Dear Families

It seems like only yesterday that I was writing the first newsletter for this term and here it is the last one for this year. I made mention of all those who have helped us out in a wide range of ways in last week’s newsletter so this week I’ll keep it short and sweet!

This morning’s Christmas Carols on the oval was a great way to begin the last day of the year. The children sang with great Christmas spirit and really did fill the air with Christmas cheer. Special thanks to Mrs Lewis who did a great job preparing the children and coordinating the show.

Also today marks the end of quite a significant era at St Robert’s with Mrs Julie Snowdon leaving us to take up a teaching position at Nazareth school. It goes without saying, but I will say it anyway, that Julie has been a fantastic teacher in her fifteen years here at St Robert’s. She has been one of the most thoughtful and selfless people I have ever had the pleasure to work with. All of us will miss the wonderful gifts she brought to our school and wish her all the very best at her new school. Good bye and Good luck Ms Julie S!

It has been a busy week for our grade sixes who will have their last day with us today. The week began with a wonderful celebration of their years at St Roberts with a special End of Primary School Years Dinner in our multi-purpose hall on Monday evening. While they were celebrating one last time as a group their parents also gathered together for a drink and chat in our “new, beaut” staffroom some of them reminiscing for the last time as well. We all finished the evening together watching a beautifully put together video of memories produced by Jacob’s mum which very fittingly culminated with the Grade six final concert performance. It most certainly brought a tear or two to the eyes of many but was a great way to finish the night. Well done to all concerned - the grade six mums who coordinated the event and the grade five mums who prepared and served on the night.

Grade Six Dinner

It’s been a great year and 2015 promises to be another one to look forward to.

Have a Great Christmas and happy holiday and we’ll see you on book collection day, 28th January 2015.

God Bless you all,

Mark.
The Season of Advent – 4th Sunday of Advent – "Behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy!"

The fourth and last Sunday of the advent season is on December 21, 2014. Again we light the candles of hope, love and joy and the fourth purple candle of peace. Christ is the Prince of peace, who comes to reconcile us with God and others. Christ helps us to see that peace is possible.

In the Fourth Week of Advent we are reminded of the angel’s words to Mary, the Virgin of Nazareth, that nothing is impossible to God. As we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath let us remember that Jesus is the light of our world. May we always trust that he will bring new hope to our troubled world.

Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

The Symbols of Advent

The Nativity

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. His birth changed the whole world -- and He can change your life today. Jesus was born in the little town of Bethlehem in Israel over 2,000 years ago; His mother was the virgin Mary. When He was born, an angel proclaimed to shepherds in the field "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord". When Jesus was born, some people welcomed Him; some ignored Him; and some rejected Him. There was no room for Him at the inn in Bethlehem, so the Son of God was laid in a manger where animals stayed. Even today, some people welcome Christ and some ignore or reject Him. Jesus came to earth to be our Savior and to die to pay the penalty for our sins. Here is how you can welcome Christ as your Lord and Savior into your life.

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Happy Birthday, Jesus! We are happy because today is your special day, you were born today, just for us. We thank you that you came from heaven to earth just for us. Thank you for all you did for us when you were here with us. You taught us how to love each other, help us to remember to be more loving. You taught us how to do the right thing, remind us that you are with us, even when we think no one is looking. We thank you that you didn't just stay a baby in a cradle but you grew up to be our savior and died on the cross for our sins. We thank you that you came alive again and went to heaven, opening a way so we can go there too, someday. Thank you for this food and for all our family and friends. Thank you for everyone who helped make this a great day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Staff of St Robert’s would like to take this opportunity to thank families for their continued support and assistance in all we do here at St Robert’s. Your wonderful input helps to make St Robert’s the very special place that it is.

‘GREGOR McLEOD DAY’

Last Friday, as a school community, we honoured the memory of Gregor with this year’s ‘Gregor McLeod Day’. Our children were invited to contribute a gold coin to our fundraiser for the ‘Very Special Kids’ charity organisation. In the true St Robert’s tradition our families generously supported this special event and, on your behalf, we have forwarded $560 to this very worthy charity. Thank you once again for the support you give to us in all that we do.

Kind Regards, Julie Prendergast
CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - ADVANCE NOTICE OF MASSES AND CEREMONIES:
All Masses and ceremonies at St. Mary’s except where specified;

**Wed. Dec. 17 at 7.30pm: Second Rite of Reconciliation:**
with six priests attending for a brief individual confession, following a communal Penitential Liturgy. Parishioners are asked to utilise this particular valuable opportunity for the sacrament, given that the many stringent demands of the pre-Christmas ceremonies (including many home visits to the sick) make the provision of additional “First Rite” ceremonies difficult in this coming week.

**Mon. Dec. 22 at 7.30pm: Memorial Mass:**
to pray for those family members and friends who have died and will be missed at Christmas. The Mass focuses especially on those people who are facing their first Christmas without a loved family member or friend. Individual names of those who have died in 2014 will be read out and placed on the screen during the Mass.

**Wed. Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve):**
Mass at St. Mary’s Basilica, 136 Yarra St. Geelong: 6pm (Children’s Choir),
8pm (Family Mass - “Mixtures” Choir),
10.00pm (in Polish), Midnight (St. Mary’s Basilica Choir).
Mass at Christ the King School Hall: 7pm.

**Thurs. Dec. 25 (Christmas Day):**
Mass at St Mary’s Basilica, 136 Yarra St., Geelong 7.30am, 9.30am (St. Mary’s Basilica Choir), 11am, 12.15pm (Polish)
Mass at St Margaret’s Church, Lomond Terrace, East Geelong: 9.45am.
NB: No Evening (5.30pm) Mass at St. Mary’s on Christmas Day.

**Boxing Day—Friday December 26: Mass at 10am** only (No Mass at 7am)

**New Year’s Eve—Wednesday December 31:**
Mass at St. Mary’s Basilica at 11pm (followed by supper in the Narthex, and a welcome to 2015).

---

**BUPA**
Last Friday our Grade 2 students walked to the Bupa Barrabool Aged Care facility in Belmont and entertained the residents singing Christmas Carols. The children presented their special friends there with a Christmas Card and a small gift of shortbreads. The children sang beautifully and St Robert’s have been invited to continue this lovely partnership between our older neighbours and our very own young students. Well done Grade 2, in the true spirit of Christmas, you were magnificent!

---

**CHRISTMAS DINNER IN GRADE 3**
On Tuesday the Grade 3 classes enjoyed a very special Christmas lunch, complete with all the traditional trimmings. The children were able to put to use the culmination of cooking and craft skills learnt throughout the year. They prepared and cooked a roast lunch, created their own table settings and decorated their own Christmas decorations. The children also hosted some special guests and a very merry time was had by all.

Well done Grade 3 you certainly put on a great spread.

---

**VIQUEQUE DONATION THANK YOU**
A special collection was taken up for our Sister Parish Mary Immaculate in East Timor at our End Of Year Thanksgiving Mass celebrated on Wednesday evening. Thanks to the generosity of our families $971.85 was collected to assist our Partner Parish, these funds will go a long way in Viqueque where each dollar can buy so much.
ONLINE BOOKINGS FOR 2015 STUDENT ASSESSMENT INTERVIEWS
Families with 2 or more children attending St Robert’s in 2015 will have received the online booking information for the 2015 Student Assessment Interviews last week. It would be an advantage for these families to make their bookings now in order to allow for these interviews to be closely grouped. Families with one child attending St Robert’s in 2015 received their information on Monday 15th December. Bookings are now open and will close on Wednesday 28th January 2015. For parents who do not have any internet access a computer kiosk will be available in the Deputy Principal’s office to enable parents to make their own bookings. For your convenience the code required is G7N4P.

GRADE 3 EVENING
All parents of both Grade 3JS and Grade 3KH are invited to an end-of-year gathering & farewell for Mrs Julie Snowdon. To be held at The City Quarter Bar on Cunningham Pier tonight, Wednesday 17th December at 7pm. A booking has been made with some additional places still available please call Donna Carroll ph/sms 0408 476 276 if you would like to join in on this special occasion.

Chilwell P.S. Outside School Hours Care
EFTPOS facility is available – for payments over $10.00.
IMPORTANT!!! With the school year coming to a close, please finalise your account by THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER to allow admin time to process. If not fully paid placement of your child in 2015 will be suspended until account is cleared. It is requested that if possible the account be kept in credit. IMPORTANT!!! We encourage families to keep their account in credit. 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.

Payment by Credit Card (for amounts $10 & over)

| Amount: | ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard | $ ............... | 3 digit Security Code: |
| Card Number: | | | |
| Cardholder’s Name: | | Expiry Date: | |
| Cardholder’s Signature: | | |
| Reason for payment | |

INFORMATION RE: COMMENCEMENT OF 2015 SCHOOL YEAR

WEDNESDAY 28th JANUARY Pay 1st Instalment payment of $450 on this day and collect books from, 11:30am until 2:00pm. (Uniform shop is not open on this day)

THURSDAY 29th JANUARY First Day of Testing 8:30am-3:30pm (Timetabled Students)

FRIDAY 30th JANUARY Second Day of Testing 8:30am-3:30pm (Timetabled Students)

MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY First day of school for all children. (Prep-Six) (Prep children finish at 12:30 pm for Monday & Tuesday)

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR FOR PREPS
All Prep students, along with students from all other classes, will commence school on Monday 2nd February. Prep children will finish at 12:30pm on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday will be a rest day. All Prep children are expected to attend school for the whole school day (9:00am-3:30pm) from Thursday 5th February with the exception of Wednesdays which is a recommended day of rest for all Prep children. This will continue for a period of five weeks. (The last rest day will be Wednesday 4th March). All prep children will be expected to attend full time – 5 days a week thereafter.
MUSIC LESSON AT ST ROBERT’S
As you know Mr Bob Stirling has retired from teaching music here at St Robert’s after many years of wonderful service. However, the school has been fortunate to secure the services of Ms Meegan Baker who, along with Mrs Theresa Lewis will be available to provide private tuition here during school hours. There will be a notice in our newsletter at the beginning of next year for any parents who wish to follow this up.

PRIVATE SINGING LESSONS WITH REBECCA HAY – BELLA VOCE
PROFESSIONAL SINGER WITH OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE, CERT 4 TAFE WORKPLACE TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT
MUSIC COORDINATOR/ SINGER AT ST. MARY’S BASILICA
OVER 12 YEARS WITH ST. MARY’S JUNIOR CHOIR, SINGING TEACHER AT ST. MARGARET’S & ST.MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOLS, VALID WWC CHECK
MUSIC TEACHER AT ST. MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

LESSONS
DURATION: 30 mins  COST: $20 per lesson (paid per term length)
Lessons will be aimed to build confidence through singing. Each child is unique, so lessons will be informative, helpful and fun, using techniques to inspire the individual students to enjoy singing and develop at their pace. Exams will not be a focus, but rather an option.

STUDENT AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students who have received certificates this week for outstanding work.
Gr 1YE  To all our class for a fantastic year
Gr 6DB  All of 6DB & 6PB for a wonderful year
Gr 6PB  Fletcher McLoughlan, Joshua Baum, Chloe Fitzgerald, Eliza Summerhayes and Jessica Santuccione for their cheerful greetings each morning

BIRTHDAYS
The St Robert’s School community wish to congratulate the following children on the celebration of their birthday this week and to the end of December. Happy Birthday to:
18th December  George Leslie
20th December  Huge Madden
26th December  Baxter Roth
28th December  Harry Segrave

DATES TO REMEMBER
Wed 17th  Christmas Sing A Long 9:15am
End of Year Assembly 2:30 pm
End of Term 4 at 3:30pm

JANUARY 2015
Wed 28th  Payment of First Instalment of 2015 Fees, 11:30am until 2:00pm
Thur 29th  First Day of Testing, 8:30am – 3:30pm, timetabled students
Fri 30th  Second Day of Testing, 8:30am – 3:30pm, timetabled students

FEBRUARY
Mon 2nd  First Day of School for all children, Foundation to Six, Foundation children finish at 12:30pm for Monday & Tuesday
Mon 14th  Foundation Photo Day

School Advisory Board Committee Members
Fr Kevin Dillon
frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au  Website: www.snewtown.catholic.edu.au
Mark Soldani  marks@snewtown.catholic.edu.au  Anita Thomas  pryan40@bigpond.com.au  Fiona Fitzgerald  fiona@ges.vic.edu.au  Angela De Grandi  dominic.degrandi@bigpond.com  Sonia Mackay mackays@7mail.com  Kym Brooks  kymgibson@ncable.net.au  Katey O’Sullivan  kateyos@bigpond.com
Louise Clatworthy  the.clat@bigpond.com