Dear Families

Yesterday children from all classes gathered as one to remember, pray and pay tribute to those Australian men and women who died or suffered in the great tragedy of war. World War I began in 1914 and lasted for four years. More than 416,000 Australians volunteered for service in that war. Of these, 324,000 served overseas and more than 60,000 Australians were killed. On the 11th November in 1918 at 11am, the guns fell silent on the Western Front in France and Belgium, four years of hostilities ended and the war that claimed so many Australian lives was over.

In Australia and other allied countries, including New Zealand, Canada and the United States, 11th November became known as Armistice Day. The day continues to be commemorated in these countries but after World War II the Australian Government agreed that Armistice Day be renamed Remembrance Day to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars. Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day. Not only do we honour the memory of those Australians who have fallen in battle; we share the sorrow of those who have mourned them and of all who have been the victims of armed conflict.

For the first time for a long while due to the building program the assembly took place in front of our newly positioned ANZAC memorial and was beautifully led by our two current school captains Tayla and Jesse. The children all showed great respect as they listened to Jesse and Tayla recount the story of the Armistice, now known as Remembrance Day, reverently participated in prayer and then proudly concluded with the singing of our National Anthem. Prior to our assembly all the children were given a sprig of rosemary. Rosemary is a herb which is usually added to cooking. However, since ancient times, the herb has been believed to have properties to improve the memory. Perhaps for this reason, rosemary became an emblem of remembrance in ancient folklore. Rosemary is now worn as a symbol of remembrance and has particular significance for Australians as it is found growing wild on the Gallipoli peninsula.

LEST WE FORGET!

Have a great week, God Bless

Mark

ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Legacy to Education

We mourn the recent passing of former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam. Among his many achievements, his legacy to school education is large. The right to a quality education for all Australian children was a high priority. He provided federal funding to Catholic and independent schools for the first time, in a period when Catholic schools were under huge financial strain. Gough set up a cross-sector review of the needs of all
Australian schools under Professor Peter Karmel and that review led to a new needs-based funding arrangement, an extension of which continues today.

While the Whitlam government lasted just three years, successive governments have continued to fund Catholic schools along the same trajectory, and the Commonwealth is now a major player in school education. Today, Catholic schools receive nearly 80 per cent of their annual income from federal and state governments or about $8000 per student. When Whitlam was elected in 1972, the comparable figure was about $122. By reforming the way that governments funded schools, Gough Whitlam changed forever – and for the better – the educational landscape in Australia. Gough Whitlam made education a national issue. We are grateful for his legacy - owe him much.

**ST ROBERT’S ANNUAL SPORTS DAY**
The 2014 St Robert’s Annual Sports will be held on Thursday 20th November. Our sports will commence at 1:30pm and conclude around 4:30pm. Children will participate in year levels eg. all preps together etc. and will remain in these groupings throughout the events and be released to their parents at the conclusion of the sports. Children are to wear sports uniform and their school hat. Please provide sunscreen.

Families are reminded that for safety reasons; pre-school children, older siblings and parents are not permitted on the oval at any time while the sports are in progress. Also the taking of photos from the centre of the oval is not permitted. We would appreciate your full co-operation in this matter and look forward to seeing all families at our Annual Sports.

**SWIMMING PROGRAM GR 3-6**
Our senior swimming program commences on Monday 1st December and concludes on Friday 12th December. Lessons will be conducted over a ten day period however, our Grade Six students will not swim on Tuesday 9th December due to their whole day of orientation at secondary school. It is anticipated that all children will walk to and from the Geelong Aquatic Centre unless the weather is inclement.

Families are reminded that this program is a compulsory component of our curriculum and as such it is essential that all students from grade 3 to 6 participate. If your child is unable to participate in the swimming program a medical certificate is required stating the valid reason and then an exemption can be given. The parents of children in Group 3 who wish to collect their child from the pool at 3:10pm will need to inform their class teacher and complete the sign out form at the school office prior to or after collection where an Early Pass form will be issued. An Information Letter, Helpers Form and Permission Form was be sent home last week. Please read carefully and support our teachers by returning the completed forms to school by Friday 14th November.

**CAKE STALL THANK YOU**
A big thank you once again to everyone who helped with the Fete Cake Stall this year! Yet again, the stall was a huge success! Thank you to all the people who baked, set up the stall, transported cakes and who worked on the stall on the day. As this will be our last year running the cake stall, we would like to thank everyone at St Robert’s who has assisted us over the years and made our job so much easier. Carol and Joanne.

**COFFEE MORNING**
Everyone is welcome to come to the chapel after drop off tomorrow morning, the 13th November, for a coffee and a chat. Ange De Grandi will be using her barista skills to make Nespresso coffees for you! Hope to see you there.
FEES AND LEVIES FOR 2015

Please find listed below our proposed Fees and Levies structure for the 2015 School year. Increases in our fees have been kept to an absolute minimum. A Sacramental Levy of $20 applies to all children participating in the Sacramental Program in 2015 and a Grade 6 Camp Co-contribution applies to Grade 6 Students.

Family Fee – one or more children $1530.00 per annum
Capital Building Levy (compulsory) $ 390.00 per family
Maintenance Levy $ 60.00 per family

Total $1,980.00 per family

METHOD OF PAYMENT (includes Capital Building and Maintenance Levy)

Families are required to pay 25% (approximately) of the tuition fee, as a down payment for 2015 on Wednesday 28th January between the hours of 11:30am and 2:00pm. Your child’s book package will be ready for collection on receipt of this payment. Additional staff will be on duty to facilitate this. The amount required is $450.00 for all families. This amount must be paid on Wednesday 28th January.

Breakdown for the remainder of the 2015 School Fees (including Levies):

Term One (second billing - week 5) Fee Instalment $510.00
Term Two Fee Instalment $510.00
Term Three Final Payment $510.00

GRADE FIVE OPEN MORNING FOR PERSONAL INQUIRY PRESENTATIONS

The Grade Five students have been working diligently on their personal inquiry. To celebrate this, Grade Five parents are invited to an open morning where the students will be showcasing their work. This will take place on Wednesday 19th November in the Grade Five learning area between 9:00am and 10:00am.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) 2015

Changes to the EMA will be effective from 1st January 2015

- Parents will not be able to apply for the EMA in 2015
- From 1st January 2015 the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) will provide extra financial support to the Victorian schools most in need instead of providing EMA directly to parents
- The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools; care operational funding mechanism, with those schools most in need receiving the most funding
- Not all schools will receive EMA in 2015


STUDENT AWARDS

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

Gr F CC Baxter Roth
Gr F CC Zoe Hyland
Gr F JP Liam Marshall
Gr F JP Charlie Marshall
Gr F JP Billy Smith
Gr 1YE Sam Gillespie
Gr 1YE Evie Rau
Gr 1MC Kai D’Orsa
Gr 1MC Ollie Erhardt
Gr 2LO Louis Peacock
Gr 2LO Meg Alsop
Gr 3JS Oscar Cosic
Gr 3JS Adam Matthews
Gr 3KH Sophie Walker
Gr 3KH Milly Norrhey
Gr 4MA Nathan Tarrant
Gr 4MA Marcus Skoko
Gr 4MM Emily Robertson
Gr 4MM Amanda Perrett
Gr 5SP James Afford
Gr 5SP Sophie Campbell
Gr 6DB Saskia Velcek
Gr 6DB Eamonn Murphy
Gr 6DB Hilary Beggs
Gr 6PB Molly Green
Gr 6PB Matilda North
BIRTHDAYS
The St Robert’s School community wish to congratulate the following children on the celebration of their birthday this week. Happy Birthday to:

12th November Isabella Cameron
14th November Jacob Smith
16th November Frederick Gill

NEWTOWN & CHILWELL FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB – 2015 SEASON JUNIOR NETBALL UPDATE
N&CFNC, the GFLN 2014 A Grade premiers club, will be running junior netball trials for our U13 (normally Grade 6/Year 7), U15, U17 & U19 GFL Winter Season teams on Thursday 12/2/15 & Sunday 15/2/15 (with Sun 22/2/15 if required); time TBC. Pre trials training sessions will take place also. Please contact Wendy Castle wendy.e.castle@hotmail.com.au or Carolyn Hall darren_hall@iprimus.com.au for further information. Registration forms can be found on our website: www.newtownchilwellfc.sportingpulse.net.

We also will be running our U11 (normally grades 4-5) junior netball competition in 2015 played Friday nights Term 2 & 3 at GBNC South Geelong. We will also be introducing an U9 (normally grades 2-3) team/s in 2015. Pre season coaching and training will commence in Term 1. We are a great family friendly club and offer all junior players coaching, training and development opportunities. For any further info and to register your interest please contact Lee Doherty lee.doherty@bigpond.com 0430 369 600.

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER
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
Grade Six Graduation Photos
Grade Five Open Morning

Thur 20th St Robert’s Annual Sports Day 1:30pm to 4:30pm
Fri 21st Wine and Cheese Night, 7:30PM Grade 6 Excursion, Disco
Mon 24th New Family Information Night, 7:00pm Whole school assembly
Thur 27th State Boys/Mixed Basketball
Sat 29th St Mary’s Parish Mission
Sun 30th St Mary’s Parish Mission First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER
Mon 1st Dec Senior Swimming commences St Mary’s Parish Mission Werribee Zoo Excursion, Gr 1
Tues 2nd St Mary’s Parish Mission P&F Meeting 7:30pm
Wed 3rd St Mary’s Parish Mission Foundation Prayers in Pyjamas, 6:00pm
Thur 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, 9:15am to 11:15pm

Wed 10th Foundation 2015 session 2
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

JANUARY 2015
Wed 28th Payment of First Instalment of 2015 Fees, 11:30am until 2:00pm
Thur 29th First Day of Testing, 8:30am – 3:30pm, timetabled students
Fri 30th Second Day of Testing, 8:30am – 3:30pm, timetabled students

FEBRUARY
Mon 2nd First Day of School for all children, Foundation to Six, Foundation children finish at 12:30pm for Monday & Tuesday

School Advisory Board Committee Members
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