Dear Families

Fish ‘n’ Chip Night last Thursday was another terrific gathering of families. It was great to see so many mums and dads enjoying the time with their children and at the same time catching up with other mums and dads for a chat in a very relaxed and sociable atmosphere. The weather conditions were ideal and I gather that the queues at the local Fish and Chip shop were possibly a tad longer than a normal Thursday evening and it was great to see everyone making the effort to be here. Fish ‘n’ Chip night has always been a great way to start the year’s social calendar and I am grateful for your support in attending. I managed to get around to sample most of the chips from various locations in an attempt to find the best chip. It was a tough job and I found it hard to pick a clear winner. Nevertheless, when it came down to the chip that was soft in the middle and crispy on the outside I couldn’t go past the chips from…. Perhaps I’ll just keep that to myself! The less people who know about it the less I’ll have to wait. Sorry!

“Class Parents” across the school are almost finalised with many of our Class mums sending out notices introducing themselves and providing an insight into the way our Parent Helpers program works. Our Parent Helpers program is a great way of keeping in touch with the learning activities taking place in your child’s class. At the same time it is a wonderful support for the teachers who very much appreciate your time. If you are able, and do have some spare time, please consider helping out in whatever way you feel comfortable. As is always the case “You do: What you can, When you can, If you can!” and everyone at St Robert’s appreciates that sometimes, despite our best efforts, some things just aren’t possible. Special thanks to those Class Mums who have already taken on coordinators roles this year. Class Mums are a fantastic support to the teachers and an invaluable “cog” in the works at St Robert’s School. Thank you!

As part of our Shared Leadership Model in addition to our Senior Six program all our year six students have an opportunity throughout the course of the year to take on various captaincy roles. These roles include Class, School and Sports captains each of equal importance with each position having its own unique set of responsibilities. I look forward to working closely with these children this term. Congratulations!

God Bless,        Mark

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Project Compassion

Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of the Catholic congregation and caring supporters, in the name of justice and peace. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia and without it they would not be able to do the valuable work they do.

Each year our St Robert’s Senior Sixes run the Project Compassion Campaign during Lent. Starting on Ash Wednesday, 5th March, we are asking our community to help us raise money and offer hope to the millions of families who fight for justice, peace and survival every day. On Monday 3rd March our Grade 6 students will participate in a Project Compassion Active Involvement Day conducted by Caritas Australia in readiness for the 2014 Campaign, further information will follow after this event.
This year’s Project Compassion carries Jesus’ commitment for all for a life of abundance. “I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.” When reflecting on this verse, Pope Francis said: “men and women of all times and all places desire a full and beautiful life…. a life that is not threatened by death but that can mature and grow to its fullness”.

As we travel through Lent towards Christ’s Resurrection we ask for your support for Project Compassion so that alongside Caritas Australia and communities living in poverty, we can help to build a more just and fair world, where all live full and beautiful lives.

**LET’S CELEBRATE – THIS SUNDAY**
On Sunday 23rd February the St Mary’s Parish community will gather together at 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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**SYMPATHY**

We extend our sincere sympathy to the Norman family on the sad passing of Mrs Sue Norman, mother of Joanne and Grandmother of Sebastian (F JP)

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord

And may perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in Peace. Amen

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**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 28th March 2014.

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).

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**SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION – FORMS**
The 2014 Sacramental Information and date preference forms were sent home with grade 3, 4 and 6 students yesterday. Please retain these forms with this vital information and return the reply slip to the school office as soon as possible and no later than Friday 28th February. If for some reason you did not receive your copy please contact the office and we will send you another set.

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**ST ROBERT’S SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD NOMINATIONS**
On Monday forms were sent home for parents of children in grades Prep, One, Three and Five with details relating to the election of new representatives on the School Advisory Board. Please take a moment to read and respond. Our final meeting of the existing Advisory Board will be scheduled in the near future.

The St Robert’s School Advisory Board acts in an advisory capacity to the Parish Priest and to his appointee, the Principal. Although it is not a decision making body it does have a capacity to influence outcomes as it provides for consideration being given to popular opinion or concerns based on parent’s viewpoints. Over the past years it has played a major role contributing to school development plans and policy, welfare program
initiatives, school buildings and grounds development, enrolment policy and various school and parish initiatives.

Parents are encouraged to make contact with their representatives to have views considered and if deemed appropriate brought to the attention of the Board. In each case representatives on the Board will inform parents of the best course of action.

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.

Please note: Applications close next week

LATE CLAIMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

ST ROBERT'S UNIFORM POLICY
Students attending St Robert’s are asked to adhere to our uniform policy, a copy is included in this newsletter. We are noticing that there is a current trend for some of our students to come to school wearing jewellery and nail polish, please check and remind your child/ren of our policy, thank you for your co-operation in this matter.
UNIFORM SHOP
Our St Robert’s Uniform Shop is in need of some more volunteers, the shop is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings. If you are able to assist please contact Kately O’Sullivan on 0439 485 177 or email kateyos@bigpond.com

GRADE FIVE MUMS MORNING TEA
A Grade 5 morning tea will be held at Winters Cafe (upstairs) on Wednesday 26th February. If you can make it, please text Caryn Bourke 0438 071 437 by 24th Feb.

ST ROBERT’S MONDAY NIGHT NETBALL
We need 1 or 2 more Grade 3 or 4 girls in our St Robs White team; ok if never played. Please contact Karen Saric on 0408 583 550 asap.

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

Gr F CC Bridie Larkins
Gr F CC Henri North
Gr F JP Lucas De Stefano
Gr F JP Molly D’Andria
Gr 1MC Joshua McWilliam
Gr 1MC Mikayla Whelan
Gr 1YE Isabelle O’Sullivan
Gr 1YE Boston Riccardi
Gr 2 KT Brandon Turley
Gr 2KT Oscar Hart
Gr 2LO Louis Peacock
Gr 2LO Eliza Dunell
Gr 3KH Sophie Walker
Gr 3KH Mark Kim
Gr 3JS Josh Power
Gr 3JS Toby Osburn
Gr 4MA Flynn Richard
Gr 4MA Abbey Stephens
Gr 4MM Alice Pretty
Gr 4MM Sam Bowden
Gr 5NF Scarlett Sinclair
Gr 5NF Byron Cosic
Gr 5SP Sophia Francis
Gr 5SP Ashlyn Dwyer
Gr 6DB Saskia Velcek
Gr 6DB Cleo Mackay
Gr 6PB Isabelle Auld
Gr 6PB Chelsea Osburn

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

Happy Birthday to:

19th February Chloe Fitzgerald
19th February Hannah Kristiansen
20th February Sara Kristiansen
20th February Jakob Kristiansen
21st February Giarna Barker
21st February Eliza Hannagan
21st February Maya Lazzaro
21st February Summer Madden
21st February Laura Sanigorski
22nd February Benjamin Costa
22nd February Ollie Wilson
25th February

ST MARY’S SPORTING CLUB
REGISTRATION DAY
St Mary’s Sporting Club will hold a registration day this Sunday 23rd February 11am to 3pm. Please refer to club website for details: www.stmaryssfc.com.au

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 Enquiries 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.

NEWTOWN CHILWELL FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB – UNDER 11 NETBALL (GR 3, 4 & 5)
We would like to welcome any under 11 players & teams who would like to participate in the GFL Junior Netball Friday night competition at Kardinia Park. A registration and information night will be held on Tuesday 4th March 2014 at the clubrooms at 5:30pm.

Our U11 teams are based on friendship groups, parental requests and skills, no trials are done at this level and coaching & training is provided.

Please contact: U11 Co-ordinator Lee Doherty on 0430 369 600 or email lee.doherty@bigpond.com
Junior Co-ordinator Carolyn Hall on 0407 826 504 mobile or email Darren_hall@iprimus.com.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES TO REMEMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19th</td>
<td>Grade 1 Information Evening 6pm to 7pm</td>
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<td>Grade 2 Information Evening 6:30pm to 7:30pm</td>
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<td>Fri 21st</td>
<td>St Robert’s Cross Country, Grades 4 to 6, Eastern Gardens</td>
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<td>Sun 23rd</td>
<td>Parish Schools Staff Mass, St Mary’s 11:00am</td>
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<td>Mon 24th</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, 3pm</td>
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<td>Tues 25th</td>
<td>Grade 4 Interviews 3:40pm to 6pm</td>
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| Wed 26th          | Grade 5 Information Evening 6pm to 7pm |
| Fri 28th          | Bellarine Division Swimming |

| MARCH             | |
| Tues 4th          | Shrove Tuesday |
| Wed 5th           | Ash Wednesday |
| Thur 6th          | Foundation and Staff Photos |
| Fri 7th           | St Robert’s Athletics, Grades 4 to 6, Landy Field |
| Mon 10th          | Labour Day – Public Holiday |
| Tues 11th         | Grade 6 Interviews 3:40pm to 6pm |
| Fri 14th          | World of Maths incursion |
| Mon 17th          | Whole School Assembly, 3pm |
| Tues 18th         | Grade 6 Interviews 3:40pm to 6pm |

| Wed 19th          | Sacramental Enrolment Night (1) 7:30pm, Pioneer Room, above St Mary’s Parish Office (Parents only – no children) |
| Fri 21st          | GDCSSA District Cross Country |
| Tue 25th          | Region Swimming |
| Wed 26th          | School Photos Gr 1 to 6 |
|                   | Sacramental Enrolment Night (2) 7:30pm, Pioneer Room, above St Mary’s Parish Office (Parents only – no children) |
| Fri 28th          | Division Tennis |
| Mon 31st          | Whole School Assembly, 3pm |

| APRIL             | |
| Wed 2nd           | Term 1 concludes 3:30pm |
| Fri 18th          | Good Friday |
| Sun 20th          | Easter Sunday |
| Tue 22nd          | Term 2 commences |
| Fri 25th          | Anzac Day Public Holiday |
| Mon 28th          | Whole School Assembly, 3pm |
|                   | Eucharist Family Night, 6:30pm – 7:30pm (Parent/s and Sacramental Candidates) |
| Tue 29th          | State Swimming |

School Advisory Board Committee Members

| Fr Kevin Dillon   | frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au |
| Mark Soldani      | marks@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au |
| Claire Lappin     | clappin@optusnet.com.au, blufcottage@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 |

Website: www.srnewtown.catholic.edu.au
UNIFORM AND GROOMING

The St Robert’s School Policy on uniform was formulated by Parents & Friends Association and is frequently reviewed and updated as the need arises. A considerable amount of effort has gone into the selection of our uniform with a great deal of care taken in providing practicality and flexibility. A uniform code is strictly maintained at St Robert’s and children must present a note in the event that they are not wearing correct school uniform. Most of the following items are available at our Uniform Shop which is operated by volunteers and is located at the school. Items with logos must be bought from the St Robert’s School Uniform Shop as they are not available elsewhere. If uniform items are bought at an alternative shop they must be the same style, colour and material finish as those provided at the St Robert’s Uniform Shop. Items are not to have any other colour trims, stripes or logos on them. In the colder months, students may wear navy blue, polar fleece, sleeveless vests in the school yard. Plain navy raincoats can also be worn on and from school. All articles must be clearly marked with student’s name. Black shoes are part of the summer and winter uniform for girls and boys. These shoes must be a polished material such as leather or vinyl.

GIRLS SUMMER
Blue/White cotton check dress
with red trim
Navy socks
Navy school jumper
Navy Sunhat

BOYS SUMMER
Grey shorts
Blue shirt
Navy socks
Navy school jumper
Navy Sunhat

SUN HATS ARE COMPULSORY FROM SEPT 1 TO APRIL 30

WINTER
School Kill
(compulsory for photos & excursions)
Navy blue gabardine pants
Navy socks or navy tights
White blouse (white skivvy permissible)
Navy school jumper

WINTER
Navy blue gabardine pants
Blue shirt (red skivvy permissible)
Navy socks
Navy school jumper

PHYSICAL EDUCATION GIRLS AND BOYS
Navy school polo shirt with logo and house stripe
Navy blue shorts (no Lycra or tightly fitted) No netball skirts.
Plain navy blue track pants (no stripes or logos)
School Rugby Jumper with logo
Plain white socks covering ankles
Sneakers

Physical Education (PE) uniform is only to be worn on specified PE days or as otherwise advised.

GROOMING
1. Extremes in hairstyle are not permitted (e.g. rat’s tails, shaving, colouring and excessive use of hair gel)
2. Long hair should be tied back while at school. Ribbons, clips etc should be plain school colours (navy, red or white).
3. Students with pierced ears are permitted to wear studs or small sleepers only. Other jewellery should not be worn to school.
4. Nail polish is not permitted.
ST. ROBERT’S PRIMARY SCHOOL IS LOOKING TO OFFER DURING SCHOOL HOURS
PRIVATE SINGING LESSONS WITH REBECCA HAY – BELLA VOCE

PROFESSIONAL SINGER WITH OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
MUSIC COORDINATOR/ SINGER AT ST. MARY’S BASILICA
OVER 10 YEARS WITH ST. MARY’S JUNIOR CHOIR
SINGING TEACHER AT MINUET MUSIC – WEST GEELONG
SINGING TEACHER AT ST. MARGARET’S & ST.MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOLS
VALID WWC CHECK
CERT 4 TAE WORKPLACE TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT

LESSONS
DURATION: 30 mins  COST: $20 per lesson (paid per term length)

Lessons will be aimed to build confidence through singing. Each child is unique, so lessons will be informative, helpful and fun, using techniques to inspire the individual students to enjoy singing and develop at their pace. Exams will not be a focus, but rather an option.

Important Policy points you need to be aware of:
• Private music lessons are only available to children from Grades 3 -6
• Students wanting to participate in the program must not be enrolled in any other music programs offered at the school ie. if you already do piano/guitar you cannot enrol in singing.
• Consult with your teacher regarding the impact of class interruptions on their learning at this stage.
• Any child receiving lessons is required to be a part of the St. Robert’s School Choir.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR INTEREST BY FILLING IN THE FORM BELOW AND RETURNING IT TO THE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PARENT/GAURDIAN NAME
CONTACT
EMAIL
STUDENT NAME
CURRENT GRADE

I am interested in placing my child ......................................................... in the Private Singing Lessons you are establishing through the school with Rebecca Hay – Bella Voce. I understand this form indicates initial interest only. I have read and understood all policy requirements and have consulted with my child’s class teacher whether lesson interruptions will have a negative effect on their classroom learning.

SIGNED:_______________________________ DATE:________________________

Specific details regarding payment/ terms of agreement etc. will be given to families indicating interest if the program/lessons are to proceed.