Dear Families

Only a couple of days left now until the now famous St Mary’s Derby Day Fete. Fete day is a big day for our school and Parish community. It’s a great fundraiser with the potential of raising a large amount of money. However, just as important is the fact that the whole community comes together to work, have a bit of fun, catch up with old friends and just enjoy the day. In many ways the time leading up to the fete is just as significant as fete day itself. The fete now is in its fourteenth year and by now I am sure everyone appreciates the amount of time and effort that goes into the behind the scenes preparation for the fete. So many people have been toiling away for many months getting it all together. It may be a year since our last fete but members of the fete committee and the various stall holders and their helpers have been planning and preparing for this day since the first planning meeting way back in early February. Yes, you read it correctly, February. Hardly time to take a breath, give themselves a pat on the back for a fantastic effort or contemplate some rest time before gearing up for the next effort. It’s pretty much straight back up on the bike and start pedaling! The great thing is that these people, who have such a strong commitment to their faith and the parish, are more than willing to do it with a spirit that should inspire us all to do our little bit for the parish. Our Parents have certainly played their part with many serving on the fete committee leading the charge for another successful Derby Day Fete. Others have been coordinating and organizing goods for the very popular Death by Chocolate and Sweet stalls, and the Christmas cakes have been on the go for some time now. Most recently we have had many hands at work putting the hampers together which are always very popular prizes on the spinning wheel. If you haven’t been able to help out in any way to this point in time we could still do with more helpers to set up on Thursday afternoon/evening and then pack up after the fete on Saturday. As is always the case, “many hands make light work” so if you can spare some time on Thursday from about 5.00pm to help set up or you can be on deck around 4.00pm on Saturday to pack up we would really appreciate your help. Hope to see you all at the fete.

Have a great week, God Bless, Mark

ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Catholic Community and Our Parish Fete

The first Mass at St. Mary’s next Saturday morning will be at 6am - 6 o’clock in the morning? Why so early? Well, on Derby Day (the Saturday before the Melbourne Cup), at St. Mary’s we have had an additional Saturday Mass at 6am in the morning every year for the past fourteen years. Because as well as being Derby Day, it’s Fete Day. And as a Catholic parish, what could be more appropriate than to start the day with Mass, asking God’s blessing on the Day itself, on everyone who will be there, and most importantly, everyone who has made it possible? And that’s a lot of people! That early morning Mass is probably the quietest Fete “event” of them all. For obvious reasons, it usually generates only a small attendance but that doesn’t matter. What matters is that it happens, and that it acknowledges the importance of God’s grace for all associated with a very special day and event.

For the past fourteen years, the St. Mary’s Derby Day Fete has been a major means of bringing the total parish community together, as well as engaging who-knows-how-many people in the wider community who help the Fete by their attendance, their provision of sponsorship, and in their working and co-operating in so many different ways. Since 2009 and the merging of St. Mary’s and St. Margaret’s, the inclusion of so many more parishioners has enriched the atmosphere of a wonderful day. More people working, more people donating a huge range of bargains (as well as sorting and pricing them), more people bringing themselves and their families to enjoy what can now be confidently termed as one of Geelong’s “special events”. Of course the weather is important. Too much wind, too much rain and even too much heat can all detract from
our Fete - but not much. People will come anyhow, not just for the bargains, not just for the food or entertainment, but for a happy day that only costs what they can afford and are prepared to spend, a day which has an atmosphere of excitement and enjoyment that is not always easy to find elsewhere. As a parish, that happy engagement with the wider community of Geelong is a most important benefit of Fete Day. From its earliest days, the parish’s connectedness with Geelong people as a whole has been a critical part of its character. The generous contributions made towards the building of St. Mary’s (at its beginning and in restorations), the many ecumenical services held over the years, the wonderful “Music at the Basilica” concerts - they are just a few of the many ways in which our parish links up with the community of which we are all a part. And Fete Day expresses this connection in its own unique and most worthwhile way. Thank you to everyone who makes “Fete Day” what it is, but a special note of appreciation is due to all those who might not be formally part of the parish, but nonetheless appreciate our goals, and support us in our efforts to accomplish them.

Fr Kevin Dillon

Urgent!!
Last chance to send along your donations for the hampers for our big parish fete. These prizes are for the spinning wheel and generate a lot of revenue. As it relies solely on the generosity of our school families, your donations are much needed and very appreciated. All classrooms have a white laundry basket for donations which will be collected after 9am this Thursday. We will be wrapping all hampers this Thursday morning at 9:30am at the St Mary’s Parish. We were originally booked upstairs in the Pioneer room but are now in the Hibernian room downstairs. If you are able to assist with the wrapping please come along. We need lots of helpers so any time you can spare would be great! We will also need a few volunteers to collect the baskets from the three other schools. If you can help out with this please text or call Rose Goodall-Wilson on 0419 720 060. Thank you!

CYBERSAFETY AND CYBER BULLYING
On Monday, November 3rd, there will be a presentation by the Police Officer Robbie Noggler for our children from Grades Three to Six, about ‘Cybersafety’ and ‘Cyber Bullying’. Officer Noggler has spoken to our senior classes before, and is very experienced at delivering important messages surrounding safe and appropriate use of digital devices and the internet. This presentation is an essential part of our wellbeing, ICT and social-emotional learning programs.

We are fortunate that Officer Noggler will also conduct a ‘Parent Forum’ surrounding these issues, from 2.15-3.15 pm in our Community Space (multi-purpose room.) With increasing pressure being placed on students and families in this digital age, together with concerns about cyberbullying, this is an excellent opportunity for members of our community to hear ‘up-to-date’ information about issues and protective strategies. We hope all families take advantage of this opportunity.

Kind Regards, Mark Soldani, Annice Lappin, Julie Prendergast and Marie Monea

BASKETBALL PLAYERS WANTED
Basketball players wanted - Grade 3 (approximate age 9). The team would play at The Arena & the night is yet to be confirmed. If you are interested, please contract Julie on 0412 647797.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT – An Opening Event
The P&F are holding a special night for the adults in our community to come together at a Wine & Cheese Night. This event is to celebrate the completion of the new school building and will be held on Friday 21st November from 7:30pm in the St Robert’s Chapel. If you would like to attend please forward your return slip (sent home previously) to the school office.

Attention Past Committee Members of Bond Street Kindergarten
At the end of this year long-serving Director Maree Merlo will be retiring. We are looking to get in touch will all past committee members. If you served on the Bond Street Kindergarten Committee and would like to be a part of the farewell celebrations please email your details to: mareesswansong@outlook.com A family day for past and present students will also be held on Saturday 6th of December for others wishing to farewell Maree (Details to Follow).
STUDENT AWARDS

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

Gr F CC  Hamish Vautier
Gr F CC  Georgia Hannagan
Gr FJP  Xavier Cook
Gr FJP  Archie King
Gr 1YE  Lucas Pedretti
Gr 1YE  Thomas Zappone
Gr 1MC  Meg Conheady
Gr 1MC  Wil Courtney
Gr 2KT  Nicholas Anglin
Gr 2KT  Georie Doherty
Gr 2LO  Eliza Dunell
Gr 2LO  Tobey Massey
Gr 3JS  Annabelle Leong
Gr 3JS  Ethan North
Gr 3KH  Henry Beggs
Gr 3KH  Ava Hyland
Gr 4MA  Milla Donovan
Gr 4MA  Laura Sanigorski
Gr 4MM  Bridget Hart
Gr 4MM  Charlie Poulter
Gr 5NF  Heather Watkins
Gr 5NF  Rebecca Maschmedt
Gr 5SP  Matthew Croce
Gr 5SP  Sophia Frances
Gr 6DB  Maddi Lamont
Gr 6DB  Hugo Clatworthy
Gr 6PB  Maya Laffan
Gr 6PB  Lucia Erhardt

BIRTHDAYS

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

Happy Birthday to:

30th October  Holly Dover
31st October  Livi Favre
1st November  Amanda Perrett
4th November  Sebastian Norman

School Advisory Board Committee Members

Fr Kevin Dillon
frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au  Website:  www.srniewtown.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

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER
Fri 31st  ‘Story Telling in RE’ incursion with Rosie from CEO Team

NOVEMBER
Sat 1st  Derby Day Fete, 9am to 4pm
Mon 3rd  Cyberspace presentation Grades 3 to 6
Mon 10th  Student Free Day – Report Writing
Wed 12th  Police visit Gr 1
Fri 14th  Parish Schools’ Year level Mass, Gr F,4.5 &6, St Mary’s Basilica
Wed 19th  Parish Schools’ Year level Mass, Gr 1,2 & 3, St Mary’s Basilica
Thu 20th  St Robert’s Annual Sports Day. 1:30pm to 4:30pm
Fri 21st  Wine and Cheese Night
Mon 24th  New Family Information Night
Thu 27th  State Boys/Mixed Basketball
Sat 29th  St Mary’s Parish Mission
Sun 30th  St Mary’s Parish Mission

DECEMBER
Mon 1st Dec  Senior Swimming commences
Tues 2nd  St Mary’s Parish Mission
Wed 3rd  P&F Meeting 7:30pm
Thu 4th  St Robert’s School Advisory Board Meeting
Fri 5th  End of Year Reports distributed
      Tuesday 9th  Orientation Day, grade 6 students attend their 2015 schools, other students in 2015 classes Foundation 2015 session 2
      Wed 10th  End of Year Mass, 6:00pm
      Fri 12th  Senior Swimming concludes
      Mon 15th  Grade 6 Farewell Dinner
      Tues 16th  Grade 6 Excursion, Adventure Park
      Wed 17th  End of Term 4 at 3:30pm
ST MARY’S FETE, RAFFLE, AMUSEMENT RIDES

FETE RAFFLE TICKETS
By now all Raffle Books should be returned. If you have not returned your book please return it to the office sold or unsold immediately. If they are returned there is no problem selling them elsewhere, we actually ran out last year!

CAKE STALL NEWS
Everyone should have received their cake kit by now. Remember that the cake stall is a major fundraiser for the fete and St Roberts is responsible for its success. We need lots of cakes, slices and biscuits in order for this to happen. If every family baked one item then it would be a massive success! If you are not a baker, then maybe someone else in your family could make something. If you need more time to cook, items can be dropped directly to the stall on Saturday morning! If you need further tags, packaging etc. these are available from the office. Alternatively, you can use your artistic skills to package your goodies so they are tempting to buyers!! Let’s make this the best year yet for the cake stall!!! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Carol Digby 0408 580 060 or Joanne van Slageren 0419 270 464.

AMUSEMENT RIDES – ALL DAY TICKET
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.

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 or call into the office and to purchase:

A

DERBY DAY FETE AMUSEMENT RIDES – ALL DAY TICKETS

Name: ...............................
Class: .......................... Number of Tickets: ......................
Payment Enclosed: $..........................