Dear Families

I wrote last week of the great work our Parents and Friends do for the school whether it be through their efforts with many fundraising events or the organisation of social gatherings throughout the course of the year. There are of course many other ways in which parents can and do assist in and around the school. Perhaps it is easy for us to take it for granted that everybody is aware of the many opportunities that exist at the school for them to get involved. Up until a few years ago the school would distribute a form that listed a wide range of things parents could do to help out and parents could nominate from that list and be placed on a data base to be contacted when and if their services were required. This list comprised of things other than the class helpers program which has always been coordinated through the class teachers with the support of the class parents. It was suggested at our last P&F meeting that perhaps many parents were in fact unaware of the range of events and activities they could help out with and that it might be a good time to reintroduce the information and nomination form.

With this in mind I am creating a form that will come home to you shortly via out note system and invite families to consider nominating to assist in as many or as few areas as they would like. I will then set up a data base and call on people when and if their assistance is required. I am aware that life is busy and not all will be able to assist but as I have said time and time again over many years, “You do What You Can When You Can!” and whatever assistance you can give is very much appreciated. Please take a little time to look over the list, fill it out if you wish and send it back to school at your earliest convenience.

God Bless you all and have a great week,

Mark

ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Lent and Project Compassion

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST MARY’S BASILICA

On the Fridays of Lent (other than Good Friday), the Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 9.30am, prior to the 10am Mass at St Mary’s.

*The Stations of the Cross*

The Stations of the Cross is a Lenten devotion that offers witness to Jesus’ Passion and Death. At each station we use our senses and our imagination to reflect prayerfully upon Jesus’ suffering, Death, and Resurrection, and to simply experience the visual images to reflect on Christ’s love for us. Praying the Stations of the Cross—alone or with a group—is a Lenten tradition. Read and pray these stations very slowly and imagine the scene in Jerusalem as Jesus walked his Way of the Cross. Often, the Stations of the Cross is an action prayer. As Catholics we walk to the fourteen stations of the Way of the Cross and stop to pray at each one.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Caritas Australia is celebrating 50 years of Project Compassion with the theme “Learning more, creating change”. Pope Francis states that “Education is an act of hope”. The aim is to help bring renewed hope to the world’s poorest people, empowering them to learn more and create change - with this in mind we are asking our students to bring donations for the Project Compassion box they have is their classrooms.
SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENT EVENING
The first of two Sacramental Enrolment Evenings will be held next Tuesday 8th March from 7:00pm in St Mary’s Basilica St Mary’s Parish Office, 136 Yarra Street Geelong. This evening is for parents only, children do not attend. Parents of children intending to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation in 2016 must attend one of the enrolment evenings to enrol their child for a Sacrament.

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTERS AND SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS AND SMS
There appears to be a little confusion with the recipients of emails sent out through our Database and Financial Software packages, both SAS. Our Newsletter is sent out through the database and it goes to the address for the mother, unless otherwise requested, we send out approximately 290 newsletter this way and this is about as many as our system can cope with, if more are sent or the newsletter too large then we risk being shut down. The School Fee Statement, emailed also through SAS defaults to the father as fee payer and thus the email is usually sent to this person. With the case of SMSs one message is sent to each family as the cost here is considerable and would double if sent to each parent.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES CAR RAFFLE
The Combined Parishes Raffle is with us once again. This is a major fund-raising project in the parish - with four cars to be won! A book of ten tickets for this raffle was sent home last week. As the prizes for this raffle are over $5,000 this raffle must be officially audited by accountants, therefore all tickets must be accounted for. If you do not feel you can sell this book then please just return it to the school office immediately and it can be redistributed to be sold elsewhere. Thank you to the many families who have returned their books so promptly.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
The scholastic catalogue has been distributed this week. There have been a few improvement changes. All catalogues have now been merged into the one catalogue for easier viewing and covers all school ages in the one. The second is all orders and payments are now to be completed online or via the LOOP app. The office will not be collecting orders or payments anymore. You will still receive the books via the class teacher. Scholastic donates 20% of total purchases which is used towards new resources for the library, participation is voluntary and there is no pressure to purchase anything. Issue 2 closes on 11.3.2016. For any queries please call Diana 0427522940

IT'S EASTER TIME – ST ROBERT’S PARENTS AND FRIENDS EASTER RAFFLE
The Annual Easter Egg Raffle is on again. We are asking every family to donate an Easter Egg for our raffle prize and these donations can be left in the baskets outside the office. We would like to have over 20 prizes so there are more chances of winning. The raffle will be drawn at the final assembly on Term 1. All eggs can be left at the office. One book of tickets for this raffle will be distributed this week, tickets are 50c each and more books will be available at the office if desired.

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 who purchase a fob will have access through the playground 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.

UNIFORM SHOP
Uniform shop need volunteers please. Can you spare just 45 minutes a couple of times a term on either a Weds or Fri morning 8.30am till 9.15am.
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 was emailed home last week and payment is due by 18th March 2016. If you did not receive your statement please contact the office.

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).

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 – if you were eligible for EMA you should apply for CSEF.

St Roberts Dads Dinner & Drinks @ Steampocket Cafe - this Friday 4th March

Join new and old St Roberts Dads for an informal dinner and drinks from 5pm this Friday March 4th. Venue is Steampocket Cafe, 313 Pakington Street. If attending please contact Hamish Cameron on 0409 257 537 or email hamishdcameron@gmail.com

THANK YOU – MONEY FOR WILL

A huge thank-you for the generous donations for ‘Money for Will’, we raised $200 which has been forwarded to his family.

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 Taine and Maggie
Gr F LM Lucy and Owen
Gr 1KH Lara and Brodie
Gr 1YE Adam and Claudia
Gr 2CC Angus and Billy
Gr 2KT Silas and Jarvis
Gr 3JB Maggie and Will
Gr 3NF Zara and Malakai
Gr 4MA Benjamin and Meg
Gr 4MM Noah and Mekah
Gr 5/6DB Lulu and Tom

Gr 5/6PB Jessica ad Emma
Gr 5/6LO Archie and Mimosa
Gr 5/6SP Archie and Maddie

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:

2nd March Clio and Jayde
4th March Max and Tighe
5th March Harrison
7th March Coby
Saint Ignatius College Geelong

2016 OPEN DAY
Sunday March 20th
11am-2pm
Information sessions at
11am and 12.15pm

St. Ignatius. Inspiring me to be a leader.
Year 7 – 2017 Enrolment Applications close Friday 20th May 2016
Visit www.ignatius.vic.edu.au
View a Prospectus and Download an Application for Enrolment Form

A Jesuit Partner School
27 Peninsula Drive, Drysdale 3222
Phone: 5251 1136
Registrar: Gail Myers
Email: registrar@ignatius.vic.edu.au

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>Event details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 4th</td>
<td>Geelong Swimming Carnival, Kardinia Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 8th</td>
<td>Sacramental Enrolment Evening 1, 7pm at St Mary’s Basilica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9th</td>
<td>District Swimming – Qualifying students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11th</td>
<td>St Robert’s Cross Country, Gr 4-6, Eastern Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 14th</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 15th</td>
<td>Foundation Transition Interviews, Sacramental Enrolment Evening 2, 7pm at St Mary’s Basilica</td>
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**APRIL**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11th</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 22nd</td>
<td>GDCSSA District Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 25th</td>
<td>Anzac Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 29th</td>
<td>School Closure Day Mathematics Professional Development Day for Staff</td>
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**MAY**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6th</td>
<td>GDCSSA Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 8th</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
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<td>Tues 10th</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<td>Wed 11th</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 12th</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 21st</td>
<td>Year 4 Eucharist Family Activity Evening 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 22nd</td>
<td>First Eucharist, St Mary’s Basilica, 6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 28th</td>
<td>First Eucharist, St Mary’s Basilica, 6:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 29th</td>
<td>First Eucharist, St Mary’s Basilica, 11:00am</td>
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**JUNE**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 13th</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 21st</td>
<td>Cadet Visit/Excursion, Deakin Grade 5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 22nd</td>
<td>Cadet Visit/Excursion, Deakin, Gr 5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 24th</td>
<td>Reports go home</td>
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**School Advisory Board Committee Members**

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