Dear Families

On Monday we gathered for the first time as a whole school community for this year in what is already shaping up to be a very busy term. It was a very special day for our grade sixes as the moment they had all been looking forward to for a long time had arrived, the presentation of their Senior Six Caps. Throughout the year our Senior Sixes will have the opportunity to lead by example, show responsibility and assist all students when called upon to do so and support our teachers and staff. In their own words that read at assembly “We are very proud to receive this cap and will endeavour to wear it with pride and look forward to keeping it as a great memento of our final year at St Robert’s. This will be a time we will be able to look back on and remember the fun and great learning times we had as leaders at St Robert’s.” Congratulations to all our Senior Sixes! I look forward to working with them this year.

Although we have only been back at school for a couple of weeks, we have already been busy doing lots of things. Our preps have really settled in well and are having some fun times with their buddies. Last Thursday our grade sixes participated in a Leadership day at St Mary’s and on Tuesday many of our students from grades four to six walked down to the Kardinia Swimming Pool to try out for our school swimming team. Mr Broekman will be selecting the team soon, based on the times that they swam on Thursday.

Mr Broekman will be selecting the team soon, based on the times that they swam on Thursday. Once again a big thank you to all the parents who helped out on both those days without their help and support the children would not have been able to go. Thank you!

Fr Kevin Dillon our Parish Priest, was honored on Australia Day, 26th January, for significant service to the Catholic Church in Australia, to health and social welfare support services, and to veterans. We at St Robert’s all know about the so many ways Father supports our school, the children, the families and staff of the school always finding time in his very busy schedule to see to it that our needs be they practical, financial, pastoral or spiritual are catered for. I have seen firsthand what this man does for our community at St Robert’s, the wider St Mary’s Parish community and the Geelong community as a whole. It’s easy for us all to complain of being time poor but what Father manages to do wearing a variety of different hats every day from early morning to very late at night is truly amazing. As modest a man as I know him to be, Father Dillon is well and truly deserving of his Australia Medal and we are all very proud of him. Congratulations Father Dillon AM.

God Bless, Mark

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

St Bernadette of Lourdes

Yesterday 11th February was the Feast Day of St Bernadette. Lourdes is one of the four Houses our students are members of here at St Robert’s. Bernadette Soubirous was born in Lourdes, France in 1844 to Francois and Louise Casterot who were very poor. She was the eldest of six children but was frail and often sick.

On Thursday, February 11, 1859, around the time of her First Communion, Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood. And this is the story she had to tell, which was taken from a letter she wrote: "I had gone down one day with two other girls to the bank of the river Gave when suddenly I heard a kind of rustling sound. I turned my head toward the field by the side of the river, but the trees seemed quite still and the noise was evidently not from them. Then I looked up and caught sight of the cave where I saw a lady wearing a lovely white dress with a bright belt. On top of each of her feet was a pale yellow rose, the same color as her rosary beads. At this I rubbed my eyes, thinking I was seeing things, and I put my hands into the fold of my dress where my rosary was. I wanted to make the sign of the cross, but for the life of me I couldn't manage it, and my hand just fell down.
Then the lady made the sign of the cross herself, and at the second attempt I managed to do the same, though my hands were trembling. Then I began to say the rosary while the lady let her beads clip through her fingers, without moving her lips. When I stopped saying the Hail Mary, she immediately vanished.” The beautiful lady who appeared to Bernadette above a rosebush in the grotto of Massabielle was God’s Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. She appeared to Bernadette eighteen times and spoke with her. She told Bernadette that she should pray for sinners and do penance. The Lady also told her to have a chapel built there in her honor. Many people did not believe Bernadette when she spoke of her vision. She had to suffer very much. But one day Our Lady told Bernadette to dig in the mud. As she did, a spring of water began to flow. The next day it continued to grow larger and larger. Many miracles happened when people began to use this water.

**Lourdes Feast Day at St Robert’s**
To celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, all members of Lourdes House (red) are invited to a special morning tea! On Friday 14th February we will gather at 10:45am, share some healthy fruit platters and then enjoy some extra ‘Lourdes Only’ playtime. We will also take our annual Lourdes House Photo! Children from Lourdes House are invited to wear an item of red clothing. Fruit will be provided, but children may bring along their own healthy snack if they wish (in line with school policy, snacks brought from home will not be shared with others. Go Lourdes!

**LET’S CELEBRATE**
On Sunday 23rd February the St Mary’s Parish community will gather for the 11:00am Mass to Celebrate Fr Dillon’s AM award. As this Mass is also the Commissioning Mass for all staff members from the four Parish Schools, St Robert’s Families are invited to join in this dual celebration. Given that the building project is impacting on our space, it is not possible to celebrate our Beginning of the School Year Mass on site as we have done in previous years. Following the Mass there will be a BYO Barbeque/Picnic in the grounds of the Parish Office Centre, tea and coffee provided. Everyone is welcome to come to the Mass, the barbeque/picnic or both.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SYMPATHY</th>
<th>SYMPATHY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We extend our sincere sympathy to the Kluver family on the sad passing of Mr William Arthur Talbot father of Louise Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord And may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in Peace. Amen</td>
<td>We extend our sincere sympathy to The Muhor family on the sad passing of Mrs Mayure Whitehead mother of Lisa and Grandmother of Xavier (Gr 5SP) and Amelia (Gr 2LO) Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord And may perpetual light shine upon her May she rest in peace. Amen</td>
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**FISH ‘N’ CHIP NIGHT – TOMORROW EVENING**
This Thursday, 13th February, our now famous Fish ‘N’ Chip Night will take place on our school oval starting at around 5pm and finishing around 7pm. Despite the title please feel free to bring any type of food you like. This is a great way to start the year and a chance to catch up and meet other families in a fun and relaxed way. Hope to see you all there on Thursday!!!!

**ST ROBERT’S NEWSLETTER**
Newsletters are emailed to families each Wednesday. If for some reason you do not receive a Newsletter it may be that we do not have your current email address. The simplest way to rectify this is to send an email to the office and we will then record your correct email address. Please send your email address to: nolas@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au
**SYMPATHY**

We extend our sincere sympathy to the Alsop family on the sad passing of Mrs Elizabeth Alsop, Grandmother of Finn (Gr 4MA) and Meg (Gr 2LO).

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord
And may perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in Peace.
Amen

**SYMPATHY**

We extend our sincere sympathy to Heather Dorris and family on the sad passing of her father Mr William Dorris, Grandfather of Harry Hardy (Gr 2LO).

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord
And may perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.
Amen

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**E.M.A.(EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE)**

The Education Maintenance Allowance provides assistance to low-income families by helping with the costs associated with the education of their children. EMA applications are made by parents/guardians and submitted to schools. Schools have the responsibility to enter all EMA applications by the application close date onto the EMA Web System.

**Who is eligible for the EMA?**
The EMA provides financial assistance to families on a low income to help with the cost of essential educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions. EMA is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink/Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

In 2014, the EMA amount is $200 for parents of eligible Prep students, $150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students, $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students and $250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16. Children turning 16 years during the year, are paid on a pro rata basis until their birth month. An EMA application form must be completed by eligible parents/guardians and submitted annually to schools. Schools have the responsibility to enter all EMA applications by the application close date onto EMA Web System (secure site).

**How is EMA paid**

On the EMA parent application form, parents may choose from the following payment methods:

- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent’s bank account; or
- paid to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

**Who can parents contact for more information about EMA?**

Parents should contact their child’s school for information about their EMA payments. Information for parents is also available: Education Maintenance Allowance

**EMA Website For Parents** For information directed at parents/guardians about the Education Maintenance Allowance, see: Education Maintenance Allowance

**Instalment One**  Eligibility day – 28 January 2014 and Parent applications close – 28 February 2014

**Instalment Two**  Eligibility day – 14 July 2014 and Parent applications close – 1 August 2014

Application forms can be collected from the office.

**LATE CLAIMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED**
ST ROBERT PARENTS AND FRIENDS
The St Robert’s Parents and Friends Association would like to invite all new and returning families to our first meeting for 2014. Come along and get involved in your school community.

Meeting: Tuesday 18th February 2014 @ 7:30pm in the staffroom.

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

Gr F CC  Flynn Spowart
Gr F CC  Madeleine Dover
Gr F JP  Lyle Williamson
Gr F JP  Alice McLeod
Gr 1MC  Meg Lappin
Gr 1MC  Miller Kennedy
Gr 1YE  Charlotte De Grandi
Gr 1YE  Coby Williams
Gr 2 KT  Zachary Berger
Gr 2KT  Ali Zappone
Gr 2LO  Noah Caracella
Gr 2LO  Dana Mackay
Gr 3KH  Owen Sanigorski
Gr 3KH  Emily Brooks
Gr 3JS  Emma Carroll
Gr 3JS  Nicholas Dowling
Gr 4MA  Lulu Higgins
Gr 4MA  Nathan Tarrant
Gr 4MM  Finn Jaques
Gr 4MM  Stella Mackay
Gr 5NF  Scarlett Hanneysee
Gr 5NF  Millie Watson
Gr 5SP  Isobel Higgins
Gr 5SP  Meg Courtney
Gr 6DB  Sasha van Slageren
Gr 6DB  Nicholas Zanghi
Gr 6PB  Jordan Thompson
Gr 6PB  Grace Kelly

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

Happy Birthday to:
12th February  Belle Goodall-Wilson
14th February  Charlotte De Grandi
15th February  Brandon Turley
16th February  Zachary Berger
17th February  Nicholas Anglin

ANNIE THE MUSICAL
In May this year Geelong Lyric Theatre Society are presenting the popular musical production of "Annie". Tayla Gartner (GR6) is playing the role of Annie in 3 of the 6 shows. Renee Gartner is playing one of the feature orphans "Pepper" and Conique Pirrotina (Gr 6 2013) is also playing one of the orphans. The dates Tayla will be playing Annie are as follows;
Saturday 3rd May @ 7.30pm
Friday 9th May @ 7.30pm
Saturday 10th May @ 7.30pm (closing night)
Tickets are now on sale at GPAC 5225 1200 www.gpac.org.au

LEARNING AN INSTRUMENT 2014
If any families are considering their child learning an instrument in 2014 please call me to discuss any details. Lessons are available in; Brass; Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba – Woodwind; Alto, Tenor Sax, Flute, Clarinet – Strings; Violin, Guitar (electric, acoustic and base) – Percussion; Piano, Drums. Most instruments can be hired. Bob Stirling, PH: 5243 1040.

GEELONG ST PATRICK'S CUP
Geelong St Patrick’s Cup will be held on Saturday 15th March at the Geelong Racecourse. Please see attached flyer for further details.
ST JOSEPH’S FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB NETBALL
St Joseph’s Football & Netball Club welcomes junior players to our netball trials being held:

On: 16th February 2014
At: Geelong College Prep School, Aberdeen Street
Times: 9am Under 13’s, 10am Under 15’s and 11am Under 17’s
Trials will only be held for these age groups, Under 11’s players will be contacted at a later date.

NetSetGo
We will also be running a NetSetGo program for 5-7 year olds. Details and dates to be confirmed.

Please email your interest for Trials for NetSetGo to stjoeysjuniornetball@gmail.com or contact Fiona Threlfall on 0417 485 457.

FOOTBALL
St Joseph’s Family Registration day is to be held at the St Joseph’s club rooms on Sunday 23rd February between 10am and 2pm.
New and existing players are welcome with REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE OR ON THE DAY. Team gear will also be available to order. Payment can be made via Credit Card, Eftpos and Cheque.

Auskick Enquires also welcome register online and nominate your Centre Locator ‘3218’ and select St Joseph’s – sessions are Friday nights family and friends welcome. For further information contact Ann-Marie 0413 906 399 after 4pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thur 13th</td>
<td>Fish and Chip Night 5pm – 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 14th</td>
<td>Lourdes Feast Day Celebrations</td>
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<td>Tues 18th</td>
<td>Grade 3 Information Evening 6pm to 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19th</td>
<td>Grade 1 Information Evening 6pm to 7pm</td>
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MARCH

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<td>Tues 4th</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wed 5th</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thur 6th</td>
<td>Foundation and Staff Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 7th</td>
<td>St Robert’s Athletics, Grades 4 to 6, Landy Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10th</td>
<td>Labour Day – Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Tues 11th</td>
<td>Grade 6 Interviews 3:40pm to 6pm</td>
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<td>Fri 14th</td>
<td>World of Maths incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 17th</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, 3pm World of Maths incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 18th</td>
<td>Grade 6 Interviews 3:40pm to 6pm</td>
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<td>Wed 19th</td>
<td>Sacramental Enrolment Night 7:30pm, venue to be announced</td>
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<td>Fri 21st</td>
<td>GDCSSA District Cross Country</td>
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<td>Tue 25th</td>
<td>Region Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26th</td>
<td>School Photos Gr 1 to 6 Sacramental Enrolment Night 2 7:30pm, venue to be announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28th</td>
<td>Division Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 31st</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, 3pm</td>
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APRIL

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 2nd</td>
<td>Term 1 concludes 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 22nd</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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<td>Fri 25th</td>
<td>Anzac Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Mon 28th</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 29th</td>
<td>State Swimming</td>
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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 Claire Lappin clappin@optusnet.com.au bluffcottage@live.com
Gabrielle Sinclair sinclair.five@bigpond.com Ian Courtney Ian.Courtney@originenergy.com.au Sonia Mackay mackays@7mail.com Anita Thomas pryam40@bigpond.com.au Louise Clatworthy the.clat@bigpond.com Chilwell Outside School Hours Child Care Program
Terindah Estate
Geelong St Patrick’s Cup
Saturday 15th March
@ Geelong Racecourse

Race Sponsorship for 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Includes</th>
<th>Hospitality</th>
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</table>
| Maiden Race        | $900   | • Naming Rights to race  
• Company name highlighted in Race Book, Sky TV and Radio  
• Logo on Country Racing Website for 1 year  
• Half Page Advertisement in Race book  
• Two memberships of Geelong St Pat’s Race Club | • Four Guests in Silks Room on tiered section overlooking track with TV  
• Dining and beverage package  
• Four entry tickets  
• Celebratory drink with winning owners in Owners and Trainers Bar with Committee member |
| Quadrella Race     | $1200  | • Naming Rights to race  
• Company name highlighted in – Race book, Sky TV and Radio,  
• Logo on Country Racing Website for 1 year  
• Full Page Advertisement in Race book  
• Race name highlighted in the Quadrella  
• Two memberships of Geelong St Pats Race Club | • Four Guests in Silks Room on tiered section  
overlooking track with TV  
• Dining/beverage package  
• Four entry tickets  
• Celebratory drink with winning owners in Owners and Trainers Bar with Committee member |
| RACEBOOK          | $250   | • Half Page Advertisement in Race book |                                                                                                        |

Contact: Catherine Moon  0409 007913
gelongstpatsraceclub@bigpond.com

*For Marquees, Dining Packages and Lawn Passes also contact Catherine Moon