Dear Families

Here we are into the third week of term and strange as it may seem only six weeks until our first term break. Thankfully the children and their teachers have all settled beautifully and are well and truly off and running in the learning stakes with plenty of activities keeping them busy in the classrooms. Already the rooms are displaying some great quality work and my short visits to the different classes have given me a fair idea that the children are all keen and doing their very best.

It has been a fantastic start to the year. Our new Foundation children have once again settled into school life without a “Hiccup” and seem really pleased to be here. It hasn’t taken them long to realize that learning is fun and that school is a great place to be.

Monday’s whole school assembly was a special one for our year sixes who were presented with their “Senior Six” caps. I look forward to working closely with this year’s leaders who have already, in such a short time, demonstrated some great leadership qualities particularly in the genuine care and attention they are providing their Foundation Buddies but also in the manner in which they have been offering support around the school. Congratulations!

Finally, don’t forget the Family Fish’n’Chip Night next Wednesday from 5.00pm till about 8.00pm. It is always a great way to start the year with very little fuss required - just something to eat, something to drink and perhaps something to sit on. Too easy! Hope to see you all there.

God Bless you all and have a nice week, Mark.

ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

The Feast Day of Lourdes, one of our houses here at St Robert’s is today, Wednesday 11th February. Children in Lourdes House will celebrate with an extended play and special morning tea this Friday, 13th February. Lourdes members may wear something red with their uniform on this day.

One of the most famous of all Mary’s apparitions was the appearances to a young 14 year old peasant girl. On 8 December 1854, Pope Pius XI proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. A little more than three years later a young Lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous which began a series of visions with the Lady finally identifying herself with the words “I am the Immaculate Conception”. The oldest daughter of one of the poorest families in the town, Bernadette was sickly growing up. One day when collecting wood her friends went off ahead of her and after hearing a sound like the wind turned to see a beautiful Lady dressed in white with a rosary hanging from her arm and standing in a small grotto in the rock. The Lady smiled at her and beckoned her to approach and they prayed the rosary together. Then she disappeared. When Bernadette told her mother she was not believed however on 18 February she returned to the grotto. The Lady told her to drink from it and to wash herself in it. That spring is still there today. Many people go to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes and take away Lourdes water. Many people have also been healed of all kinds of illnesses when they have visited the Shrine. Our Lady appeared to Bernadette 18 times. Finally on 25 March, the Lady told Bernadette “I am the Immaculate Conception”. Bernadette didn't know what these words meant, but she carefully remembered them and repeated them to herself so that she would remember them correctly. She went straight to the priest's house and repeated the words to the village priest. He knew what they meant and was very surprised. The Immaculate conception means that Mary was created in her mother's womb and born without sin. Mary is the only person in the whole world, besides Jesus who was born without Original Sin. Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing with millions of
people having visited there. Church authorities have recognised 60 miraculous cures. But many more have returned to their homes with renewed faith.

**ASH WENDESDAY AND COMMENCEMENT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR MASS**

Next Wednesday we will come together to celebrate Ash Wednesday and the Commencement of the School Year with whole school Mass. Mass will be celebrated at 2:00pm in the Chapel. Families are most welcome to join us, however seating will be limited.

**2015 St Robert’s School Staff**

**LEADERSHIP TEAM:**
Mr Mark Soldani  Principal
Mrs Annice Lappin  Deputy Principal
Ms Julie Prendergast  Religious Education Co-Ordinator
Ms Marie Monea  Learning and Teaching Co-Ordinator

**OTHER LEADERS:**
Mrs Mandy Amezdroz  Numeracy Co-Ordinator
Mrs Deborah Boland  Literacy Co-Ordinator
Mr Paul Broekman  Sport Co-Ordinator

**CLASSROOM TEACHERS:**
Ms Julie Prendergast  FJP
Ms Chelsea Hardcastle  F CH
Mrs Bridgette Henderson  Gr 1JB
Mrs Jenny Coverdale  Gr 1JB
Ms Yvonne Erwin  Gr 1YE
Ms Carolyn Colman  Gr 2CC
Mrs Krissy Thompson  Gr 2KT
Ms Nikki Fiesley  Gr 3NF
Mrs Kate Haas  Gr 3KH
Mrs Mandy Amezdroz  Gr 4MA
Ms Marie Monea  Gr 4MM
Mrs Deborah Boland  Gr 5/6DB
Mr Paul Broekman  Gr 5/6PB
Mr Lucas Oddo  Gr 5/6LO
Mrs Sandra Presa  Gr 5/6SP

**SPECIALIST TEACHERS:**
Ms Cathrine Day  Library
Mrs Louise Kluver  Physical Education F-3 and Reading Recovery
Mrs Maria Kristiansen  Literacy Support Year 2 and Co-Ordinators Release
Mrs Claire Lappin  Physical Education 3-6, and Co-Ordinators Release
Mrs Theresa Lewis  Music, and Co-Ordinators Release
Mrs Pam Niewman  ITC
Mrs Santi Sherry  LOTE (Indonesian)

**LEARNING ASSISTANTS/INTEGRATION AIDES:**
Mrs Phil Dodds  Mrs Tania Durante
Ms Jo Downie  Ms Katrina Fanning
Ms Paulette Faulkner  Mrs Pep Morrison – First Aid Officer
Mrs Dianne Nolan  Mrs Sally Soldani
Joan Saltamacchia  Mrs Rhonda Sullivan
Mrs Raquel van Arend

**OFFICE PERSONELL:**
Robyn Gannon
Nola Schwidlewski
**FISH ‘N’ CHIP NIGHT**
Next Wednesday, 18th February, our now famous Fish ‘N’ Chip Night will take place on our school oval starting at around 5pm. Despite the title please feel free to bring any type of food you like, however, be mindful that it is Ash Wednesday. This is a great way to start the year and a chance to catch up and meet other families in a fun and relaxed way. Hope to see you all there on Wednesday.

**ST ROBERT'S NEWSLETTER**
Newsletters are emailed to families each Wednesday. If for some reason you do not receive a Newsletter it may be that we do not have your current email address. The simplest way to rectify this is to send an email to the office and we will then record your correct email address. Please send your email address to: nolas@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au

**WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES**
Our first whole school assembly for 2015 was held on Monday. Assemblies will at 3:00pm every second Monday unless otherwise advised.

**IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE**
This year we have a number of students who suffer serious health consequences when exposed to gastro viruses. For one of our Foundation students, any episode of gastro is of major concern, requiring hospital treatment and a protracted recovery. It can, and has been, a life-threatening event. To assist with risk management, we ask that:

- Children who have suffered from gastroenteritis **NOT be sent back to school until at least 24 hours after** their final bout of vomiting, or episode of diarrhoea, regardless of how well they seem, or how bored they are!
- Parents notify the school of any outbreak of gastroenteritis as soon as possible, so that we can pass this information on to families of high-risk students.

Thank-you for your ongoing cooperation with this important matter; we truly appreciate your support with our risk management and harm minimisation strategies.

Julie Prendergast

**ST ROBERT'S IS A WATER ONLY SCHOOL**
A reminder to families that St Robert’s is a water only school and we ask that children do not bring packaged drinks to school.

**ST ROBERT'S PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**
Please be advised that first P&F meeting for 2015 is scheduled for Tuesday 24th February. The meeting will be held in the staffroom at 7.30pm. The P&F hold regular monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of each month. All welcome – particularly new parents to the school who would like to know more about what the P&F do throughout the year.

**UNIFORM SHOP UPDATE**
We are seeking volunteers to assist in the school uniform shop. If you are able to dedicate a couple of hours of your time on a Wednesday or Friday morning (once a month) please contact Donna Carroll on 0408476276. A reminder that the uniform shop is open Wednesday and Friday morning 8.45am to 9.30am.

**GATE FOBS**
For the safety and security of all our students all gates accessing the playground will be locked between 9:15am and 3:15pm each day. Parents wishing to access the school between these hours are asked to enter the school through the Nicholas Street front door. Families can purchase a gate Fob if they prefer to have access through the gates. These fobs will allow entry through the gates from 8:30am to 4:30pm on school days. If you chose to take up this option we ask that you ensure the gates are securely locked after you have entered. The fob can be purchased from the office and the cost is $10. The fob will only operate on gates and do not allow access to any doors.

Families are reminded that all gate fobs issued prior to 2015 will need to be updated on the ‘hot spot’ just outside the front door. This is necessary as we have now set up the 2015 calendar.
PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS @ ST ROBERT’S
As you may know, Mr Bob Stirling who was providing private instrumental lessons here during school hours, retired at the end of last year. We had hoped to have a replacement teacher ready to go for the beginning of this year but due to unforeseen circumstances this has not happened. In the meantime we are exploring other options and hoping to find somebody to take on this role. Mrs Lewis is continuing to offer private piano lessons but at the moment is fully booked and unfortunately unable to offer places to any new students. Hopefully we will have an update with news of a new teacher very soon.

STUDENT AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students who have received certificates this week for outstanding work.
Gr F JP Tom O’Sullivan
Gr F JP Sonny Cox
Gr F CH Indiah Madden
Gr F CH Brodie Whelan
Gr 1YE Jonathan Leong
Gr 1YE Lyle Williamson
Gr 2CC Maia Kanellos
Gr 2CC Christopher Watkins
Gr 2KT Kai D’Orsa
Gr 2KT Xavier Starling
Gr 2KT Georgia Caracella
Gr 2KT Joseph Afford
Gr 3KH Ali Zappone
Gr 3KH Louis Layton
Gr 4MA Henry Beggs
Gr 4MA Jack Johnson
Gr 4MM Sophie Walker
Gr 4MM Morrissey Roth
Gr 5/6DB Jessica Tarrant
Gr 5/6DB Lucy Richmond
Gr 5/6PB William Bourke
Gr 5/6PB Ella Maskell
Gr 5/6LO Jacob Finn
Gr 5/6LO Olivia Wicks
Gr 5/6SP Jessica Kelly
Gr 5/6SP Indi Ryan

BIRTHDAYS
The St Robert’s School community wish to congratulate the following children on the celebration of their birthday. Happy Birthday to:
12th February Belle Goodall-Wilson
14th February Charlotte De Grandi
16th February Zachary Berger
17th February Nicholas Anglin

DATES TO REMEMBER
FEBRUARY
Wed 11th Year One Parent Information Night 6:pm in your child’s classroom
Thur 12th Year 4 BYOD Parent Meeting, 7pm, St Robert’s Community Centre
Mon 16th Foundation Photo Day
Tues 17th Grade 2 Information Night 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Wed 18th Ash Wednesday Mass, 2pm
Fri 20th & Fish ‘N’ Chip Night 5pm
& Mon 23rd Excursion to Parliament House Grades 5/6 (Please note change of date to Monday 23rd)
Tues 24th P&F Meeting 7:30pm in staffroom
Fri 27th St Robert’s Athletic Trials, all students Gr 4-6, Landy field

MARCH
Mon 9th Labor Day – Public Holiday
Tues 10th Sacramental Enrolment Evening 1
Fri 13th St Robert’s Cross Country, all students Gr 4-6, East Gardens,
Thur 19th Sacramental Enrolment Evening 2
Fri 27th End of Term 1

APRIL
Fri 3rd Good Friday
Sat 4th Easter Saturday
Sun 5th Easter Sunday
Mon 13th Term 2 commences

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 Anita Thomas pryan40@bigpond.com.au Fiona
Fitzgerald fionaf@ggs.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
GEELONG ACTIVE STREETS
Community walking and riding event
Saturday 21 February 2015

Geelong Active Streets is an exciting and vibrant walking and riding event within the heart of central Geelong. Ride the temporary bike loop in the city centre and enjoy fun activities along the way or dance the streets in the silent disco tour.

For more information: www.geelongaustralia.com.au/healthygeelong
Enquiries: healthycommunities@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

RIDE THE TEMPORARY BIKE ROUTE IN CENTRAL GEELONG
Bring your bike and explore the sights of central Geelong! Follow the creative and colourful way-finding signs and you will find free family-friendly activities, water stations and bike parking.

Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Locations: See website for map and designated meeting points

Interested in volunteering at this event?
Email alex.mangel@codeignitestudio.com.au or call (03) 9417 0820

DANCE THE STREETS IN THE SILENT DISCO WALKING TOUR
Dance your way through central Geelong with a guided tour that includes a dance mix from the 70's, 80's & 90's. Including:
- spontaneous Flash Mob dancing
- interpretative dancing near local landmarks
- lots of crazy improv that is guaranteed to open the 'laughter meridians'
- hilarious commentary

Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm
Location: Meet at GPAC
50 Little Malop St

Get in quick, Limited to 60 places.
Book here: http://www.trybooking.com/GTXR

BIKE VALET PARKING
FREE supervised bike parking at GPAC
Leave your wheels in safe hands while you participate in Geelong Active Streets and Sustainable Living Festival Geelong “Big Weekend” activities, shop and explore the city. Bookings not required.

Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Location: GPAC
50 Little Malop St

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