Dear Families

There is no doubt that, with the new building almost complete and plans to upgrade our existing asphalt area, St Robert’s as far as an educational facility goes will be second to none. This will now, without any doubt, match the quality of the teaching and learning provided by a very strong and dedicated group of teachers. Much has been said over recent times of the improvements to our school as a facility, however, what may not have been as noticeable over the past number of years are the considerable changes to curriculum with the implementation of the new National Curriculum and the inclusion of a wide range of contemporary learning and teaching initiatives across the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and applaud the work of all our teachers who have spent countless hours after school preparing and attending various Professional Learning meetings. Their willingness to put in the extra time and effort to prepare and attend meetings enhances their knowledge of best practice teaching and ensures quality up to date strategies that promote the best learning in the children. Make no mistake your children are in very good hands!

I hope all our mums have a special day on Sunday and are deservedly pampered. I have had the opportunity to get a peek at some very unique and creative art work the children have lovingly created in a very practical way for their mums. Without letting “the cat out of the bag” I am sure the children’s creations will be very much appreciated and be put to good use. No doubt they will serve as a reminder to all our mums of how special and loved you all are. A big thank you to the mums and dads who have once again sourced some wonderful gifts for the Mother’s Day Stall being held on Friday. Great gifts at greater than great prices! What a fantastic effort, I hope all those parents involved in the organization of the stall know how much their efforts are appreciated. Well done and once again, Thank you.

A MOTHER’S DAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your special gift of mothers and the example of Your unconditional love they share with their children.

Lord, today we pray You will protect and guide Mothers everywhere, That You will grant them Your wisdom in loving and teaching their children.

Today may children everywhere remember the warm caresses and whispers in the night, The tears dried, band-aids, the hugs, kisses and laughter.

Thank You for the Mothers who played with us, taught us, nurtured us,
Listened to us and tried to understand us and prayed for us.

Today we remember Mothers beauty when we were young and her loveliness discovered as we aged.

Lord, today we pray especially for the Mothers who are alone for whatever reason, Grant them Your comfort, Your love and Your Peace.

Lord, Thank You particularly for the phone calls and the shared ‘I Love You’

Today as we honour, celebrate or simply reflect on the woman who raised us We Thank You for life and for Mum!

In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen

God bless. Have a great week,

Mark
CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Characteristics of Catholic Identity
Recently author and national consultant, Joe Paprocki, conducted a workshop on Catholic identity. In his book, *Practice Makes Catholic*, Joe identifies five key characteristics that define what it means to be Catholic. Catholic Schools are encouraged to consider what these characteristics look like for the young parents and children in their school communities.

1. **A sense of sacramentality**—Today’s families may not have holy water fonts or pray the rosary as a family. They may not know what a novena is. They may be unaware of the rhythm of the liturgical year. They may have palms, be familiar with ashes, and use an Advent wreath. How can we share the depth and meaning of ritual and symbol with families in non-threatening ways?

2. **A commitment to community**—Young families understand and crave community. They belong to school communities, athletic teams, and neighborhood groups. They may not feel connected to the Catholic community. Is our parish or school a welcoming place? Do you know one another by name? Do you know what parents do for a living, or what gifts and talents they have? Look for ways to include families in parish events and for families to interact and support one another.

3. **Respect for human life**—How we treat one another and how we think about the value of each person should reflect Gospel values. Being Catholic means being people for others. But are we always? Where in parish, school, or family life does this characteristic break down?

4. **Reverence for Scripture and Tradition**—Yes, there really is a core of Catholic knowledge and belief, and we must continue to hold up the bar. Catholics need to learn and remember the teachings of the faith.

5. **An attitude of faith and hope**—In spite of life’s challenges, a Catholic turns away from despair and seeks comfort in the faith and the community. Knowing one another and being there to encourage and support each other in difficult times reminds us that we do not journey alone. In what ways do parents and students receive our support through life’s difficulties?

There really is something special about being Catholic, and those in ministry are constantly striving to share what we have with those we serve. Our task is to communicate effectively to our students and their families, in ways that make sense for them.  

*By Kathy Henry*

**ONLINE BOOKINGS FOR CONFIRMATION DATES**
All Sacramental celebrations will be booked online using the ‘school interviews’ website. The number of spaces allocated to each school for each sacramental celebration will be available until that Mass is full. Parents of children enrolled to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation are asked to log on to the website [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au), Monday 12th May from 8:30am, the Confirmation Event Code is **BK3KT**.

St Robert’s school has a maximum of 16 spaces available on the Sunday Mass and 21 places at each of the two Friday evening Masses.

**FAMILY RECORDS UPDATE FORM**
Family Records Update forms have been distributed today, please complete and return them as soon as possible. These forms list all the information we have on file at school for your child. It is vitally important that the information we hold is current and accurate. Please check all entries thoroughly and make any changes or additions that may be required. If you have more than one child attending St Robert’s it is only necessary to update the general information on one form. Once these forms are received the necessary changes will be made and our family records will be up to date.

**2015 ENROLMENTS CLOSING SOON**
Applications for enrolments at St Robert’s for 2015 are now Parish based and must close on Friday 23rd May. It is essential that we have all sibling enrolment forms, together with required certificates, in by this date so as we are able to know how many positions we can offer new families for 2015. Likewise if your child will not be returning to St Robert’s in 2015 (except 2014 Graduates) advanced notice would be helpful with our planning.

**REPORT WRITING DAY – STUDENT FREE**
A Report Writing Day has been scheduled for Monday 19th May – this will be a student free day.
P & F – MOTHER’S DAY STALL
The P & F are holding the annual Mother’s Day stall again this year and it will take place on Friday 9th May. Gifts range from $1 to $5. Money can be sent in an envelope with the child’s name and be given to their teacher prior to the day. This ensures no one misses out on purchasing a gift. Thanks for your support.

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

Gr F CC Baxter Roth
Gr F CC Georgia Hannagan
Gr F JP Billy Smith
Gr F JP Sara Kristiansen
Gr 1MC Kai D’Orsa
Gr 1MC Holly Barker
Gr 1YE Jagger Mooney
Gr 1YE Paris Osburn
Gr 2 KT Sam Sinnott
Gr 2KT Lachie Appleford
Gr 2LO Amelia Muhor
Gr 2LO Oliver King
Gr 3KH Emma Markovic
Gr 3KH Xavier Smith
Gr 3JS Mati Raimondo
Gr 3JS Olivia Bryant
Gr 4MA Casey Morrissy
Gr 4MA Maya Lazzaro
Gr 4MM Remy Watson
Gr 4MM Elle Stevenson
Gr 5NF Rosie Maiden
Gr 5NF William Bourke
Gr 5SP Matthew Croce
Gr 5SP Joshua Appleford
Gr 6DB Chloe Cook
Gr 6DB Georgia Woods
Gr 6 PB Kasey Pritchard
Gr 6 PB Maya Laffan

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

9th May Mia Skratulja
10th May Eric O’Malley
12th May Flynn Spowart
13th May Sansa Gifford

ROSIE MAIDEN

CHESS COACHING AT ST ROBERT’S
We have received seven applications from budding chess enthusiasts to participate in the chess coaching sessions; however, a minimum of twelve is required. If you are considering joining in this, here is a further opportunity, see below:

Chess Coaching

All skill levels welcome!

Where: School Chapel
When: Friday lunchtimes
2nd May – 20th June 2014
Cost: $85 (discount $75 for 2nd sibling)
Benefits: Strategic thinking, improved self esteem, attention span in class, lateral thinking, team work, analytical skills.

To enrol your child please make payment (per child) of $85 by Friday 9th May. Cheques made payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”

For more info contact Phil on 0421 901 530
Forward this section in an envelope marked “Chess Coaching” with your payment to your school office.

Child’s Full Name: ____________________
Grade: _______ Phone: ______________
School: _____________________________
Email: _____________________________
Payment Due: Friday 9th May.

CHECK: made payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”

EFT: Acc Name: Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd Bank: CBA bsb: 063201
Acc #: 1004 9289 (please put school initials & child’s name on transaction)

$85 cash: ☐ cheque: ☐ eft: ☐
DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY
Wed 7th    Grade 2 Prayers in Pyjamas
Mon 12th   Confirmation Mass booking open online at 8:30am
Whole School Assembly, 3:00pm
Tues 13th, Wed 14th, Thur 15th NAPLAN
Fri 16th   GDCSSA Athletics Championships, (Qualifying students only)
Mon 19th   Report Writing Day – Student free day
Tues 20th  P&F Meeting 7:30pm
Fri 23rd   GDCSSA Mercy 5/6 boys & girls Basketball Round Robin
Mon 26th   Whole School Assembly, 3:00pm
Eucharist Family Night, 7:00pm–8:00pm (Parent/s and Sacramental Candidates)
Tues 27th  Bellarine Division Cross Country, Eastern Gardens, (Qualifying students only)
Fri 30th   GDCSSA Lightning Premiership

JUNE
Mon 2nd   State Boys/Girls Tennis Championships, (Qualifying students only)
Fri 6th    St Robert’s Feast Day Celebrations
Mon 9th   Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
Thur 12th  Region Primary Cross Country, (Qualifying students only)
Sat 14th  First Eucharist, 6:00pm
Sun 15th  First Eucharist 11:00am
Mon 16th  Junior Swimming commences
Tues 17th  Bellarine Division Football Lightning Premiership
Thur 19th  Bellarine Division Netball Lightning Premiership
Fri 20th  Mid-year Progress Reports distributed
Sat 21st  First Eucharist, 6:00pm
Sun 22nd  First Eucharist, 9:30am & 11:00am

JULY
Mon 14th  Term 3 commences
Thur 17th  State Cross Country Championships
Mon 21st  Whole School Assembly
Wed 23rd  Grade 6 Camp – Kangaroobie
To Fri 25th

AUGUST
Fri 1st    Grade 6 Interschool Sports
Sat 2nd   St Mary’s Parish Dinner
Mon 4th   Whole School Assembly, 3:00pm
Fri 8th    Grade 6 Interschool Sports
Thur 14th  Reconciliation Family Activity Night 7pm-8pm
Fri 15th   Grade 6 Interschool Sports
Mon 18th   Whole School Assembly, 3:00pm
Thur 21st  First Reconciliation, 5:00pm and 7:00pm
Fri 22nd  Grade 6 Interschool Sports

SEPTEMBER
Wed 3rd   Grade 2 Prayers in Pyjamas, 6:45pm
Fri 5th    Grade 6 Interschool Sports
Tues 9th  Confirmation Family Night, 7:00pm-8:00pm
Fri 12th   Grade 6 Interschool sports
Mon 15th  Bellarine Division Athletics, Land Field (Qualifying students only)
Wed 17th  School concert at The Arena
Fri 19th  End of Term 3

School Advisory Board Committee Members
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