Dear Families

Last night I had the pleasure of attending the Parents and Friends meeting which was reasonably well attended and another great meeting. As principal, I find it reassuring to know that we have a terrific group of parents who share my desire to make St Robert’s the best school that it can possibly be. It struck me while working through the agenda just how important our Parents and Friends is for the school and how hard these people work to not only raise funds for a wide range of resources and equipment but to also nurture and develop a strong and supportive spirit across our school community. It also struck me that many parents within the community may not have a clear understanding of just how important it is that we all try and get involved with the efforts of the P and F in some way. Consider attending a meeting once in a while - they are good meetings and a great opportunity to keep in touch with what’s going on in the school. They are also a great opportunity to share your ideas and views and share your experiences and knowledge. From time to time you may be able to respond to a call for volunteers to help out in some way or you may consider putting your hand up to be part of a committee. Never underestimate the value of even a little involvement, “From Little things, Big things Grow!”

Changing tack, and I don’t often follow a positive with a little negativity but I have recently been alerted to a trend that seems to be gathering momentum and one that concerns me a great deal. Collecting children early from school on a consistent basis to attend after school activities is not appropriate for a wide range of reasons. There is no need to remind anybody that the school day finishes at 3.30pm. Teacher instruction and learning experiences are taking place up until that time and I ask that parents not arrange for their children to be collected before the end of the school day for purposes other than medical or extraordinary circumstances and appointments.

God bless, Mark

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

The Second Sunday of Lent - How is your Lent going?

Sunday 16th March was the second Sunday of Lent. Right about now is when the newness and fervor start to wear off. We’ve left the ashes behind and the things we gave up – chocolate, TV, desserts – are starting to look better and better. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Maybe you have even fallen off the wagon and had a splurge and felt the morning-after guilt. A lot of us find ourselves in that situation during Lent – suddenly doing something out of habit that we had sworn to give up. It’s part of what makes us human — what makes our Lenten journey so challenging – and so vital. And it is, first and foremost, a journey. We can make the mistake of thinking about Lent as just a few weeks on the calendar – a fixed point in time. But Lent is a journey. We are pilgrims traveling on an unfamiliar road, seeking to draw nearer to God. We’re leaving our comfort zones, some of us are leaving our comfort food.

In some ways, we aren’t that different from Abram in last Sunday’s reading from Exodus. God calls to Abram, and asks him to do something that sounds almost impossible: “Go forth from the land of your kinsmen…and from your father’s house…to a place I will show you.” In other words: leave everything you know, everything you’ve grown up with, all those you love. Head for an unnamed place. I will show you the way. Trust in me. Believe in me. And you will be blessed. And with little more than that to guide him, Abram goes. What an incredible leap of faith and boundless trust. It is echoed, again and again, in the psalm : “Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.” That could be our cry during these weeks, as we continue our Lenten journey of penance and prayer. We may not know what lies ahead. We may not know where God is leading us. But we trust in His love, His guidance, His mercy, as we draw closer to Him. No one said it would be easy.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TODAY MAGAZINE

Coming home with today’s newsletter is the latest issue of Catholic Education today. Hope you can find some time in your busy week to have a read.
SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENT EVENING

The first of two Sacramental Enrolment Evenings will be held tonight Wednesday 19th March from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at The Pioneer Room, above St Mary’s Parish Office, 150 Yarra Street Geelong. This evening is for parents only, children do not attend. Parents of children intending to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation in 2014 must attend one of the enrolment evenings to enrol their child for a Sacrament. 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 Eucharist for the first time are asked to log on to the website www.schoolinterviews.com.au on Thursday March 27th from 8:30am, the Eucharist Event Code is 6PJGD. St Robert’s school has a maximum of eleven spaces available at each First Eucharist Mass. See dates to remember for Mass dates and times.

HOUSEKEEPING - A FEW REMINDERS

With Term 1 rapidly coming to an end, a few reminders from the office:

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Next Wednesday 26th March is School Photo Day. If you have not returned your photo envelop as yet please do so, the photo-shoot runs much more smoothly if we have all the envelopes in prior to the day. If you require a family envelope please pick one up from the office.

COMBINED PARISHES’ CAR RAFFLE

Please return your raffle books (sold or unsold) as soon as possible. The Parish pre-purchases these books and given the value of the prizes each ticket must be accounted for and an audit will take place. To avoid us having to contact families with unreturned books please send them into the office. We have received about half of the books back which is terrific, if we could also get the other half back that would be perfect!!!!

TERM 1 SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS

All Term 1 School Fee Accounts are due for payment by Friday 28th March. 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, (remember to enter your family code or surname).

ENROLMENTS FOR 2015 AT ST ROBERT’S

If you have a child commencing school next year please pick up an Application for Enrolment Form from the school office and we will register your child for 2015.

GET MORE ACTIVE, MORE OFTEN

During April, St. Roberts will take part in a Victorian Government initiative to encourage participation in 30mins of activity every day for the month. We are asking students to join our school team for the obvious health benefits of exercising and to be in the running for some great prizes for our school. To do this, parents will need to register their child/children on the Active April website. The instructions on how to do this are attached to this newsletter. Thanks for your support. Claire Lappin & Louise Kluver

F JP GROUP DINNER

Come and join the Foundation JP mums for dinner! Tuesday 1st April at the Telegraph Hotel, Pakington Street, Geelong West at 7:30pm. RSVP: Vikki on 0402 763 531 by Friday 28th March.

ST ROBERT’S DADS’ NIGHT OUT

This 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. Please email Jason Doherty at jason@playgroup.org.au or text on 0430104075 with your name and contact number as your RSVP by Wednesday 19 March.

ST ROBERT’S RED BASKETBALL TEAM

St Robert’s Red Grade 3 and 4 Boys Basketball Team play at Life Be In It on Wednesdays. The new season starts next term. New players are required. If your child is interested in joining this basketball team please contact Brigita Rakas on 0407342056.
STUDENT AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students who have received certificates this week for outstanding work.

Gr F CC  Jude Seecamp
Gr F CC  Evie Cosic
Gr F JP  Lachlan Berger
Gr F JP  Hannah Kristiansen
Gr 1MC  Christopher Watkins
Gr 1MC  Emily Matthews
Gr 1YE  Lucas Pedretti
Gr 1YE  Isabella Cameron
Gr 2 KT  Zoe Kennedy
Gr 2KT  Hugh Madden
Gr 2LO  Matthew Johnson
Gr 2LO  Charlotte Pleiter
Gr 3KH  Alexander Anticev
Gr 3KH  Juliette Summerhayes
Gr 3JS  Lucy Watts
Gr 3JS  Adam Matthews
Gr 4MA  Lucy Richmond
Gr 4MA  Bella Saric
Gr 4MM  Harriet Maskell
Gr 4MM  Bridget Hart
Gr 5NF  Miles Rau
Gr 5NF  Lucy Spetch
Gr 5SP  Lizzie Dowling
Gr 5SP  Olivia Lobodarz
Gr 6DB  Jasmine Saric
Gr 6DB  Cleo Mackay
Gr 6PB  Sam King
Gr 6PB  Noah Gullan

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

20th March  Lucinda Sinclair
21st March  Petra Faoro
2nd March   Ewan Guinane
22nd March  Abbey Stephens
            Juliette Summerhayes
23rd March  Nicholas Dowling
            Charlie Marshall
            Liam Marshall
            Casey Morrissy
24th March  India Griffiths
25th March  Katie Carroll
            Charlie Lazzaro
            Rebecca Maschmedt

Saint Ignatius College Geelong
Families are invited to join us on our
2014 OPEN DAY
Sunday 23rd March, 11am-2pm.
Information sessions at 11am and 12.15pm
“SEE THE COLLEGE AT WORK”
Wednesday 7th May, 9am-11am
Applications for Year 7 enrolment 2015 close
Friday 23rd May 2014.

Visit the college website to download an
Application form for Enrolment, apply for a
College Prospectus and to submit an online
Academic Scholarship registration.

A Jesuit Partner School
Saint Ignatius College Geelong
27 Peninsula Drive, Drysdale. , Phone: 5251 1136
Email: info@ignatius.vic.edu.au
Website: www.ignatius.vic.edu.au

2014 NEWTOWN CHILWELL AUSKICK PROGRAM
SEASON COMMENCES 27TH APRIL 2014.
LOCATION; ELDERSLIE RESERVE, NEWTOWN
8.45am SUNDAY MORNINGS
REGISTER online @ aflauskick.com.au AND SEARCH FOR NEWTOWN CHILWELL FNC
A fun, inclusive and supportive introduction to aussie Rules Football. The 2014 Newtown
Chilwell program includes: AFL Auskick Pack, Structured learning program, Weekly Awards,
Weekly Newsletter, Super Clinic, AFL Player Visit, Under 9 Induction Program and a free
piece of Newtown Chilwell Football Club Clothing.

For further information please contact
Newtown Chilwell Auskick Coordinator Greg
Wood (0412 026 477)

WESTFEST COMMUNITY ARTS FESTIVAL
Free Community Arts Festival
Sunday 30th March
West Park – Cnr - Pakington & Autumn St
3:00pm – 7:00pm

Live performers; Hot Club Swing, Ukes D’Jour,
Peter Roberts, Like Honey, Acabellas, Andy
Pobjoy and Corisande Vocal Group

Food & Drink; Drive & Grind Mobile Café, The
French Corner Café, Bruschetta Bar, Warren &
Hutch, Paella Pan and Nordenfine

Hands on activities, handmade market, family &
pet friendly
St Mary's Little League is looking for players born in 2002 and 2003 to participate in its fun little league. The club is short on numbers for this age group so anyone interested will enjoy maximum game time and wonderful support from coaches and team mates. Season kicks off on 4th April. Games are played Friday nights or Saturday mornings.

If interested please contact David Bourke 0426218816 or Stephen Mew 0417116101.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 7th</td>
<td>Prayers in Pyjamas, Gr 2 6:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12th</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 13th</td>
<td>Wed 14th, Thur 15th NAPLAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 16th</td>
<td>GDCSSA Athletics Championships, (Qualifying students only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 19th</td>
<td>Report Writing Day – Student free day</td>
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<td>Tues 20th</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 23rd</td>
<td>GDCSSA Mercy 5/6 boys &amp; girls Basketball Round Robin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 26th</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eucharist</td>
<td>Family Night, 7:00pm–8:00pm (Parent/s and Sacramental Candidates) – please note change of date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 28th</td>
<td>Bellarine Division Cross Country, Eastern Gardens, (Qualifying students only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 30th</td>
<td>GDCSSA Lightning Premiership</td>
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<td>JUNE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 5th</td>
<td>State Boys/Girls Tennis Championships, (Qualifying students only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 6th</td>
<td>St Robert’s Feast Day Celebrations</td>
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<td>Mon 9th</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 12th</td>
<td>Region Primary Cross Country, (Qualifying students only)</td>
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<td>Sat 14th</td>
<td>First Eucharist, 6:00pm</td>
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<td>Sun 15th</td>
<td>First Eucharist 11:00am</td>
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<td>Mon 16th</td>
<td>Junior Swimming commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 17th</td>
<td>Bellarine Division Football Lightning Premiership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 19th</td>
<td>Bellarine division Netball Lightning Premiership</td>
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<td>Fri 20th</td>
<td>Mid-year Progress Reports distributed</td>
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<td>Sat 21st</td>
<td>First Eucharist, 6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 22nd</td>
<td>First Eucharist, 9:30am &amp; 11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23rd</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 24th</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25th</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27th</td>
<td>Junior Swimming concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Term 2, 2:30pm</td>
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Premier’s Active April is a Victorian Government initiative which encourages Victorians to get more active more often and participate in 30 minutes of physical activity a day during April. Please find attached an accompanying flyer that explains the health and wellbeing benefits of joining Premier’s Active April and outlines the great incentives and prizes you can win by registering. This year, our school will be participating in Premier’s Active April and we are asking students to join their school team and get more active, more often. There are three options below showing you how to register and join our school team.

Registration and Team Details
Login / Register activeapril.vic.gov.au
Team ID st-roberts
Team Name St Roberts

Once registered, students will have the option to join multiple teams. We encourage you to register your whole family and create a family team as well, enabling you to track each other’s progress.

How to join our school team:
1) If your family are already registered:
   1. Login to the app using the student’s username and password
   2. Go to the Teams page and select “Join a Team”.
   3. Enter the Team ID (see above).
   4. A notification will be sent to the teacher who created the team. After the teacher accepts the request, the student will see the team details when they next login.

2) If your family are not registered
   1. Register at activeapril.vic.gov.au – register yourself first, then register family members.
   2. Once registered, your child can use their unique username and password to access the Activity Tracker and program incentives.
   3. Login to the app using the student’s username and password
   4. Go to the Teams page and select “Join a Team”.
   5. Enter the Team ID (see above).
   6. A notification will be sent to the teacher who created the team. When the teacher accepts the request, the student will see the team details when they next login.

3) If you do not have access to the internet and you require the school to register your child
   - If you don’t have access to the internet, you can sign the consent form over the page, complete a few registration details and return it to your PE teacher.

NB: For ease of administration, our strong recommendation is for students to be registered at home rather than by a teacher. If you’re able to do options 1 or 2, there is no need to complete and return the following form.

Consent of a parent/guardian to authorise student registration in Premier’s Active April.

Please tick ✓ one of the boxes below.

☐ I consent to my child participating in Premier’s Active April and authorise the school to register my child

Signed: ………………………………….(Parent/guardian) (Print name)…………………………………………

Date: …………………………………

Student’s name (print full name) ……………………………………………….. Class……………………

Registration details
Student age: _____ Postcode: _______ Current YMCA member: Yes / No (please circle)
Premier’s Active April encourages Victorians to participate in 30 minutes of physical activity a day during April. It’s free, it’s fun and it’s part of the Victorian Government’s commitment to get more people more active, more often.

This flyer has been prepared for parents whose child’s school is participating in Premier’s Active April.

Establishing the importance of physical activity during childhood can help ensure lifelong participation with resulting health, social, economic and environmental benefits for individuals and communities.

Formerly known as The Premier’s Active Families Challenge, in 2014 the program has a new name and a new look.

Families that register to participate will be supported with healthy eating and physical activity tips and incentives. Every participant will also receive:

▶ 15% off at Rebel Sport
▶ 10 free YMCA passes
▶ One free child pass to the National Sports Museum and MCG Tour
▶ One free child pass to SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium
▶ One free hour of tennis court hire at Melbourne Park or Albert Reserve
▶ A chance to win great prizes

In 2013 more than 83,000 Victorians participated. In 2014, Premier’s Active April is set to be even bigger and better.

You can help support your child by joining in Active April and being active as a family after school and on weekends.

Go to activeapril.vic.gov.au to register today.

IT'S FUN AND IT'S FREE!