Dear Families

I had the pleasure of attending our first Parents and Friends meeting for the year last night which was well attended with a few new faces. It is a good to know that we have such a committed group of parents working hard to do whatever they can to make St Robert’s a great school for the kids, the teachers, and staff and the parent community. As is typical of a first meeting, a considerable amount of the meeting time was devoted to the 2016 calendar of P&F events and once again it looks like being a busy, hopefully enjoyable and certainly productive year ahead. With such an action packed year to look forward to it is important that as many people get on board to help the executive achieve the best results they can, whether it be for the purpose of raising much needed funds for the school to support our programs, initiatives and resource development or to build a strong sense of community and friendships. Volunteering to do even the smallest thing plays a huge part in determining the success or failure of an exercise and as the old saying goes, “Many hands make light work” so I strongly urge parents to look out for calls for assistance from the Parents and Friends and if you can please put your hand up to help out. The children already have a clear understanding of this year’s motto- “With my Own Two Hands” which in its simplest terms means that each one of us has the capacity to make a difference by taking up the challenge to accept personal responsibility to make our school and our world a better place through our own personal kindness, support and appreciation of each other’s needs. Our Parents and Friends do a great job but have the capacity to do even better with the support of many hands. Please keep an eye out for requests for volunteers as they appear either through the school newsletter or the notes home system. With so many wonderful things already on the events calendar there will be many such calls for your support so in the words of that old Mitsubishi catchcry and at the risk of showing my age, ‘Please Consider!’ I know they are currently looking for people to help out with the uniform shop, no big deal just a helping hand so if you can spare a bit of time please contact Kat 0417794671 or Mari 0435536162, they really could do with your help.

God Bless you all and have great week, Mark

ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Shelter the Homeless

After a long journey there is often a real sense of relief in simply getting ‘home’ – finally! Indeed, we all need to find a ‘home’ in our lives. Not just a physical building, but a place where we feel safe and secure “at some point you would find yourself standing before the tools of housework: vacuum cleaner, broom, dust mop, soaps, sponges, dishpan, hammer, screwdriver. These things are very simple, and yet they are fundamental to the feelings we have of being at home”. Being at ‘home’ is vital for our psyches. Of course, we are talking about dwelling places of inclusion not exclusion, not ‘fortresses’ built to keep people out. No wonder that Christians have always sought to include people ‘in’ – to shelter the homeless and give hospitality and a ‘home’ to strangers and refugees. For in welcoming the stranger and the homeless, in ‘sheltering’ them, we want to also share with them the joy and peace of being at ‘home’ with us as friends of Christ Jesus our brother; a brother who himself knew the pain and frustration of being homeless.
“What we would like to do is change the world – make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended for them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, of the poor, of the destitute, we can, to a certain extent, change the world; we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever-widening circle will reach around the world. We repeat, there is nothing that we can do but love and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbour, to love our enemy as well as our friend.” —Dorothy Day

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 2016 will need to be updated on the ‘hot spot’ just outside the front door. This is necessary as we have now set up the 2016 calendar. We have experienced some problems this year however we expect that everything is up and running correctly now.

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 this week and payment is due by 18th March 2016. 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).

School Fee Statements will be emailed to families this week, as this is the first time we have sent out accounts with this method please check your emails and if there are any problems please contact the office.

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.

WELLBEING - MEDICAL ALERT
There continues to be several cases of gastroenteritis throughout the school. Following a bout of gastro parents are asked to keep their children home for at least 24 hours. If you suspect that your child may be unwell please do not send them to school.

ST ROBERT’S DADS DINNER AND DRINKS – All Welcome – Friday 4th March
Join new and old St Robert’s Dads for an informal dinner and drinks on Friday 4th March. Venue to be confirmed. If you are interested please contact Hamish on 0409 257 537 or hamishcameron@gmail.com
Caremonkey was enabled for all parents on Thursday 18th February. So far we have just over 100 parents who have filled in the relevant information that is required. In order to start using Caremonkey effectively we need all 370 student profiles to be completed as soon as possible. If you have not as yet completed your child (children’s) profile(s) please do so at your earliest convenience.

Profiles received as of Wednesday 24/2/2016

THANK YOU – ATHLETIC TRIALS
A huge thank-you to the many, many parent volunteers who assisted so diligently on Friday at our School’s 4-6 Athletics Trials. Your enthusiasm and commitment was very much noticed and appreciated by all teachers and staff. It was tremendous to see all St Robert’s students having great fun, trying their best and encouraging each other throughout the day. We now look forward to our School Cross Country in a few weeks and hopefully we have a similar high number of parent helpers to ensure another smooth running school sporting event.

UNIFORM SHOP
Families are reminded that there is a 10-12 week wait for winter kilts. Please see a Uniform Shop volunteer ASAP if your daughter requires a new kilt this winter. Also the Uniform Shop needs your help! To volunteer and help out in the shop please contact Kat 0417794671 or Mari 0435536162

Class | Care Profiles requested | Care Profiles received | Care Profiles not received
--- | --- | --- | ---
OCH | 27 | 7 | 19
OLM | 27 | 14 | 13
1KH | 27 | 4 | 23
1YE | 26 | 11 | 15
2CC | 27 | 10 | 17
2KT | 28 | 7 | 21
3JB | 26 | 4 | 22
3NF | 25 | 9 | 16
4MA | 26 | 10 | 16
4MM | 26 | 9 | 17
5/6PB | 26 | 6 | 21
5/6DB | 26 | 10 | 16
5/6SP | 27 | 6 | 21
5/LO | 26 | 9 | 17

NEWTOWN & CHILWELL FNC
2016 MEMBERSHIP & JUNIOR PLAYER REGISTRATION DAY
Sunday 28th February, 2016
9.30am to 1.00pm
Newtown & Chilwell Clubrooms - Elderslie Reserve
Cor Raff Terrace and Read Street, Newtown

Come and meet the coaches, ask questions and let us welcome you and all your family to play and enjoy N&CFNC in 2016! We offer value for money Family Memberships for all children playing whether football or netball or both.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL
Auskick (up to age 7), Under 9, Under 10, Under 11, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, Junior Girls (13U) Youth Girls (18U)

JUNIOR NETBALL
Under 9, Under 11, Under 13, Under 15, Under 17 and Under 19

For further information please contact Brian Mudge M 0447 770 648 E club@newtownchilwell.com.au
W www.newtownchilwell.sportingpulse.net
ST ROBERT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Auskick 2016
Auskick is back bigger and better in 2016.

Commencing weekly from Saturday morning the 16th April at 9.00 am to 10.00 am on the school synthetic oval (hey mum no mud). Boys and girls from 5 years old (this year) are welcome. For those interested please log on to aflauskick.com.au/ click register and follow the prompts to "St Roberts" to register.

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

Gr F CH Stella and Teddy R
Gr F LM Aurdiey and Harry M
Gr 1KH Ava and Tom
Gr 1YE Xavier B and Rio
Gr 2CC Tom and Lyle
Gr 2KT Sara and Archie
Gr 3NF Daniel and Isabelle
Gr 4MA Hannah and Oscar
Gr 4MM Eliza D and George
Gr 5/6PB Sophia and Charlie
Gr 5/6LO Abby and Harrison
Gr 5/6SP Ayden and Xavier

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:

25th February Ollie
26th February Sophia
1st March Xavier

DATES TO REMEMBER

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
Thur 17th Foundation Transition Interviews
Thur 24th Holy Thursday,

APRIL
Mon 11th Term 2 commences
Fri 22nd GDCSSA District Cross Country
Mon 25th Public Holiday
Fri 29th School Closure Day Mathematics Professional Development Day for Staff

MAY
Fri 6th GDCSSA Athletics
Sun 8th Mother’s Day
Tues 10th NAPLAN
Wed 11th NAPLAN
Thur 11th NAPLAN
Year 4 Eucharist Family Activity Evening 7:00pm
Sat 21st First Eucharist, St Mary’s Basilica, 6:00pm
Sun 22nd First Eucharist, St Mary’s Basilica, 11:00am
Sat 28th First Eucharist, St Mary’s Basilica, 6:00am
Sun 29th First Eucharist, St Mary’s Basilica, 11:00am

School Advisory Board Committee Members
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