Dear Families

I couldn’t help but be moved by Father Dillon’s piece on the front page of last Sunday’s Parish bulletin in which he spoke of the plight of Will Murray the 14 year old whose life changed forever on January 17 this year. For those of you who were unable to attend Mass on Sunday, Father Spoke off Will, who seriously injured his spinal cord doing what so many kids of his age have done, jumping of a pier. Will is now a quadriplegic and friends and family have launched a campaign to raise funds to help with the huge costs needed for his lifelong rehabilitation and care.

About four years ago Father asked the people of St Mary’s to “pay” $1 to leave Mass (at the end of course) as a show of support for a footballer from Leongatha, who had been left a quadriplegic following an on-field collision. With no insurance to assist him people all over Victoria including the people at St Mary’s pitched in to help and our parish gave around $4,000 to assist his rehabilitation and asked other parishes to pitch in as well, around $12,000 was eventually raised. As Father pointed out in the bulletin the family of that footballer, Beau Vernon, believe that the efforts of so many individuals and groups who supported Beau were of enormous benefit in affirming this extraordinary young man and assisting him to find the motivation to build a new life. Beau is now married, has a full time job and is now coaching his former team. In our own small way I’d like to think we made a difference then and we can do it again for young Will and his family. So here is my call to help Father and St Mary’s Parish do it again.

If you didn’t have the chance on Sunday to contribute I am asking you to give a “Gold Coin for Will”. Like Beau he has a loving family but he his parents and siblings, will need all the support, prayers and practical help possible. “Little things mean a lot” and I know that our St Robert’s community can rally again, as it has done so many occasions when called upon to do so, to offer this family a hand friendship, support and encouragement to make a difference. Just knowing that people, who are complete strangers, care can be a great comfort and motivation for them all. “With My Two Hands” we can make a difference! Your children will know what this means.

If you are willing to contribute to the “Gold Coin for Will” simply place your donation in an envelope and drop it into the office tomorrow, or you can have your child hand it to their class teacher. I will collect it all and take it up to Father on Friday. To quote Father’s words from the bulletin, “The funds are important. But the message to a young, vital teenager that his life has meaning and that he has a genuine future is a critical part of what we can do.”

God Bless you all and have great week, Mark

CONGRATULATIONS
We extend our congratulations to Seona and Cam Mooney on the safe arrival of ‘Frankie’ sister for Jagger (Gr 3KH), Billi (Gr 1KH) and Stevie.

ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

To give Drink to the Thirsty

Science tells us that water is the stuff of life; it is vital for all living organisms and about 60 per cent of the average adult’s body weight is water. No wonder then that our faith sees ‘water’ as a divine symbol of God’s life in us and urges us to ‘give water’ physically and spiritually to others. “All water is holy water!”

There is a strong connection between a spiritual thirst, prayer and encountering Christ today. Mother Teresa put it well when, after four hours at prayer, she once said to a gathering of people: “Jesus wants me to tell you again how much is the love he has for each one of you – beyond all what you can imagine. Not only that he
loves you; even more – he longs for you. He misses you when you don’t come close. He thirsts for you. He loves you always, even when you don’t feel worthy. Why does Jesus say ‘I thirst’? What does it mean? Something so hard to explain in words. ‘I thirst’ is something much deeper than just Jesus saying ‘I love you’. Until you know deep inside that Jesus thirsts for you, you can’t begin to know who he wants to be for you. Or who he wants you to be for him.” (Letter to the Missionaries of Charity, Easter, 1993.)

**Thirst**

Another morning and I wake with thirst for the goodness I do not have. I walk out to the pond and all the way God has given us such beautiful lessons. Oh Lord, I was never a quick scholar but sulked and hunched over my books past the hour and the bell; grant me, in your mercy, a little more time. Love for the earth and love for you are having such a long conversation in my heart. Who knows what will finally happen or where I will be sent, yet already I have given a great many things away, expecting to be told to pack nothing, except the prayers which, with this thirst, I am slowly learning. —Mary Oliver Reflections on the Works of Mercy

**SCHOOL STAFF COMMISSIONING**

The teachers and staff from our four Primary Schools - St. Mary’s, St. Robert’s, Christ the King and St. Margaret’s will receive a special blessing and “commissioning” at the 11a.m. Mass on Sunday, 21st February. We give prayerful thanks for their skill, commitment in preparing the children of our parish for the challenges of life and the education in Faith which they provide. All families are invited to attend.

**SHROVE TUESDAY DONATIONS**

Thank you for your generous gold coin donations for Shrove Tuesday $300 was raised on that day.

**2016 St Robert’s School Staff**

**LEADERSHIP TEAM:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Mr Mark Soldani</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal</td>
<td>Mrs Julie Prendergast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Wellbeing and Student Services</td>
<td>Mr Nathan Owen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy and Junior Co-ordinator, (Mentor and Learning Coach)</td>
<td>Ms Marie Monea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal</td>
<td>Mrs Krissy Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious Education Leader</td>
<td>Mrs Mandy Amezdroz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Numeracy and Year Three to Six Co-ordinator, (Mentor and Learning Coach)</td>
<td>Mrs Deborah Boland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Co-ordinator and Technology Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Ms Chelsea Hardcastle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Mrs Yvonne Erwin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms Carolyn Colman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms Nikki Fiesley</td>
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<td>Mr Lucas Oddo</td>
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<td>Ms Catherine Day</td>
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<td>Mrs Louise Kluver</td>
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<td>Mrs Claire Lappin</td>
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<td>Mrs Theresa Lewis</td>
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<td>Mrs Pam Niewman</td>
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<td>Mrs Santi Sherry</td>
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**CLASSROOM TEACHERS:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gr 1YE</td>
<td>Ms Lauren Menchise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 1KH</td>
<td>Mrs Kate Haas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr 2CC</td>
<td>Mrs Krissy Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr 2KT</td>
<td>Mrs Bridgette Henderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr 3JB</td>
<td>Mrs Jenny Coverdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr 4MA</td>
<td>Ms Marie Monea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 4MM</td>
<td>Mr Paul Broekman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 5/6DB</td>
<td>Mr Lucas Oddo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr 5/6PB</td>
<td>Ms Sandra Presa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr 5/6LO</td>
<td>Ms Chelsea Hardcastle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr 5/6SP</td>
<td>Mrs Yvonne Erwin</td>
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**SPECIALIST TEACHERS:**

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning Support Grades 1, 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Ms Catherine Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Education F-3 and Reading Recovery</td>
<td>Mrs Louise Kluver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education 3-6, and Co-Ordinators Release</td>
<td>Mrs Claire Lappin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music, and Co-Ordinators Release</td>
<td>Mrs Theresa Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITC</td>
<td>Mrs Pam Niewman</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOTE (Indonesian)</td>
<td>Mrs Santi Sherry</td>
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LEARNING ASSISTANTS/INTERGRATION 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 PERSONEL:
Josie Grasso and Nola Schwidlewski

ATHLETICS THIS FRIDAY
We are looking forward to a great day of athletics this Friday (Grades 4 to 6). Please check out the Running Sheet Poster on the Mervyn Street glass door near the staffroom.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
Tuesday 23rd February will be a School Closure/Student Free Day. St Robert’s staff will join staff from other Catholic Primary Schools for a Professional Development Day - ‘The Big Write’.

PARENTS AND FRIEND MEETING FEBRUARY 2016
The first Parents and Friends Association Meeting for 2016 will be held next Tuesday 23rd February at 7:30pm in the staff room. We welcome all families to attend to learn how you can get involved in the fantastic school community of St Robert’s.

Treasurer required for Parents and Friends Association. This role requires attending monthly P&F meetings, managing incoming and outgoing expenses (excel spreadsheet fine), and banking money. If you are interested or want more information please contact Donna Carroll 0408 476 276 or Jackie Caracella 0411716009.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)
The CSEF will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per primary student is $125.

CSEF is applicable for all year levels not just those that attend a school camp. This can be used to cover items that are part of school fees such as Excursion Levy, Swimming Levy, sporting Activities and Camp. Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef or contact Nola at the school office. The CSEF replaces the Education Maintenance Allowance.

NCFNC JUNIOR NETBALL UNDER 9 & UNDER 11 TEAMS
NCFNC is looking for any netball players who are wanting to play club level junior netball in Under 9 or Under 11 teams this 2016 Winter Season. Club netball is the next step for juniors who have basic netball skills from Net Set Go programs or playing in a school or friend team. Our Under 9 & Under 11 teams do not trial; players will be placed in squads that aim to offer not just the development of their netball skills, but also make their experience enjoyable. All games will be played in the GFNL Winter Season competition with games played on TUESDAY NIGHTS at Kardinia Park Netball Courts. Season runs from April to September including some of school holidays. First game will be TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2016. All training will commence WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2016 and every WEDNESDAY after that for duration of season; times to be confirmed and subject to court availability and coaches discretion. The first 2 weeks will be group training sessions by age group to see everyone’s skills and we will then finalise teams after 2 weeks. For further details email Lee Doherty, Junior Netball Coordinator lee.doherty@bigpond.com or text 0430 369 600.

CareMonkey IS COMING…CareMonkey is an online program used to collect and maintain medical information, emergency contacts and permission forms from members and employees. The process of collecting the information is automated, enabling organisations to easily follow up and remind members, so administrators no longer have to do it manually.

More detailed information will be delivered shortly
SCHOOL BANKING
Please note due to the school closure day next Tuesday 23rd February the school banking will take place on Wednesday 24th February for this week only. Foundation children make leave their books at the office on Monday if they wish to bank this week. Thank you Corinne and Michelle

St Joseph’s Football & Netball Club
Registration Day

St Joseph’s Football & Netball Club Inc.

Junior Football, Little League, Auskick, Netball and NetSetGO

Sunday 21st February 10am - 12pm at St Joeys clubrooms: Drew Reserve, Hilltop Road, Herne Hill

This year we are also establishing two girls footy teams in U12s (8-12 years) and Youth (13-17 years) with two ‘come and try days’ on 21st & 28th February from 10am - 11.45am at Drew Reserve. Club appaer will be available to try on and order on the day.

For further details contact:
Football: stjoeysjuniorfooty@gmail.com
Netball: stjoeysjuniornetball@gmail.com

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

Gr F CH Aaliyah and Conor
Gr F LM Annabelle and James
Gr 1KH Lucy and Roderick
Gr 1YE Tayla and Tighe
Gr 2CC Georgia and Tilly
Gr 2KT Will and Cooper
Gr 3NF Cate and Lachlan
Gr 3JB Joseph a and Georgia C
Gr 4MA Chloie and Matthew
Gr 4MM Millie and Ewan
Gr 5/6PB Jack and Henry
Gr 5/6DB The Whole Class – they are amazing!
Gr 5/6LO Sam and Tess

BIRTHDAYS

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

17th February Nicholas
19th February Chloe, Jakob, Sara and Hannah
20th February Eliza
21st February Elizbeth, Maya, Summer & Laura
22nd February Benjamin

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY
Fri 19th St Robert’s Athletic Trials Gr 4-6
Tues 23rd Staff In-service Day – The Big Write – School closure day

MARCH
Fri 4th Geelong Swimming Carnival, Kardinia Pool
Tues 8th Sacramental Enrolment Evening 1, 7pm at St Mary’s Basilica
Wed 9th District Swimming – Qualifying students
Fri 11th St Robert’s Cross Country, Gr 4-6
Mon 14th Labor Day Public Holiday
Tues 15th Foundation Transition Interviews
Wed 16th Sacramental Enrolment Evening 2, 7pm at St Mary’s Basilica
Thu 17th Foundation Transition Interviews

APRIL
Mon 11th Term s commences

Fr Kevin Dillon frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au Website: www.srnwetown.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 bftaylor@people.net.au Kym Brooks kymgibson@ncable.net.au Katey O’Sullivan
kateyos@bigpond.com