Dear Families

For the first time in many, many years it was a case of standing room only at last night’s Parents and Friends meeting held in the school’s staffroom. What a fantastic turn up of parents all eager to listen and contribute to the various topics of discussion ranging from fundraising ideas, building community spirit and most importantly sharing the workload. I cannot begin to imagine what St Robert’s would be like without a committed group of hard working parents pooling their wisdom, expertise and resources to support the operations of the school, the teachers and of course, at the top of the list, the children. With over thirty five in attendance last night and each of them contributing in one form of another it was the perfect way to kick of the new school year. Needless to say it was a productive meeting which has set a positive direction for 2015. It would be great to see these sorts of numbers at every meeting which in the end equates to bigger and better possibilities for our school. A big thank you to all who managed to make it and to those who couldn’t, maybe next time!

Speaking of great turn ups, last Wednesday was a very busy day. In the afternoon we all celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass to mark the beginning of Lent and at the same time celebrated the beginning of the school year. It was a great to see our children celebrating this significant Mass with the many parents who came along and some of our parishioners. Special thanks to Mrs Lappin for coordinating the Mass and to Father Dillon for celebrating it with us.

On Wednesday evening we had another big turn out when many families gathered on the school oval for our very popular Fish ‘n’ Chip night. It was great to see all the families catching up and enjoying each other’s company as the children played and had fun with their friends. As it turned out the weather was just right. Not too hot, not too cold and importantly no rain!

FAMILY COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT – TAKE TWO!

Apart from two very keen families I have had little response to my offer in last week’s newsletter re the establishment of a school community garden. I figure this might be due to the fact that it was so busy last week that many families haven’t had the opportunity to get back to me or maybe it just didn’t appeal to people as I thought it might. Being a glass half full person I prefer to go with the “too much happening’ theory so I thought it would be good to run it by you one last time. The idea of establishing a community garden has been on my agenda for a little while now and I see the current situation as an ideal opportunity to test the waters as to whether there is enough interest from families to move ahead with the concept. My idea is a simple one. If any family is interested in taking control of a garden bed or part of a garden bed, you might like to share your plot with one or two other families, just register your interest with me and I will assign it to you. From then on you can come up with the kids and plant whatever you like, nurture your crop and cultivate when ready. The children can access their family plot to weed and water at play time and lunch times, before or after school and families are free to come up on the weekends to work their plots if they want. I see this as a great opportunity for families who may not have gardens at home to create some really worthwhile family time. Depending on the amount of interest we may need to rotate through interested families on a seasonal basis. Please let me know if you are interested. Grab me on the yard in the mornings or pop into the office and leave your details at any time. “First In, First Served!”

God Bless you all and have a nice week, Mark.
ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Project Compassion 2015

Running through the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia; without it, we could not do the vital work we do. In Project Compassion 2014, nearly $11 million was raised to help the world’s poorest communities. Thank you to all our generous supporters who participated and showed they believe in a more just world.

The theme for Project Compassion 2015 is “Food for Life”.

Food is essential for all life, yet many of the world’s poorest people do not have food security. That means they live from day-to-day, uncertain of how to afford or how to access their next meal. Without food, the rest of life is impossible to contemplate: how can you plan for the future or educate your children when you fear you will be hungry?

As Pope Francis says: “It is a well-known fact that current levels of production are sufficient, yet millions of people are still suffering and dying of starvation. This is truly scandalous.”

Project Compassion 2015 explores how Caritas Australia is helping the world’s poorest people establish sustainable food, walking with them as they free themselves from the burden of food insecurity and develop new, improved income streams for a better future.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion 2015 commenced on Ash Wednesday. This year the focus is on Food for Life and it looks at the world’s global food issues. Each class has their own Project Compassion collection box and we ask that you please bring along your spare change. The boxes will be emptied at the end of each week. We invite you to google Project Compassion 2015 and as a family, watch some short presentations. We will also keep you informed of our weekly totals. Thank you- Grades 1JB and 1YE.

INDONESIAN NEWS: - SELMAT SIANG, APA KABAR?

To start the new term off we have been revising our knowledge of Indonesian and have begun studying the foods of Indonesia as a way to build on language skills. We also worked on our revision of greetings, classroom instructions, numbers and colours. I would like to share some words that we all can practice with our children at home. I will post a word list every month and hope you all can be involved in learning Indonesian at home.

Greetings:
Selamat Pagi – Good morning, Selamat Siang – Good Afternoon
Apa kabar? – How are you, Baik-baik saja – I am well/good,
Terima kasih – Thank you

I would also like to inform you that the Indonesian Community of Geelong will be at the Pako Festa this Saturday participating in the ‘Parade’ at 11 am. Please come and see us. An Indonesian Food stall will be across from Nandos and I will be dancing with my community at 4 o’clock on the main stage.

Terima kasih – Bu Santi

ANAPHYLAXIS RISK

This year at St Robert’s we have ten students at severe risk of anaphylaxis due to nut allergies. To provide the safest possible environment we ask that, if possible, families avoid sending peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches to school and refrain from packing any snacks containing nuts. If you must send peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches to school please alert the classroom teacher. Thank you, Julie Prendergast, Wellbeing co-ordinator.
TERM 1 SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS
School Fee accounts are distributed in the fifth week of term in terms 1, 2 & 3. Whilst there are two billings in Term 1 there is no billing in Term 4. The second account for Term 1 is being sent home today and payment is due by 27th March 2015. Payment can be made by; cash, cheque EFTPOS or internet banking (banking details below).

St Robert’s General Account, National Bank, Melbourne
BSB Number 083 347
Account Number 647 110 294 (Please remember to enter your family code or surname).

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION UPDATE
The P&F would like to thank those families who have returned their expression of interest form to be included in the St Robert’s Business Directory. This form was sent home with students last week for the benefit of new families and anyone who may have missed out on receiving the information at the end of last year. If you have any questions please contact Donna Carroll on 0408 476 276 or Jackie Caracella on 0411 716 009.

MORNING TEA GRADE 5/6SP PARENTS
An invitation is extended to parents of Grade 5/6SP students to meet for Morning Tea at Winters Café next Monday 2nd March at 9am.
All welcome. Di Meade Mob: 0400 589 120

SAVE THE DATE - PREP PARENTS AND NEW FAMILIES
Prep Parents and New Families to St Robert’s Come along to "Get to Know You Drinks" Cremorne Hotel - Thursday 12th March from 7.30pm. Looking forward to seeing you there, St Roberts Parents and Friends Association

CALLING ALL ST ROBERT’S STUDENTS
The Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon is coming! - 15th MARCH, 2015
More information available at http://try.weetbix.com.au/ or see Miss Claire or Mrs. Kluver

CHILWELL P.S. OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Term 1 – February/March 2015
To book or cancel care please call Chloe/Cheeryl on 0417 014 973

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th Feb</td>
<td>Moulding Goo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th Feb</td>
<td>Making Honey Joys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th Feb</td>
<td>Finger Knitting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2nd Mar</td>
<td>Guessing Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3rd Mar</td>
<td>Lego Building</td>
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EFTPOS facility is available – for payments over $10.00. Form available at the office or from the OSHC. Just a reminder to all those who have a permanent after school booking. If unable to attend please cancel before 2.30pm, to assist staff and avoid session fee. Payment by Credit Card (for amounts $10 & over)

Amount: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard $ ................................ 3 digit Security Code:

Card Number: ..............................................

Cardholder’s Name: .......................................................... Expiry Date:             /

Cardholder’s Signature: ...........................................................................................................
HOCKEY PLAYERS WANTED

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

Gr F JP  Rio Smith
Gr F JP  Cooper Henry
Gr F CH  Thomas Caracella
Gr F CH  Orla Williams
Gr 1JB  Amelia Reid
Gr 1JB  Iggi Gill
Gr 1YE  Charlie Marshall
Gr 1YE  Evelyn Downie
Gr 2CC  Summer Madden
Gr 2CC  Coby Williams
Gr 2KT  Tara Trethowan
Gr 2KT  Hamish Harendaz
Gr 3KH  Tobey Massey
Gr 3KH  Jack Kelly
Gr 3NF  Samuel Sinnott
Gr 3NF  Alex Burtt
Gr 4MA  Blake McMahon
Gr 4MA  Olivia Trethowan
Gr 4MM  Toby Osburn
Gr 4MM  Adam Matthews
Gr 5/6DB  Yanah Kanellos
Gr 5/6DB  Eliza Dunell
Gr 5/6PB  Bonnie Leslie
Gr 5/6PB  Charlie Poulter
Gr 5/6LO  Indigo Irving
Gr 5/6LO  Marcus Skoko
Gr 5/6SP  James Afford
Gr 5/6SP  Harriet Maskell

BIRTHDAYS
The St Robert’s School community wish to congratulate the following children on the celebration of their birthday.
Happy Birthday to:

25th February  Ollie Wilson

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY
Fri 27th  St Robert’s Athletic Trials Gr 4 -6 Landy field, all students

MARCH
Fri 6th  Division Swimming Qualifying students
Mon 9th  Labor Day-Public Holiday
Tues 10th  Sacramental Enrolment Evening 1, 7:30-8:30pm St Mary’s Basilica
Fri 13th  St Robert’s Cross Country, Gr 4-6 Eastern Gardens, all students
Thurs 19th  Sacramental Enrolment Evening 2 7:30-8:30pm St Mary’s Basilica
Fri 27th  Term 1 concludes

APRIL
Frid 3rd  Good Friday
Sat 4th  Easter Saturday
Sun 5th  Easter Sunday
Mon 13th  Term 2 commences
Thurs 30th  Family Activity Evening, 6:30-7:30pm, St Robert’s School (Parents and Sacramental candidates)

Players Wanted
Are there any Grade 4 girls who would like to play in a new basketball team in a social school competition at the Arena on Thursday Nights after school? The season starts next term. Newcomers to basketball are welcome. If you are interested please contact Ange De Grandi on 0409 524582  Thankyou.

School Advisory Board Committee Members
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