Dear Families

Last week I mentioned the fact that our grade sixes and their teachers were heading off to Camp Kangarooibie. I am pleased to report that they had a great time, were very well behaved and returned home from the three days away from the comforts of home, safe and sound. Once again, a big thankyou to our teachers; Mrs Boland, Mr Broekman, Mrs Lappin, Mrs Kluver and Tania for making the experience possible. Without their willingness to take on the added responsibilities, that go hand in hand with taking a large group of children away for a couple of nights, some experiencing their first time away from their families, would simply not be possible. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank their families for lending them to us. An unfortunate clash of dates meant all but two of our year sixes, Charlie Lazaro and Tanner Bruhn, did not attended camp this year. Charlie and Tanner were selected to represent Victoria in the National Primary Schools AFL Football Championships in Sydney. Both boys were part of a 25 member, 12 years and under squad that took on representative teams from all the other States and Territories. In case you haven’t caught up with the results published in an article in yesterday’s Geelong Advertiser, Victoria won the 12 years and under title and I am told that both our boys performed admirably and were great ambassadors for our school. Well done boys we are very proud of your achievement.

Have a great week and God Bless,

Mark

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**ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

*The Strength of Love - What the tragedy of MH17 taught me*

I had a really rough day with my kids today. One of those days that seems filled with yelling. Theirs and mine.

I yelled at them because it took them thirty minutes to eat half a piece of toast each this morning. I yelled at them for antagonising each other in the car. I yelled at my son for throwing the ball in the house near the television and I yelled at my daughter for refusing to get out of the shower.

About an hour ago I kissed them goodnight, tucked them in and like every other night that has come before this one I said, as if it were one long word, “goodnight, love you, have a good sleep, see you in the morning”. As I settled back into work/procrastination mode at my desk, I found myself reading the statement that Anthony Maslin and Marite Norris released following the death of their three children, Mo, Evie and Otis Maslin and their grandfather, Nick Norris on flight MH17. It was one of the most harrowing and beautiful things I have read in my life. It was an honest and dignified message of love in the eyes of an ugly, hateful act.

*Our pain is intense and relentless. We live in a hell beyond hell.*

*Our babies are not here with us – we need to live with this act of horror, every day and every moment for the rest of our lives.*

*No one deserves what we are going through.*

*Not even the people who shot our whole family out of the sky.*

*No hate in the world is as strong as the love we have for our children, for Mo, for Evie, for Otis.*

*No hate in the world is as strong as the love we have for Grandad Nick.*

*No hate in the world is as strong as the love we have for each other.*
This is a revelation that gives us some comfort.

We would ask everyone to remember this when you are making any decisions that affect us and the other victims of this horror.

So far, every moment since we arrived home, we’ve been surrounded by family and friends. We desperately pray that this continues, because this expression of love is what is keeping us alive. We want to continue to know about your lives, all the good and all the bad. We no longer have lives that we want to live by ourselves.

So we’d like to take the chance to thank everyone, all our incredible friends, family and communities, and to tell you all that we love you very much.

We would also like to thank the people at DFAT; the local coordinator Claire and most sincerely, Diana and Adrian from The Hague, without whom we would not be here.

We ask the media to respect the privacy of our family and friends – pain is not a story.

Yours truly, Anthony Maslin & Marite Norris.

I immediately went back upstairs and lay next to my sleeping daughter and cried into her hair. I went into my son’s room, lay beside him and drank in his bedtime breath.

I cried for every person on board flight MH17. I cried for their families and their friends; for the grief that they will carry with them for the rest of their days. I cried for Anthony Maslin and Marite Norris who have so violently lost their three children; denied the chance to lay beside them and breathe their breath. Smell their hair. Say goodnight.

Most of all, I cried tears of gratitude that for tonight, my babies are safe with me. I hope that on some level Anthony Maslin and Marite Norris are aware of the love and support of the world around them. I hope that they, along with every other family who lost a loved one that day, know that they are in our thoughts and our prayers. I hope that they can take some comfort in knowing that in our communities, or country and the world over, their little darlings will never, ever be forgotten.

Melissa Imbesi

WELLBEING

‘Healthy Together’ - Victorian Health Achievement Program

St. Robert’s School is an active member of the ‘Healthy Together’ health achievement program. This program has been developed to improve individual and public health across the state, and hopefully across the nation!

Our school is in an excellent position to rapidly achieve recognition in the eight categories named in this program, due to extensive efforts by our school community in the area of health and wellbeing during the past eight years. We have long been committed to being a ‘health promoting school’, and achieved recognition for our efforts under the previous ‘Kids – Go For Your Life’ health promotion scheme.

The areas for achievement are: *healthy eating and oral health; *physical activity; *mental health and wellbeing; *safe environments; *sun protection; *tobacco control; *alcohol and other drugs; *sexual health and wellbeing.

We are currently in the process of applying for advanced recognition in four areas: healthy eating and oral health, physical activity, mental health and wellbeing, sun protection. We are formulating a strategic action plan for the area of ‘safe environments’ and we are working on upgrading policies in all health and wellbeing areas. Members of the School Advisory Council will be updated regularly on our efforts, and we will keep our community informed about this ongoing opportunity to focus on the physical, emotional and mental health of our community!

Please note, our ‘healthy eating policy’ currently states that our school is a ‘water only’ school. We ask that fruit drinks, flavoured milk drinks and fruit juices NOT be sent as part of school snack and lunch boxes. Classroom drink bottles should only contain WATER (no cordial or juices please!)
The 8th August is the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop patron of our MacKillop House here at St Robert’s. Known for her great kindness in her dealings with everybody she met, Mary is a good example to all Australians. “Never see a need without trying to do something about it”, is a value we can all aspire to. As Australians we do not readily imagine that we have had a Saint living in our land.

Children in MacKillop House are welcome to wear an item of yellow clothing on this day. We will celebrate MacKillop Feast Day with fruit platters, a house photo and extra recess time!

BOOK WEEK IS COMING – JUST 2 WEEKS TO GO!

Book Week is getting closer and closer. This year’s theme is Connect to Reading – Reading to Connect.

Many wonderful events are being planned and we will hold a Carnival Book Fair throughout Book Week. Families will have the opportunity to purchase the latest and greatest books for their children or to donate a book to our Library. A generous commission from each sale goes to our school and new books will be purchased with what is raised. A Book Week Parade will also take place on Friday 22nd August more details to follow.

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL ARTISTS

We are delighted to announce that all Book Week posters have now been allocated. A very special thank you is extended to; Di Meade, who responded to our plea and took on the challenging The Windy Farm and to Rebecca Hay, who has generously offered to paint I’m A Dirty Dinosaur.

We appreciate you sharing your considerable talents with us for all to enjoy.

COOKING FOR ST MARY’S DERBY DAY FETE

We would love to hear from parents who would be able to participate in Cooking Days to be held in our St Robert’s Kitchen ON Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th and Friday 31st October. The more the merrier. Please advise if you are available to assist.

STUDENT AWARDS

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

Gr F CC  Zoe Hyland  Gr 4MA  Brandon Rakas-Hoare
Gr F CC  Flynn Spowart  Gr 4MA  James Gard
Gr F JP  Dante Conte  Gr 4MM  Jude Ryan
Gr F JP  Ollie Wilson  Gr 4MM  Amanda Perrett
Gr F JP  Jakob Kristiansen  Gr 5NF  Scarlett Sinclair
Gr 1MC  Jospeh Afford  Gr 5NF  Sebastian Buchanan
Gr 1MC  Cate Donovan  Gr 6DB  Eamonn Murphy
Gr 1YE  Harry Reid  Gr 6DB  Sasha van Slageren
Gr 1YE  Gus Walerys
Gr 2LO  Jack Kelly
Gr 2LO  Ava Masljk
Gr 2KT  Nicholas Anglin
Gr 2KT  Ewan Guinane
Gr 3KH  Addison turley
Gr 3KH  Juliette Summerhayes
Gr 3JS  Livi Favre
Gr 3JS  Adam Matthews

BIRTHDAYS

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

30th July  Millicent Eldridge  Scarlett Hanneysee  Julia Pehar  Isobel Waterhouse  Lizzy Dowling  Eamonn Murphy  Paddy Harris

31st July

3rd August
CHILWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL - OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE
Term 3 July - August 2014
To book or cancel please call Olivia/Laune on 0417 014 973. If unable to attend please cancel before 2:30pm to assist staff and avoid session fee.

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<tr>
<th>Thursday 31st July</th>
<th>Self Portraits</th>
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<td>Friday 1st August</td>
<td>Play Dough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4th August</td>
<td>Honey Joys</td>
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<td>Tuesday 5th August</td>
<td>Play Dough</td>
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ALL SAINTS TENNIS CLUB - COACHING
Jordan Drew has just taken over the coaching role at All Saint’s Tennis Club from Jonathan Ryan. Jordan is a “Qualified ATPCA Advance Level 2” Coach and is anxious to continue the relationships that Jonathan has developed with a number of St Robert’s student and their parents. For further details please contact Jordon on 0488 944 141.

DATES TO REMEMBER

**JULY**
- Thur 31st School Advisory Board Meeting

**AUGUST**
- Fri 1st: Grade 6 Interschool Sports
- Sat 2nd: St Mary’s Parish Dinner
- Mon 4th: Whole School Assembly, 3:00pm
- Thur 7th: St Robert’s Friendship & Prayer, Group gathering 9:00am
- Fri 8th: St Robert’s Choir participating in Geelong Schools Movement and Music Festival at GPAC
- Mon 11th: School concert at The Arena, 6:30pm
- Wed 13th: Reconciliation Family Activity, Night 7pm-8pm in the Chapel

**SEPTEMBER**
- Wed 3rd: Grade 2 Prayers in Pyjamas, 6:45pm
- Thur 4th: St Robert’s Friendship & Prayer, Group gathering 9:00am
- Fri 5th: Grade 6 Interschool Sports
- Tues 9th: Confirmation Family Activity, Night, 7:00pm-8:00pm
- Fri 12th: Grade 6 Interschool sports
- Mon 15th: Bellarine Division Athletics, Landy Field (Qualifying students only)
- Wed 17th: School concert at The Arena, 6:30pm
- Thur 18th: St Robert’s Friendship & Prayer, Group gathering 9:00am
- End of Term 3, 3:30pm

**OCTOBER**
- Mon 6th: Term 4 commences
- Thur 9th: Confirmation Preparation 9:00am to 3:00pm
- Sun 12th: Confirmation, 11:00am St Mary’s Basilica
- Tues 14th: Region Track & Field, (Qualifying students only)
- Thur 16th: Bellarine Division Basketball, (Qualifying students only)
- Fri 17th: Confirmation 5:30pm and 7:30pm, St Mary’s Basilica
- Wed 22nd: Geelong Cup Public Holiday
- Sun 26th: State Athletic (Qualifying students only)
- Nov 30th - 31st: Region Summer Sports Championships (Qualifying students only)

**NOVEMBER**
- Sat 1st: Derby Day Fete, 9am to 4pm

School Advisory Board Committee Members
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