Eliza Dunnell

Gr 1YE
Mackenzie Tayler

Gr 1YE
Hugh Madden

Gr 2LO
Lucy Clatworthy

Gr 2LO
Dibs Fitzgerald

Gr 2KT
Oscar Cosic

Gr 2KT
Thomas Afford

Gr 3KH
Yannah Kanellos

Gr 3KH
Finn Alsop

Gr 3JS
Georgia Egan

Gr 3JS
James Gard

Gr 4MA
Joseph Anticev

Gr 4MA
Indi Ryan

Gr 4MM
Phoebe Markovic

Gr 4MM
James Afford

Gr 5PB
Emerson Mitchell

Gr 5PB
Charlie Borracci

Gr 5DB
India Griffiths

Gr 5DB
Jack Corneby

Gr 6RM
Connor Fopiani

Gr 6RM
Jemma Anglin

Gr 6SP
Giulia Monea

Gr 6SP
Thomas Courtney
TERM 1 SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS
School Fee accounts are distributed in the fifth week of term in terms 1, 2 & 3. Whilst there are two billings in Term 1 there is no billing in Term 4. The second account for Term 1 will come home next Wednesday and payment is due by 25th March 2013.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque EFTPOS or internet banking (banking details below).

St Robert’s General Account
National Bank, Melbourne
BSB Number 083 347
Account Number: 647 110 294
(Please remember to enter your family code or surname).

Sacred Heart College Open Day
Tuesday 26th March 2013
Option 1 – Tour 1: 3:45 – 4:45pm
Followed by information session 5-5:45pm
Option 2 – Tour 2 5:30 – 6:30pm
Followed by information session 7 7:45pm

For more information, please contact our Registrar, Mrs Judy Smith on 5222 0490

Next Meeting Tuesday 26th February. Everyone welcome.

YOGA CLASSES
Want to improve your mobility and core strength? Join our Yoga Classes. All ages and abilities welcome.

Where: Geelong College Aerobics Room
When: Every Monday and Wednesday 6:30-7:30am during school term
Cost: $7 per casual class
BYO: Yoga mat, water and appropriate clothing
Please contact Di for more information 0400 589 120 or dimeade@bigpond.com.au

E.M.A.(EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE)
The EMA is available to assist families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the costs of educational expenses and will be paid in two instalments. From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA the claimant must be a parent or guardian of a primary school student and hold a current Centrelink Pension Concession or Health Care Card or a Veterans Affairs (TPI) Pensioner Card or be a Foster Parent on the first day of Term 1 (29th January) for the first instalment. Parents who fit this eligibility criterion are invited to collect an application form from the office. Completed forms, together with a photocopy of Pension/Health Care Card, must be returned to the school office by Thursday 28th February 2013

Payment Amounts for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instalment</th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1-6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
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</table>

New Payment Options for 2013
Paid by direct deposit, paid by cheque, paid to the school to be held in credit towards educational expenses. Further information on application forms

LATE CLAIMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

TERM DATES 2013
TERM 1 Thursday 30th January to Wednesday 27th March  
Easter 29th March – 1st April
TERM 2 Monday 15th April to Friday 28th June
TERM 3 Monday 15th July to Friday 20th September
TERM 4 Monday 7th October to Friday 20th December

ST MARY’S FOOTBALL CLUB
St Mary’s Football Club under 9 to under 12 registration day will be held Sunday 24th February in the clubrooms at West Kardinia, Latrobe Tce, from 11am till 2pm. Children born between 2001 and 2005 are eligible for Little League.

The season commences 19th April. Auskick registration day will be in April.
Chilwell P.S. Outside School Hours Care  
**Term 1 – February 2013**  
*To book or cancel care please call Olivia or Laune on 0417 014 973*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20(^{th}) Feb</td>
<td>Working with wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21(^{st}) Feb</td>
<td>Origami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22(^{nd}) Feb</td>
<td>Decorating Cupcakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25(^{th}) Feb</td>
<td>Magazine Collage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26(^{th}) Feb</td>
<td>Planting Succulents</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**EFTPOS facility now available for payments over $10. Forms available from OSHC.**

Important!!! We encourage families to keep their account in credit. Thank you.

*Westcoast Calisthenics Inc. - February ’Come and Try’ Month!*

*Come and try calisthenics - incorporating dancing, singing, flexibility, coordination, exercise and fun*

*All classes are run by a Level 1 coach*

www.mycala.com/westcoast/

*For information please call Fiona Humphreys 52430694 or 0427430694*

**NEWTOWN & CHILWELL FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB - CLUB REGISTRATION**

For all current and new junior Football and Netball players including Youth Girls Under 16

**FRIDAY 22\(^{ND}\) FEBRUARY 2013, 4:30PM – 9:00PM** at Elderslie Reserve, Read St, Newtown. Players welcome in all age levels, Sausage Sizzle and coaches in attendance.

Training commences: Under 9-12 Thursday 7\(^{th}\) March at 4:30pm, Under14-16 Tuesday and Thursday at 4:30pm from 5\(^{th}\) March 2013

www.newtownchilwellfc.com.au

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**FEBRUARY 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 20(^{th})</td>
<td>Information Night Gr 2, 7pm to 7:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 21(^{st})</td>
<td>Beginning of School Year Mass, whole school Mass 9:15am</td>
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</table>

**MARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 4(^{th})</td>
<td>St Robert’s Athletic Trials, Grade 4-6, Landy Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 5(^{th})</td>
<td>Parent Information Night Grade 3 &amp; 4, 6pm to 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 6(^{th})</td>
<td>Grade 6 Parent Information Night 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10(^{th}) to 17(^{th})</td>
<td>Catholic Education Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11(^{th})</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 16(^{th})</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day Races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 18(^{th})</td>
<td>Whole school assembly 9:05am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 22(^{nd})</td>
<td>GDCSSA District Cross Country Championships, eligible St Robert’s reps only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 26(^{th})</td>
<td>Foundation Prayers in Pyjamas, 6:00-7:00pm in Chapel area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 27(^{th})</td>
<td>End of Term 1 for students, dismissal 3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 28(^{th})</td>
<td>End of Term for Staff, ‘Kids Matter’ staff in-service day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 29(^{th})</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 31(^{st})</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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**APRIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 15(^{th})</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 25(^{th})</td>
<td>Anzac Day Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 26(^{th})</td>
<td>Whole Parish School Closure Day – Religious Education staff in-service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**School Advisory Board Committee Members**

Fr Kevin Dillon frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au  
Website: www.srnewtown.catholic.edu.au  
Mark Soldani marks@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au  
Scott Bowman jacscottb@hotmail.com  
Lisa Northey bluffcottage@live.com  
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Ian Courtney Ian.Courtney@originenergy.com.au  
Gabrielle Moody gabshaun@optusnet.com.au  
Sonia Lazzaro sonlou723@gmail.com  
and Katrina De Grandi k.degrandi@bigpond.com