Dear Families

The coming Labour Day long weekend signals that we are past the halfway point in the term. For the children in our Foundation classes that means the end of their Wednesday rest days and their first taste of, to use a very common local catch cry, School “Full On!” It is also a good time for me to reflect on the term so far and a time to evaluate the way we are travelling. Our school motto this year is “Together we can make our school even better in 2014” and from what I can see the start to the year has certainly demonstrated this. Parents working together with the teachers and the children has been very much part and parcel of our school. So many events have taken place in such a short space of time and the amount of parent support on all these occasions has been outstanding. Our Senior Six students have warmed to their role as leaders and have been a great support to their teachers, all other teachers and staff and particularly their buddies, taking on tasks and extra responsibilities when called upon to do so. Our teachers and support staff have had a great start to the year working together to ensure our school is a place where lots of learning is taking place in an environment that is activity rich, engaging, challenging and success orientated. Thanks everyone for all your contributions. Well done!

As close to perfect as it is I do have some concern regarding the number of children arriving at school late in the mornings. Every minute of every day is important and teachers have expressed their concern at the number of children arriving late, missing the first part of a session and distracting the other children as they unpack their bags, often requiring extra attention from the teacher in regard to missed instruction. It is an expectation that children arriving late for school, that is after the bell for the start of the day has sounded following the five minutes of music, are signed in at the office by an adult. A practice of dropping the children off at the gate and to go directly to their class is not acceptable nor is it the safest option. From this point on, children arriving late for class and not signed in will be sent to the office to be signed in by our office staff. A text message will then be forwarded to the parent contact informing them of their child’s lateness. This procedure will ensure that the health and safety of all children is maintained ensuring they are all accounted for. For obvious reasons the preferred option is to make that extra effort to get the children to school on time. I am on yard duty from 8.30 in the morning and traffic at that time is reasonably light so you might like to consider getting here sooner rather than later as I suspect that parents may be choosing the option of arriving at school later to avoid the traffic. This, as I have said, is a significant problem for our teachers. Please Consider!

Last week our school swimming team, pictured below, competed in the Geelong Primary Schools’ Division Swimming Carnival. All the children swam really well with many recording a personal best time and some qualifying for the regional championship. All of the children were great representatives of our school and participated in all their events with great spirit and sportsmanship. Well done kids. Congratulations to those who made it through to the next round and keep an eye out for news of their efforts in coming newsletters.

Still on the topic of swimming it is great to hear some of the special feats of our children while representing St Robert’s in an out of school activity. Last weekend two of our students Dibs and Jemima Fitzgerald participated in the Bay City All Schools’ Swimming Carnival representing St Robert’s. Dibs won three gold medals in his Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke events and Jemima won a silver medal in Backstroke and came fourth in her Freestyle event. What made her achievement even more special was the fact that Jemima swam out of her age group against older children. What a great effort. Dibs’ outstanding effort earned him the Ford Shield for the Highest Aggregate score for
Primary Boys. This is a fantastic achievement and Dibs has let us display his trophy in our Trophy cabinet for a little while for everyone to see. Well done Dibs and Jemima. We are all proud of you.

God Bless, Mark

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Lent – Ash Wednesday

Today is Ash Wednesday and in the Catholic Church is the first day of Lent. Lent is the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday always falls 46 days before Easter. While Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass on this day in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. During Mass, the ashes which give Ash Wednesday its name are distributed. The ashes are made by burning the blessed palms that were distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, we are called on to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance. Ash Wednesday and Lent offer an opportunity for us to reflect on what the cross means to us and come to grips with the purpose for which Jesus died.

PUNCTUALITY

Classes commence at 9am each morning and students are asked to be on the school premises by 8:50am before the music begins. If children arrive after 9am, even if it is only a few minutes, it is disruptive to classes. Often the school day commences with a prayer or reflection and late arrivals can interfere with this moment. Also the daily roll is taken around 9:15am each day students arriving after this may be then marked absent for the morning. In the interest of all we ask that families make every effort to ensure their child is punctual arriving at school in the mornings. In the event that it is not possible for students to be at school prior to the bell they must always be signed in at the office by an adult before proceeding to class.

Supervision of students commences at 8:30am and it is requested that they do not arrive at school prior to this time. If necessary Before School Care is available to families at Chilwell Primary School, a St Robert’s teacher collects children from this facility at approximately 8:45am and walks them back to St Robert’s.

WORLD OF MATHS ROADSHOW

The ‘WORLD OF MATHS ROADSHOW’ will visit our school for Foundation – Year 3 on Friday 14th March and Year 4 – 6 on Monday 17th March. These workshop based activities are an ideal way for the students to enjoy maths and see how it is applied to some real life situations. The students will be engaged in hands-on activities that cater for all ability levels and aid their problem solving skills. For more information, to view a video session in action and read testimonials from schools, visit the website www.worldofmaths.com

Thanking you, Mandy Amezdroz – Mathematics Coordinator

SCHOOL PHOTO DAYS AT ST ROBERT’S

This year we will have two days on which School Photos will be taken at St Robert’s. The first session will be held on tomorrow, Thursday 6th March and will be for our Foundation students and staff. MSP Photography will provide all Foundation students with a complementary Bonus Starting School package that will commemorate and welcome our new 2014 students. On Wednesday 26th March our usual School Photo Day will be held. This is the day when all class photos, individual and family photos will be taken. Every student has received their own personalised pre-paid envelope, these were sent home last Thursday. If you would like a family photo these envelopes can be collected at the office. Please return all envelopes to the office as soon as possible.

SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENT EVENING

Thank you to all families who have returned their forms. After collating the numbers it appears that Wednesday 19th March is over subscribed with 115 St Robert’s parents attending. If you are able to change to 26th March it would be appreciated, please let us know if this is possible.
WELLBEING - MEDICAL ALERT
There continues to be several cases of gastroenteritis throughout the school. Following a bout of gastro parents are asked to keep their children home for at least 24 hours. If you suspect that your child may be unwell please do not send them to school.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES CAR RAFFLE
The Combined Parishes Raffle is with us once again. This is a major fund-raising project in the parish - with four cars to be won! A book of ten tickets for this raffle was sent home last week. As the prizes for this raffle are over $5,000 this raffle must be officially audited by accountants, therefore all tickets must be accounted for.

If you do not feel you can sell this book then please just return it to the school office immediately and it can be redistributed to be sold elsewhere. Thank you to the many families who have returned their books so promptly.

ST ROBERT'S DADS' NIGHT OUT
Saturday 22nd March 7.00pm at Lord of the Isles Tavern, West Fyans Street, Newtown

This is an open invitation to all St Robert’s Dads to join each other for an informal dinner and drinks on Saturday 22nd March.

New dads to St. Robert’s most welcome.

Chilwell P.S. Outside School Hours Care, Term 1 – March 2014
To book or cancel care please call Olivia/Laune on 0417 014 973

EFTPOS facility is available – for payments over $10.00. Forms available at the office or from the OSHC. Just a reminder to all those who have a permanent after school booking. If unable to attend please cancel before 2.30pm to assist staff and avoid session fee. Thanks – OOSHC Staff.

It's Food Fair time at Chilwell Primary School -
Friday 21ST March. Lots of food stalls,
Silent & Live Auctions, Music, Wine, Rides for the kids and fun!
Come for dinner from 4 pm. till 9 pm. and bring all the family.

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

Gr F CC   Paige Phillips
Gr F CC   Jonathan Leong
Gr F JP   Jakob Kristiansen
Gr F JP   Amelia Reid
Gr 1MC   Wil Courtney
Gr 1MC   Hailey Gstalter
Gr 1YE   Scarlett Cox
Gr 1YE   Luke Pitman
Gr 2 KT   Mekah Morrissy
Gr 2KT   Sam Washington
Gr 2LO   Jack Kelly
Gr 2LO   Cadhla Cunningham
Gr 3KH   Thomas Afford
Gr 3JS   Annabelle Leong
Gr 3JS   Oscar Cosic
Gr 4MA   Finn Alsop
Gr 4MA   Madeleine Starling
Gr 4MM   Jessica Kelly
Gr 4MM   Seamus Ryan
Gr 5NF   Agnes Kim
Gr 5NF   Oliver Baric
Gr 5SP   Xavier Muhor
Gr 5SP   Sophie Campbell
Gr 6DB   Eamonn Murphy
Gr 6DB   Nici Raimondo
Gr 6PB   Tayla Gartner
Gr 6PB   Joel McWilliam
BIRTHDAYS
The St Robert’s School community wish to congratulate the following children on the celebration of their birthday this week: Happy Birthday to:

6th March  Isobel Higgins
7th March  Coby Williams
9th March  Therese De Grandi
11th March  Heather Watkins

DATEs TO REMEMBER

MARCH
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
Thur 13th  School Advisory Board Meeting (proposed date)
Fri 14th  World of Maths incursion
Mon 17th  Whole School Assembly, 3pm
World of Maths incursion
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
Tues 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

MAY
Fri 2nd  Hot chocolate Fundraising Day
Wed 7th  Prayers in Pyjamas, Gr 2 6:45pm
Mon 12th  Whole School Assembly, 3pm
Fri 16th  GDCSSA Athletics Championships
Fri 23rd  GDCSSA Mercy 5/6 boys & girls Basketball Round Robin
Mon 26th  Whole School Assembly, 3pm
Wed 28th  Bellarine division Cross Country, Eastern Gardens
Fri 30th  GDCSSA lightning Premiership

JUNE
Mon 2nd  State Boys/Girls Tennis Championships
Fri 6th  St Robert’s Feast Day Celebrations
Mon 9th  Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
Thur 12th  Region Primary Cross Country
Sat 14th  First Eucharis, 6:00pm
Sun 15th  First Eucharist, 9:30am & 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
Mon 23rd  Whole School Assembly, 3pm
Tues 24th  Parent/Teacher Interviews
Wed 25th  Parent/Teacher Interviews
Year 4 Eucharist Celebration Lunch
Fri 27th  Junior Swimming concludes
End of Term 2

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