Dear Families

Last Friday I had the pleasure of witnessing an extraordinary display of team spirit at our school Cross Country Championships around the Eastern gardens. All the children were brilliant, not only in their efforts to run the course but in the way in which they were genuinely supportive of each other. I was moved by the number of parents who approached me afterwards to tell me how special all the children were. Riding around on my bike gave me a bird’s eye view of the great spirit and determination all our children have. It was truly amazing and I was extremely proud of them all. Special thanks to all the parents who helped on the day. Without such support we would not have been able to run the event. A big thank you to Heather Harris who did a great many things leading up to the event and was a great support to Mr Broekman our newly appointed Sports Coordinator who, by the way, did a fantastic job. Well done everyone!

The term is moving ahead nicely and we are already past the half way mark. Most classes have conducted their Information/Parent Teacher interview sessions with the rest due to be completed before the end of next week. I thank the teachers for their efforts in organizing these very important sessions and trust that with all the information on hand the partnership between home and school will be a strong one that can only benefit the children.

NEW TIME FOR SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Please note that due to timetabling constraints we will be having our whole school assemblies every second Monday at 3.00pm. Our next assembly is this coming Monday and everyone is most welcome to attend. Assemblies should run for about twenty minutes and the children will head back to their classrooms afterwards and be dismissed from there at the regular time.

God Bless, and have a great week    Mark

UNIVERSITY OF NSW TESTING

St Robert’s School will again be providing students with the opportunity to enter the University of NSW: International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). The subjects offered, sitting dates and costs are outlined below. All students from grades 3 to 6 are invited to enter. Each participating student will receive an individual diagnostic report as well as a certificate to recognise their achievement for each subject entry. More information about the ICAS is available at: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au.

Please complete the following entry form with the appropriate money amount if your child wishes to enter the ICAS and return it to the office by Wednesday, 20 March 2013.

Marie Monea

University of NSW: ICAS Entry Form

Student Name: ........................................
Class: ..............................

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TICK FOR ENTRY</th>
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Money amount enclosed: ..........................

Signed: ............................................
CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Celebrating Catholic Education: Entrusted with Something Precious:

Each year in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, a week is set aside to celebrate Catholic education.

In March 2013, the theme for Catholic Education Week is ‘Entrusted with Something Precious’. This phrase comes from a passage of St Paul’s letter to Timothy. Paul in encouraging Timothy to be strong in his faith and to guard it as ‘something precious’. This theme has rich layers of meaning. To the Catholic education community, our Catholic faith is something precious indeed, which we pass on to the children and young people in our care. Catholic schools in partnership with families and parish communities, nurture students’ faith and assist them to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ—a faith handed down through the ages.

In this Year of Faith, the Church calls us to encounter Christ anew and to rediscover and treasure the gift of faith. As baptized Christians, this gift is at the heart of our Catholic identity grounded in the belief in God—Father, Son Holy Spirit. But this faith needs to be nourished and The Year of Faith reminds us to do this.

Catholic schools do provide opportunities for students, staff and parents to nourish and live their faith. In this time of Lent we revisit the importance of prayer, fasting and giving and encourage support for Project Compassion. Schools provide the opportunities for students, staff and families to celebrate the Eucharist, so central to our Christian faith.

Within our schools, those who lead and teach have been entrusted with something precious in the very children attending the school. These young lives, so filled with potential, reflect the enthusiasm of young Timothy to whom Paul was writing his letter of encouragement. These young students are a precious gift entrusted to us. We must do all we can to nurture them in their faith, to allow them to come to know and love their God and live Jesus’ message of loving their neighbour.

SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENT EVENING

The second enrolment evening for families participating in the Sacramental Program in 2013 (Grades 3, 4 & 6) will be held tonight Wednesday 27th February at St Mary’s Basilica at 7:30pm. Paul Spence, the facilitator, gave a heart felt presentation last week and all those in attendance were both moved and inspired by his stories. He will do it all again this week and I encourage all to attend even if you are not involved in the Sacramental program. Remember at least one parent of a child receiving a sacrament this year must attend one of the two evenings. Children are not required to attend.

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:

- 27th February: Patrick Sinnott
- 1st March: Xavier Paatsch
- 3rd March: Bridget Dowling
- 5th March: Riley Pendergast, Maddison Pendergast

STUDENT AWARDS

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

Gr F CC: Archer Richards
Gr F CC: Maia Kanellos
Gr F JP: Kai D’Orsa
Gr F JP: Emily Matthews
Gr 1MC: Sam Sinnott
Gr 1MC: Liana Skoko
Gr 1YE: Milly Eldridge
Gr 1YE: Freddy Gill
Gr 2LO: Sam McWilliam
Gr 2LO: Chloe Lappin
Gr 2KT: Emma Carroll
Gr 2KT: Owen Sanigorski
Gr 3KH: Archie Sinnott
Gr 3KH: Indigo Irving
Gr 3JS: Stella Mackay
Gr 3JS: Bridget Hart
Gr 4MA: Will Huby
Gr 4MA: Alexandra Layton
Gr 4MM: Harry Roache
Gr 4MM: Millie Watson
Gr 5PB: Tanner Bruhn
Gr 5PB: Tayla Gartner
Gr 5DB: Clarissa Walker
Gr 5DB: Hugo Clatworthy
Gr 6RM: Anthony Pirrotina
Gr 6RM: Sophie Perrett
Gr 6SP: Charlie Roache
Gr 6SP: Emily Appleford

CHICKENS

Our new chicken run, courtesy of St Joseph’s, is just about ready for occupation. If you have, or know of someone, who has egg laying chickens that are no longer required we would love to offer them a new and happy home.
TERM 1 SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS
Term 1 School Fee Accounts have been sent home today, please check your child’s schoolbag. Whilst there are two billings in Term 1 there is no billing in Term 4. This account for is due for payment 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/name.

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
Closing date for enrolments is Friday 17th May 2013

IT’S EASTER TIME
The Annual Easter Egg Raffle is on again. We are asking every family to donate an Easter Egg for our raffle prize. We would like to have over 20 prizes so there are more chances of winning. The raffle will be drawn at the final assembly on Term 1. All eggs can be left at the office. Tickets for this raffle will be distributed soon.

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 TOMORROW Thursday 28th February 2013
LATE CLAIMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF CHILDREN AROUND SCHOOLS
For the safety of children, parents are reminded to take care and obey signs when picking up or dropping off children around our schools. Council’s Parking & Information Officers regularly patrol school areas during start and finish times and motorists detected breaching parking regulations risk being issued with a Penalty Infringement Notice.

Remember, as soon as you stop to let your children in or out of the car, you are deemed to be parked. You do not have to leave your car or turn your engine off to be fined.

At children’s crossings, you must remain stationary at the stop line while any person (including an adult or the supervisor) is on the crossing or the stop sign is displayed. Do not let your child alight at this time, ensure that they wait until your are safely and legally parked.

If you breach a parking regulation the Parking & Information Officer assigned to monitor the crossing will usually record your registration number and details, and the Penalty Infringement Notice will be posted to the registered owner of the vehicle within the next three days.

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

GEELONG AMATEUR FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB
Friday evenings at Queens Park, Newtown
4:45pm – 6:00pm - Starting Friday 19th April, Clubrooms open Friday night for meals & drinks after the clinic. Register & pay online at: www.aflauskick.com.au
Also…..Amateurs Netball clinic to run alongside Auskick every Friday night. Registrations taken on Friday 19th April (No online process).
Amateurs Auskick Coordinator: Andrew Richardson Phone: 0407 851 909

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
YMCA VACATION CARE
The YMCA Vacation Care Program at Riversdale Road, Newtown will operate from Tuesday 2nd April to Friday 12th April 2013. Bookings close on Friday 15th March. Information brochures at the school office or visit: www.geelong.ymca.org.au

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.

NEWTOWN & CHILWELL FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB - CLUB REGISTRATION
For all current and new junior Football and Netball players including Youth Girls Under 16
FRIDAY 22ND 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 7th March at 4:30pm, Under14-16 Tuesday and Thursday at 4:30pm from 5th March 2013
www.newtownchilwellfc.com.au

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

SHIRLEY MILLS “PLAZA” THEATRE
$3 per head would be appreciated - please be on time out of consideration for the other patrons, thank you.

Fri Mar 1, 7.30pm “FINDING FORRESTER” starring Sean Conner, Robert Brown. An Afro-American teen who is a writing prodigy is sent to a prestigious school and by chance meets a reclusive author. Their friendship leads them both to overcome their problems. M

Sun Mar 3, 1.30pm “SINGIN’ IN THE RAIN” starring Gene Kelly, Donald O’Connor, Debbie Reynolds. Light hearted musical about a silent film

DATES TO REMEMBER
FEBRUARY 2013
Wed 27th  Sacramental Enrolment Evening
2, St Mary’s Basilica 7:30 to 8:30pm (Parents only)

MARCH
Mon 4th  St Robert’s Athletic Trials, Grade 4-6, Landy Field
Prep photos
Whole school assembly 3:00pm, please note change of time

Tues 5th  Parent Information Night Grade 3 & 4, 6pm to 7pm
Bellarine and Geelong North Division Primary Schools Swimming Championships – Kardinia Pool, eligible St Robert’s reps only
Grade 3 & 4 Parent Information Night

Wed 6th  Grade 6 Parent Information Night
7pm – 7:45pm

10th to 17th  Catholic Education Week
Mon 11th  Labour Day Public Holiday
Sat 16th  St Patrick’s Day Races
Mon 18th  Whole school assembly 3:00pm
Fri 22nd  GDCSSA District Cross Country Championships, eligible St Robert’s reps only

Tues 26th  Foundation Prayers in Pyjamas, 6:00-7:00pm in Chapel area

Wed 27th  End of Term 1 for students, dismissal 3:30pm

Thur 28th  End of Term for Staff, ‘Kids Matter’ staff in-service day

Fri 29th  Good Friday
Sun 31st  Easter Sunday

APRIL
Mon 15th  Term 2 commences

Thur 25th  Anzac Day Public Holiday

Fri 26th  Whole Parish School Closure Day – Religious Education staff in-service

School Advisory Board Committee Members
Fr Kevin Dillon frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au Website: www.srnnewtown.catholic.edu.au
Mark Soldani marks@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au Scott Bowman jacsottb@hotmail.com Lisa Northey bluffcottage@live.com Gabrielle Sinclair sinclair.five@bigpond.com 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