Dear Families,

Last week some of you may have made the extra effort to ride to school in support of National Ride to School Day. Walking or riding to school is a great way of getting fit. If we live close enough to school it is something we can easily do for most days of the year and once in a routine it is a health promoting activity that is easy to manage with no cost involved, helps the environment as you are driving less and has to be good for the ‘Hip pocket’. Of course riding to St Robert’s school with its surrounding narrow streets and somewhat hectic traffic conditions that exist immediately before and after school can be a dangerous exercise. However if we observe a few simple rules and suggestions most of the dangers can be reduced making it a lot safer for all concerned, motorists, bike riders, and pedestrians. As primary aged children under the age of twelve are permitted to ride a bike on the footpath my suggestion is to do so for as much of the journey to school that you can. Dismount and walk your bike across busy intersections and always seek out the safest route to school. One that allows you to cross at traffic lights is the best way to go even if it does take you a little longer. Remember to be mindful of other people using the footpath, never travel fast and watch out for cars driving in and out of driveways. As you get closer to school and particularly as you enter Nicholas and Mervyn Streets, I think it would be a great idea to stop riding and walk your bike the rest of the way to school. Riding on the school grounds, we all know, is not permitted and children should be well and truly off their bikes before entering the school gates. I am certain that the teachers will have discussed other ways of making riding a safe and enjoyable way of getting to school with your children in class today as part of National Ride and Stride to School Day. Protective head gear is a must and a little ‘ditty’ that I remember from my younger bike riding days, “When in Doubt - Dismount!”

While on the topic of healthy lifestyle after a very successful school Cross Country championships, a group of very fit cross country runners representing St Robert’s participated in the District round of the Primary School’s Cross Country Championships. The team pictured below performed beautifully with great endurance and fantastic sportsmanship. It was a gruelling course and the completion from other Catholic Schools in the district was fierce and all our children did St Robert’s proud. Congratulations to each and every one of you for your efforts. Special congratulations to Osca Riccardi(2nd), Grace Purcell(4th), Lulu Higgins(1st), James Afford(3rd), Lachlan Trethowan(5th), Ashlyn Dwyer(6th), Charlie Lazzaro(8th), Tanner Bruhn(5th), Bella Gard(3rd), Molly Green(6th) and Georgia Woods (7th) who finished in the top eight places for their age group. These children will now compete in the Divisional section on Tuesday 27th May and we wish them the very best of luck.

God bless,

Mark
CATHOLIC IDENTITY

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

On the Third Sunday of Lent the first reading from Exodus recalls Israel's journey through the desert. In many ways, the journey of Israel toward the Promised Land is presently our own journey. In many ways we are like the people of Israel. The question is, do we journey through the desert with purpose, or are we merely desert wanderers, walking aimlessly about without direction?

The question for your lenten journey today is twofold: First, do I thirst, and if so, for what or for Whom do I thirst? Second, is my path of life committed unwaveringly to the destination of the Promised Land? As Israel thirsted, so too do we thirst, although perhaps in a different way and for different reasons. The people Israel frequently fell into unfaithfulness and distrust in God. Do we not do the same types of things? Even so, driven by divine love, God continued to lead his people toward the Promised Land. The question for your lenten journey today is then twofold: First, do I thirst, and if so, for what or for Whom do I thirst? Second, is my path of life committed unwaveringly to the destination of the Promised Land?

COIN TRIAL FOR PROJECT COMPASSION

This Friday our children will participate in a Coin Trial. The children are asked to bring coins to school (5c, 10c & 20c coins) to lay out in an attempt to make the longest coin line. All proceeds to go to our Lenten Project Compassion Campaign.

SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENT EVENING

The final Sacramental Enrolment Evening will be held tonight Wednesday 26th 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 have attended 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 tomorrow, 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:

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. If we could have this information as soon as possible it would assist us in planning for 2015.

TAKE HOME READERS

Could ALL take home school readers please be returned to school by this Thursday 27th March as we are undertaking a school audit of these books next week in the last week of Term 1. Knowing what is in stock will assist us in purchasing some new books for the junior level.
PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
The Parents and Friends Association are pleased to announce that a total of $9000 has been raised so far in 2014 and granted across all year levels. A big ‘Thank you’ to all parents who have supported our fundraising efforts. It’s great to see the funds being utilised for Literacy support and equipment across all grades. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 29th April at 7.30pm. All welcome.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE
We would appreciate a donation of an Easter Egg per family by Friday. We also ask that all raffle tickets and money by Friday. Thank you for your support.

HOT CROSS BUNS
A reminder that the Hot Cross Bun vouchers need to be in by Tuesday 1st April and that there are five bakeries throughout Geelong with many varieties of Hot Cross Buns to choose from.

RENEW YOUR WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK ONLINE
From early April 2014, cardholders who are required to renew their WWC Check will no longer need to go to Australia Post to lodge a paper form and present their current card. From this time, cardholders will go to the WWC Check website to complete their renewal application online and, if applying for an Employee Check, pay the fee using a credit card.

The online renewal process
Cardholders will be notified by SMS, letter or email 28 days before their WWC Check is due to expire. It is important for cardholders to keep their contact details up to date so that they receive this important reminder. After receiving a notification, individuals continuing to do child-related work should go to MyCheck on the WWC Check website and apply to renew their Check. Cardholders will be asked to register with MyCheck if they have not already done so. Once logged in to MyCheck, cardholders will be prompted to confirm or update their personal contact and work details, complete the online form and, if applying for an Employee Check, pay the non-refundable $102.70 fee, there is no cost involved for volunteers. Please let cardholders in your organisation know about the new online service to renew a Check.

More information
From early April 2014, an FAQ guide to online renewals will be available in 'Publications' under 'Resources' on the WWC Check website. Or contact the Customer Support Line on 1300 652 879 8.30 am – 5 pm weekdays except public holidays.

GET MORE ACTIVE, MORE OFTEN
During April, St Robert’s 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 are attached to our previous newsletter.

Thanks for your support. Claire Lappin & Louise Kluver

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY
The St Vincent de Paul Society is a worldwide charity that continues to develop new ways of reaching out to those seeking our support. The core work of the Society in this parish is its home visitation program where members and volunteers go out in pairs to visit and support families and individuals who call on us for help.

Come and see: Tuesday 8th April 7:30pm Hiberian Hall, 150 Yarra Street, Geelong

PRAYER SERVICE – IN SOLIDARITY WITH REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS
The Office for Peace and Justice and the Melbourne Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office would like to invite the school community of St Robert’s School to a Prayer Service In Solidarity with Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Details of the Service are as follows:

Time: 1:00pm 1:30pm
Dates: Palm Sunday 13th April 2014
Where: St Patrick’s Cathedral, East Melbourne
Principal Celebrant: Bishop Vincent Long
HIGHLAND DANCING
Geelong Scottish Dance are offering Dance Classes in Herne Hill on Wednesday nights – come and try:
- Highland Dancing
- Irish Tap – display work
Geelong Scottish Dance has qualified and experienced teachers. Children 4 years and up.
Enquiries please phone: 5250 3885
One voucher for 4 free lessons is available at the office if anyone would like to have this.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 26th Mar</th>
<th>Tissue Paper Flowers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th Mar</td>
<td>The Hanging Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28th Mar</td>
<td>Movie &amp; Popcorn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 31st Mar</td>
<td>Downball Comp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2nd Apr</td>
<td>Making Truffles</td>
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EFTPOS facility is available – for payments over $10.00. Form available at the office or from the OSHC. IMPORTANT!!! We encourage families to keep their account in credit. With the end of term looming please finalise your account asap. Thank you – OOSHC Team. 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.

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

Gr F CC  Syesha Criscione
Gr F CC  Lucy Eldridge
Gr F JP  Charlie Marshall
Gr F JP  Liam Marshall
Gr 1YE  Gus Walerys
Gr 1YE  Georgia Caracella
Gr 2 KT  Georgie Doherty
Gr 2KT  Georgia Phillips
Gr 2LO  Meg Alsop
Gr 2LO  Jake Green
Gr 3KH  Chloe Lappin
Gr 3KH  Isaac Dunell
Gr 3JS  Tess De Grandi
Gr 3JS  Ben Phillips
Gr 4MA  Archie Sinnott
Gr 4MA  Zara Madden
Gr 4MM  Julia Pehar
Gr 4MM  Jude Ryan
Gr 5NF  Rebecca Maschmedt
Gr 5NF  Petra Faoro
Gr 5SP  Emily Perrett
Gr 5SP  Harry Roache
Gr 6DB  Saskia Velcek
Gr 6DB  Adele Stack
Gr 6PB  Isabel Waterhouse
Gr 6PB  Lucia Erhardt

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.

MARCH
Wed 26th  Sacramental Enrolment Night (2) 7:30pm, Pioneer Room, above St Mary’s Parish Office (Parents only –no children)
Thur 27th  School Advisory Board Meeting  First Eucharist Online Mass selection

DATES TO REMEMBER
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28th</td>
<td>Division Tennis, (Qualifying students only)</td>
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<td>Mon 31st</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, 3pm</td>
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<td><strong>APRIL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 2nd</td>
<td>Term 1 concludes 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Fri 18th</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Sun 20th</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<td>Tue 22nd</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 25th</td>
<td>Anzac Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 28th</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, 3pm, (Qualifying students only)</td>
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<td>Parents &amp; Friends Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 2nd</td>
<td>Hot Chocolate Fundraising Day</td>
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<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>NAPLAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 16th</td>
<td>GDCSSA Athletics Championships, (Qualifying students only)</td>
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<td>Mon 19th</td>
<td>Report Writing Day – Student free day</td>
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<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 26th</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, 3pm, Family Night, 7:00pm–8:00pm</td>
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<td>(Parent/s and Sacramental Candidates) – please note change of date</td>
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**School Advisory Board Committee Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Fr Kevin Dillon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au">frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Soldani</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marks@snewtown.catholic.edu.au">marks@snewtown.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Fitzgerald</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pryan40@bigpond.com.au">pryan40@bigpond.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona Fitzgerald</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dominic.degrandi@bigpond.com">dominic.degrandi@bigpond.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela De Grandi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mackays@7mail.com">mackays@7mail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kym Brooks</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kymgibson@ncable.net.au">kymgibson@ncable.net.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katey O'Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:the.clat@bigpond.com">the.clat@bigpond.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Louise Clatworthy</td>
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**BIRTHDAYS**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Sophie Doherty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th</td>
<td>Xavier Muhor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natasha Spanninga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st</td>
<td>Archie Hudson-Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Joshua McWilliam</td>
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2014 NEWTOWN CHILWELL AUSKICK PROGRAM

**SEASON COMMENCES 27TH APRIL 2014.**

**LOCATION:** ELDRERLIE RESERVE, NEWTOWN

**8.45am SUNDAY MORNINGS**

REGISTER online @ aflauskick.com.au AND SEARCH FOR NEWTOWN CHILWELL FNC


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