Dear Families

The Long weekend signals a very significant moment for our Foundation children as it marks the time when they begin their school lives full time. Yes that means no more “sleep ins” on Wednesday’s during the school term from now on. That is a luxury now left for holidays. It is hard to believe that we are at this point of the term as it seems like yesterday that we all started the new school year however if you have had the opportunity to visit the school recently you couldn’t have helped but notice the creative work that is on display along the corridors and in the classrooms. There is no doubt in my mind that these past six weeks have been packed with fantastic learning opportunities for the children. All the teachers have done a wonderful job in getting the children off to a flying start to the new year and I am grateful for the extra time and effort they give to ensure that the children in their care are happy and learning in a most positive way. I have no doubt that this year’s decision to begin the year with the opportunity for teachers to conduct one-to-one assessments with the children has greatly assisted the teachers in “hitting the ground running” so to speak. This has allowed teachers the advantage of an almost immediate approach to targeted learning and teaching from day one. Feedback from teachers has indicated the value of this opportunity and I am very appreciative of all our families who have supported this initiative with that spirit of cooperation, support and parent and teacher partnerships that is so crucial to creating the best opportunities for learning. Thank you!

Speaking of help and support I had the opportunity to get down to our athletic trials for our grade four to six children last Friday. These were held at Landy Field and the children participated in a wide range of track and field events. It was great to see all our children have a go at all the events and even greater to witness the genuine encouragement and support the children had for each other. Mr B did a great job with the coordination of the event and the big number of parents helping on the various stations, assisting the teachers and encouraging the students once again demonstrated the wonderful support our parents provide. We couldn’t do the things we are able to do without it. Once again, Thanks!

Finally, the response from families regarding the establishment of a school community garden has been terrific and I now have enough families to allocate a section of our garden beds. I will be in touch with those families with further details soon. For those who missed out this time don’t be too disappointed. You will have another opportunity next season.

God Bless you all, have a nice week and a great long weekend,

Mark.

**SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD**

The first meeting of the School Advisory board will take place tomorrow night. It will be a good opportunity to farewell and say thank you to members who have served on the board for the past two years and welcome your new representatives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing members, Fiona Fitzgerald, Sonia Mackay, Anita Thomas and Louise Clatworthy for their time, support and valued contributions over the years and welcome our new members of the Board, Carmen Morrison (F), Michael Reid (Gr1), Fiona Tayler (Gr3) and David Tarrant (Gr5). These parents will join Angela DeGrandi (Gr2), Katie O'Sullivan (Gr4) and Kym Brooks (Gr6) as your representatives and both Father Dillon and myself look forward to working with you all this year.

A reminder that your representatives on the Board are your voice so please don’t hesitate in making contact with them if you have a question or concern regarding the operations and procedures of the school.
ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Project Compassion, Week 3 - Karen – choosing food for life

Karen is a First Australian living in a remote rural community. Like many she can’t always afford or access healthy food. At the Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes Manage Your Income, Manage Your Life Program, supported by Caritas Australia, Karen gained the skills she needed to budget and choose healthy food for her family.

I learnt how to make quiche. My family loved it!" For the majority of Australians, good health and great food are part of everyday life. But the story is starkly different for First Australians living in rural communities, where low incomes, limited access to nutritious, affordable food, and poor food choices (due to lack of education) are severely compromising the health and wellbeing of families.

In Central New South Wales, sole mother-of-six Karen had limited education in life-skills such as money management, cooking, nutrition and health. Food and groceries in remote communities like Karen’s are expensive due to freight costs and limited local competition. As a result, it was very hard to stretch her Centrelink payments to afford essentials like food and rent. “I was in a lot of debt and wasn’t handling my money properly,” says Karen. “Feeding the kids was about what was easiest, not what is healthy.” Karen had never linked good budgeting habits to good food, good health and a better (less stressful) life. So, two years ago, when she enrolled in the Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes Manage Your Income, Manage Your Life Program supported by Caritas Australia, a new world opened up to her. Through a series of budgeting workshops and monthly budget planning sessions, combined with nutrition workshops and cooking activities, Karen gained the tools she needed to take control of her money and budget so she could provide regular, healthy food for her family. “I learnt how to make quiche,” says Karen. “My family loved it!” “Now my kids eat healthy and they’re willing to try new foods,” Karen says. “I want them to be healthy and strong.”

Centacare also introduced Karen to the Food Support Program, where people on low incomes can buy affordable groceries and make their dollars go further. Taking control of her finances, and learning a new range of life-skills has given Karen the ability and confidence to choose foods for a healthier life that will lead to a better future for her family.

Now my kids eat healthy and they’re willing to try new foods. I want them to be healthy and strong.”

Project Compassion at St Robert’s

This week the Grade 1 children are bringing in all their 5 cent coins to put in their Project Compassion boxes. They would like all other grades to do the same and challenge all grades to collect as many 5 cent coins as they can.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sincere sympathy to The Campbell family on the sad passing of Stewart Campbell father of Russell and Grandfather of Sophie (Gr 5/6DB). ‘Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord’ And may perpetual light shine upon him May he rest in peace. Amen

USE OF OUR PLAYGROUND AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Families are reminded that children are not permitted to use playground equipment at the end of the school day. Also the riding of bikes, scooters or skateboards is not permitted within school grounds at any time. If children are riding to or from school they must dismount before entering the school gates and likewise, at the end of the day, must not mount until they are outside school gates.
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 and 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 and issued with a late pass 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 teacher from St Robert’s collects children from this facility at approximately 8:45am each morning and walks them back to St Robert’s.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS AT ST ROBERT'S
We are sorry to have to advise parents that at this time we are not able to offer any further private music tuition during school hours. Those students who are currently having lessons with Mrs Lewis or Rebecca Hay will continue but there will not be a new music teacher to take on any other students.

DISTRIBUTION OF EXCESS STATIONARY ITEMS
As families will be aware each year St Robert’s supply all students with a new supply of basic stationary items. It has been suggested that many families may have accumulated items in excess of their needs. These items can be new or partly used. We have a parent willing to collect and distribute any stationary items not required to families who may be less fortunate than ours. If you would like to take advantage of this initiative, simply leave any items you do not require at the school office and we will ensure they are directed to a worthy recipient.

GRADE 3 PARENTS GET TOGETHER
All grade 3 parents are invited to a catch up next Wednesday morning, the 11th of March straight after school drop off, upstairs at Winters Cafe. All welcome

ST ROBERT'S PARENTS & FRIENDS EASTER EGG RAFFLE
It's that time of year again- we are asking each family to donate an Easter egg or bunny for the Easter egg raffle. Donations can be left in the baskets outside the office. A raffle book of 10 tickets (50 cents/ ticket) will be sent home to each family at the end of the week. Thanks the P & F.

SAVE THE DATE - PREP PARENTS AND NEW FAMILIES
Prep Parents and New Families to St Robert’s Come along to "Get to Know You Drinks" Cremorne Hotel - Thursday 12th March from 7.30pm. Looking forward to seeing you there, St Roberts Parents and Friends Association

WEET-BIX KIDS TRYATHOLON
WEET-CALLING ALL ST ROBERT’S STUDENTS
The Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon is coming! - 15th MARCH, 2015
More information available at http://try.weetbix.com.au/ or see Miss Claire or Mrs. Kluver

It's Food Fair time at Chilwell Primary School Friday 20th 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 JP  Tighe Morrissy
- Gr F JP  Max Burn
- Gr F CH  Samara Edwards
- Gr F CH  Noah Brame
- Gr 1JB  Alice McLeod
- Gr 1JB  Tom Hyland
- Gr 1YE  Flynn Spowart
- Gr 1YE  Katie Carroll
- Gr 2CC  Zara Goodall-Wilson
- Gr 2CC  Maggie Clatworthy
- Gr 2KT  Adam Saric
- Gr 2KT  Scarlett Cox
- Gr 3KH  Ben Groves
- Gr 3KH  Vittoria Conte
- Gr 3NF  Jake Green
- Gr 3NF  Oscar Conte
- Gr 4MA  Holly Dover
- Gr 4MA  Will Tarrant
- Gr 4MM  Tom Afford
- Gr 4MM  Chloe Lappin
- Gr 5/6DB  Lucy Spetch
- Gr 5/6DB  Sophie Doherty
- Gr 5/6PB  Laura Sanigorski
- Gr 5/6PB  Matilda Pidgeon
- Gr 5/6LO  Agnes Kim
- Gr 5/6LO  Elle Stevenson
- Gr 5/6SP  Osca Riccardi
- Gr 5/6SP  Jack Northey
- Principal  Boston Riccardi

**ST MARY’S SPORTING CLUB AUSKICK 2015**

St Mary’s Auskick will commence Friday 17th April 2015 at 5.00 pm.
Held at St Mary’s Football Ground, Kardinia Park West, La Trobe Tce., Geelong.
To register for Auskick go to: aflauskick.com.au
Enquiries to St Mary’s Auskick co-ordinator Damian McKeegan 0423 021258 or visit the St Mary’s Sporting Club website: stmaryssc.com

**BIRTHDAYS**

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

- 5th March  Harrison Clair
- 6th March  Isobel Higgins
- 7th March  Coby Williams
- 9th March  Pearl Connor
- Theresa De Grandi
- Heather Watkins
- 10th March  Ethan Spry

**Players Wanted**

Are there any Grade 4 girls who would like to play in a new basketball team in a social school competition at the Arena on Thursday Nights after school? The season starts next term. Newcomers to basketball are welcome.
If you are interested please contact Ange De Grandi on 0409 524582 Thankyou.

**2015 NEWTOWN CHILWELL AUSKICK PROGRAM**

SEASON
COMMENCES 19TH APRIL 2015.
ELDERSLIE RESERVE, NEWTOWN
8.45am SUNDAY MORNINGS.
Register online at www.aflauskick.com.au and search for NEWTOWN CHILWELL FNC
A fun, inclusive and supportive introduction to Aussie Rules Football.

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

MARCH
Thur 5th Grade 3 Excursion to Geelong CBD
St Robert’s School Advisory Board Meeting 7:30pm
Fri 6th Division Swimming Qualifying students
Mon 9th Labor Day/Public Holiday
Tues 10th Sacramental Enrolment Evening 1, 7:30-8:30pm St Mary’s Basilica
Fri 13th St Robert’s Cross Country, Gr 4-6 Eastern Gardens, all students
Thurs 19th Sacramental Enrolment Evening 2 7:30-8:30pm St Mary’s Basilica
Fri 20th National Day Against Bullying & violence-Friendship Day, Sausage Sizzle Lunch
Fri 27th Term 1 concludes
Project Compassion Disco
Final assembly for Term 1
Drawing of Easter Egg Raffle

APRIL
Fri 3rd Good Friday
Sat 4th Easter Saturday
Sun 5th Easter Sunday
Mon 13th Term 2 commences
Thurs 30th Family Activity Evening, 6:30-7:30pm, St Robert’s School (Parents and Sacramental candidates)

HOCKEY PLAYERS WANTED

School Advisory Board Committee Members
Fr Kevin Dillon
frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au  Website: www.srnnewtown.catholic.edu.au
Mark Soldani marks@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au Carmen Morrison morrison.carmen.r@edumail.vic.gov.au
David Tarrant david.tarrant4@bigpond.com Angela De Grandi dominic.degrandi@bigpond.com Fiona Tayler bftayler@people.net.au Kym Brooks kymgibson@ncable.net.au Katey O’Sullivan kateyos@bigpond.com Michael Reid emick71@bigpond.com

GEELONG CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL 2016 ENROLMENT INFORMATION:

Sacred Heart College Open Day

Tuesday 24 March 2015

Tour 1: 4pm, followed by information session 5.30pm
Tour 2: 5pm. followed by information session 6.30pm

No bookings required
For more information, please contact the Registrar, Judy Smith on 5222 0490

Sibling enrolments close Friday 20 March 2015
Closing date for general enrolments is Friday 22 May 2015
CLONARD COLLEGE
OPEN DAY
225 Church St, Herne Hill. 3218

Friday, March 20
Info session followed by tours
1.00pm & 4.30pm

Tour - See the school at work
Monday March 23th 9.15am
See website for full Open Day details

For a prospectus please call: 5278 2155
office@clonard.catholic.edu.au
www.clonard.catholic.edu.au

REGISTER ONLINE FOR OPEN DAY AT:
WWW.SJC.VIC.EDU.AU

9.00am-12.00noon or 4.00pm-6.30pm
Student guided tours during normal school program with
last tour leaving 11.30am

Tours leave every 15 minutes from the Peter
Cannon Performing Arts Centre. Parking will be
available at O’Driscoll Oval on Queens Road.
Enter via Gate 5.

• Quality Catholic education
• Strong academic focus with
  a well rounded education
• Positive outcome for all boys
• Excellent modern facilities
• Extensive VET, VCAL and School
  Based Apprenticeship program
• Shared VCE classes with Clonard
  College and Sacred Heart College

Year 7 Applications for 2016 close Friday 22 May 2015.
Limited places available for Senior School.
135 Aphanias Street, Newtown | Ph: 03 5226 8100 | E: sjcoffice@sjc.vic.edu.au

COMPASSION  INNOVATION  INTEGRITY
Saint Ignatius College Geelong

2015 OPEN DAY

Sunday March 22nd, 11am-2pm, Information sessions at 11am and 12.15pm

St. Ignatius. Inspiring me to be a leader.

Year 7 – 2016 Enrolment Applications close Friday 22nd May 2015

Online applications for Year 7 Academic Scholarships are now open
Applications close on Friday 10th April, 2015

Visit www.ignatius.vic.edu.au

Download an Enrolment Application, submit an online Academic Scholarship Application

A Jesuit Partner School

27 Peninsula Drive, Drysdale 3222
Phone: 5251 1136
Registrar: Gail Myers
Email: registrar@ignatius.vic.edu.au
IRISH FOLK FESTIVAL

WIN $1000 CASH!

11am - 4pm SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2015
BRITANNIA STREET, GEELONG WEST

*Enter the Leprechaun Drop for your chance to win. See inside for details.