Dear Families.

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all had a good break and you’re all revitalised for what promises to be another exciting term at St Robert’s. It seems ages have passed since the school concert but the memory of another successful showcase of talent from our children is still very fresh in my mind. From all the feedback I received in the days after the event it seems that this year’s concert was one of the best, if not the best, ever. Special congratulations and thanks to Julie and Mrs Lewis for their efforts in preparing the children so well, to the teachers for their support and to all the parents who helped out with the costumes. Without everyone coming together to contribute our concert wouldn’t be the show it is. Well done!

What a difference a holiday break can make. We have come back to a very different looking school environment. What was once a bland concrete courtyard is now a greened up gathering space for children to quietly sit and enjoy each other’s company. The place looks a treat with the resurfacing of the basketball courts and some final landscaping complete. It is hard to imagine that this time last year the place looked like a demolition site before it took on the appearance of a construction site with work on the new staffroom, first aid treatment room and two top level classrooms to begin once demolition was completed. I must say the reaction from the children as they entered the school grounds on Monday morning was amazing and I got the sense that they were pretty excited about the transformation. I have no doubt that there is a sense of pride in their school amongst the children and that all the hassles and sacrifices that were endured over the course of the project particularly in the playground, were well worth it.

The first of our groups of grade six children will be celebrating their Confirmation this Sunday at St Mary’s Basilica at 11am Mass. The children have been well prepared by their teachers and I am certain they are well and truly ready to receive this important sacrament and take on board the responsibilities of the fruits and gifts that come with it. Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers this week.

**THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR THE CASSEL FAMILY**

On behalf of the St Robert’s school community I have expressed our sincere condolences to the Cassel family Angela, the two boys Zach and Sebastian who currently attend Christ the King school and grandmother Linda on the tragic loss of their son, brother and grandson Dimi. There may be some members of our school community who are unaware of the tragic circumstances during the holidays, where a fire at the family home took the most precious possession of all, the life of Dimi and destroyed everything that the family had. Our Parents for Parents group have rallied to support the family by providing meals and gifts for the children and it has been truly gratifying to see the level of support and care offered by our parents. Father Dillon has organised a bank account with Bendigo Bank where people can donate money as at this stage cash donations rather than more food would go a long way in assisting with the financial burdens that come with a tragedy of this magnitude. If families would like to make a small cash contribution they can do so directly into the following account or directly through Nola, Robyn or myself in the office.

**Bendigo Bank – Cassels Family Support Fund**

BSB- 633 000

ACC- 152954871

Have a great week, God Bless,   Mark
ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

MISSION MONTH AND ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

October is Mission Month in the Church and is dedicated to the support of the Church’s Mission activities. The focus of Mission Month 2014 is to support mission activities where children are vulnerable to violence, poverty and homelessness. We can do this through prayer, awareness-raising, advocacy and fundraising. The theme for the 2014 Mission Month Appeal is ‘When I grow up I want to be….ALIVE – Sock it to poverty’. Schools are invited to learn more about issues of mission and justice and to reach out to help children in need and to get a proper education so they can grow up to be ‘alive’.

Anti-Poverty Week (12th – 18th October) is a national campaign designed to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty around the world. Pope Francis reminds us that ‘the joy of the gospel is born of the encounter with Christ and the sharing with the poor’.

SCHOOL CONCERT DVD ORDERS
We will place our order for the 2014 School Concert DVDs this Friday, 10th October. If any family has not placed an order and would like to do so please call into the office a collect or fill out an order form. The concert DVDs are $25 each and payment will need to be made when ordered.

WALK TO SCHOOL – OCTOBER 2014
St Robert’s is excited to be taking part in VicHealth’s Walk to School from 6th to 31st October. Walk to School encourages primary school students to walk to and from school every day in October to highlight the ways walking improves children’s health and wellbeing. Walking to school is a great way to help kids achieve the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day.

We are encouraging families and students to walk to and from school as often as possible during October to help students learn healthy habits for life. You can also visit the Walk to School website for more information: www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au

There are lots of ways families can get involved. You might like to:
Walk with your child to and from school and enjoy the chance to talk, help your child learn road safety skills, and get to know the local neighbourhood together
Arrange for your child to walk with other families or friends, giving them time to socialise and share their journey
Drive part of the way to school and walk the rest, particularly if you live a long way from school, or have limited time
Mix it up – if your child enjoys riding their bike or scooter, that’s great too!

MERCY FEAST DAY
Mercy House is named for Our Lady of Mercy. Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland. Mercy Feast Day is 24th September which was during our school holidays. Members of Mercy house at St Robert’s will celebrate this Feast Day on Friday 17th October with an extended recess break and a special fruit platter morning tea.

NAPLAN RESULTS – PLEASE COLLECT
Grade Three and Grade Five NAPLAN results are now available for collection from your child’s class teacher. These reports must be handed directly to parents and will not be sent home by post or via the “class notes home” system. I encourage parents to speak with their child’s class teacher if they have questions or concerns regarding the reports. A reminder to keep the reports in a safe place once you have viewed them as they will be required for your child’s enrolment at Secondary School.
**ST MARY’S FETE – FETE DONATION COLLECTIONS, RAFFLE, AMUSEMENT RIDES & SET UP – CLEAN UP HELPERS**

**FETE RAFFLE TICKETS**
Books of raffle tickets for the Fete Raffle were sent home at the end of last term. The prizes are great with the first prize being a $2000 shopping voucher and second prize a $1000 shopping voucher and other prizes also. Tickets just $1 each. If you feel that you cannot sell your book of tickets please return them to the office early as there is no problem selling them elsewhere, we actually ran out last year!

**FETE DONATION COLLECTION:**
Donations for St Mary’s Fete – clothes, books, Bric a Brac, small furniture times, woodwork, collectables, CDs, DVDs, toys and devotional items are most welcome. The receiving point this year is the property on the corner of Portarlington Road and Moon Street, Moolap. There is a St Mary’s Fete sign on the front fence. Donations will be received on Saturdays between 9am and 11am and Sundays between 10am and 12 noon.

**SET UP – CLEAN UP HELPERS**
A letter from Fr Dillon requesting St Robert’s School community assistance with set up and clean up was sent home yesterday. Please read this information and if you are able to help with this request please return the form to the office by Tuesday 21st October, thank you in anticipation.

**AMUSEMENT RIDES – ALL DAY TICKET AMUSEMENT RIDES ALL DAY TICKETS**
Fete: 9 am to 4 pm, Rides: 10 am to 4 pm, 1st November
Once again we will be presenting the totally revamped Amusement Rides which were so successful last year at our Fete. Families have the opportunity to pre-purchase an All-Day ticket for the amusement rides. The cost when pre-purchased is $20 (cash only) or $25 if purchased at the Fete. The system is that a receipt is given at school and this is redeemed for a wristband at the Fete. The wristband allows unlimited entry to all rides throughout the day with the exception of the Harley Rides ($6) and one ticket to the Hook A Duck.

Individual costs of rides on the day are as follows:

- Animal Farm: $2
- Hook A Duck: $2
- Jurassic Park Inflatable: $4
- Music Trip: $6
- Giant Slide: $2
- Jumping Castle (small): $4
- Tea Cups Ride: $4
- Rock Climbing Wall: $6

If you would like to pre-purchase an all-day ticket please call into the office or return the form below by Thursday 31st October:

**DERBY DAY FETE AMUSEMENT RIDES – ALL DAY TICKETS**

Name: .................................
Class: ................................. Number of Tickets: ........................
Payment Enclosed: ........................
ADVANCED NOTICE FOR THE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR - 2015

PREP CHILDREN

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.

Thursday 29th and Friday 30th January have been set aside for planning and personalised student assessment tasks to be carried out by your child’s 2015 class teacher. The opportunity for families to log on and register a time for the assessment tasks will be made available online in the last weeks of this school year. It is our hope to accommodate families with multiple children in multiple grades at the same time. It is anticipated that the assessment tasks will take one and a half hours to complete. More details regarding this, and instructions on how to register a time, will come as we draw closer to the end of the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM DATES 2015</th>
<th>TERM DATES 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Term 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>29th January – 27th March</td>
<td>13th April – 26th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Jan 29th &amp; 30th Student Assessment Days)</td>
<td>Students begin February 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students begin February 2nd</td>
<td><strong>Term 3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Term 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Term 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13th July – 18th September</td>
<td>5th October – 16th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students begin February 2nd</td>
<td>3rd October to 16th December (TBC)</td>
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STUDENT AWARDS

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

Gr F CC  Madeleine Dover
Gr F CC  Jonathan Leong
Gr F JP  Molly D’Andria
Gr F JP  Xavier Bourke
Gr F JP  Cooper Kennedy
Gr 1MC  Monteya Criscione
Gr 1MC  Zara Goodall-Wilson
Gr 1YE  Maggie Clatworthy
Gr 1YE  Archer Richards
Gr 2KT  Zachary Berger
Gr 2KT  Sam Washington
Gr 2LO  Harry Hardy
Gr 2LO  Harry Segrave
Gr 3KH  Amelia Corneby
Gr 3KH  Olivia Trehowan
Gr 3JS  Morrissey Roth
Gr 3JS  Josh Power
Gr 4MA  Ayden Maslja
Gr 4MA  Viktoriah Patterson-McCosh
Gr 4MM  Sam Bowden
Gr 4MM  Alice Pretty
Gr 6DB  Tilly Pretty

Gr 6DB  Chloe Cook

BIRTHDAYS

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

Happy Birthday to:

9th October  Angus Madden
10th October  Molly D’Andria
11th October  Agnes Kim
12th October  Alexander Pitman
14th October  Evelyn Adamko

GEELONG CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY

A reminder to families that Wednesday 22nd October is the Geelong Cup Public Holiday and therefore is a student free day at St Robert’s.
Chess Coaching

Free lesson Friday 10th in the chapel
Where: School Chapel
When: Friday lunchtimes
17th Oct – 12th December 2014
Cost: $85 (discount $75 for 2nd sibling)
Benefits: Strategic thinking, improved self esteem, attention
span in class, lateral thinking, team work, analytical skills.

To enrol your child please make payment (per child) of $85
by Friday 17th payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd” For
more info contact Phil on 0421 901 530
Forward this section in an envelope marked “Chess
Coaching” with your payment to your school office.

Child’s Full Name:
____________________
Grade: ___________ Phone:___________
School: __________________
Email:

Payment Due: Friday 17th

CHEQUES: made payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”
EFT: Acc Name: Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd
Bank: CBA bsb: 063201 Acc #: 1004 9289 (please put school
initials & child’s name on transaction)

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER
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 pryans40@bigpond.com.au Fiona
Fitzgerald fionaf@ggs.vic.edu.au Angela De Grandi dominic.degrandi@bigpond.com Sonia Mackay
mackays@7mail.com Kym Brooks kvymgbson@ncable.net.au Katey O’Sullivan kateyos@bigpond.com
Louise Clatworthy the.clat@bigpond.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thur 9th</td>
<td>Confirmation Preparation. 9am to 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 12th</td>
<td>Confirmation, 11:00am St Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 14th</td>
<td>Region Track &amp; Field, (Qualifying students only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 16th</td>
<td>Bellarine Division Basketball, (Qualifying students only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17th</td>
<td>Confirmation 5:30pm and 7:30pm, St Mary’s Basilica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 21st</td>
<td>Grade 1 Prayers in Pyjamas 6:00pm to 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 22nd</td>
<td>Geelong Cup Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 23rd</td>
<td>School Advisory Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 27th</td>
<td>Foundation 2015 Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 28th</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting 7:30pm</td>
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NOVEMBER

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 1st</td>
<td>Derby Day Fete, 9am to 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10th</td>
<td>Student Free Day – Report Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 20th</td>
<td>St Robert’s Annual Sports Day. 1:30pm to 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 24th</td>
<td>New Family Information Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21st</td>
<td>Wine and Cheese Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 27th</td>
<td>State Boys/Mixed Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 29th</td>
<td>St Mary’s Parish Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 30th</td>
<td>St Mary’s Parish Mission</td>
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DECEMBER

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 1st Dec</td>
<td>Senior Swimming commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 2nd</td>
<td>St Mary’s Parish Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 4th</td>
<td>St Robert’s School Advisory Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 5th</td>
<td>End of Year Reports distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th</td>
<td>Orientation Day, grade 6 students attend their 2015 schools, other</td>
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<td></td>
<td>students in 2015 classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 10th</td>
<td>End of Year Mass, 6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12th</td>
<td>Senior Swimming concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 15th</td>
<td>Grade 6 Farewell Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 16th</td>
<td>Grade 6 Excursion, Adventure Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17th</td>
<td>End of Term 4 at 3:30pm</td>
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