Dear Families

Next Thursday 5th June the School Advisory Board will meet for the second time this year. After some critical discussion on the issue of the value and effectiveness of our school swimming program brought to the table at our last meeting, the topic will once again be on the agenda for further discussion at this coming meeting. For many years now we have been pondering the value of the swimming program in its current form. More recently the escalating costs and the comparative time involved between the actual lesson time and the time spent out of class have added to the debate. After considerable discussion amongst staff the feeling is that serious consideration be given to ceasing the school swimming program in its current form. The demands of the new national curriculum impose strict time allocations across all subject areas and we can no longer justify the two and a half hours out of a school day for one half hour lesson. Added to this is the increasingly challenging task of timetabling enough parent helpers to help with supervising and in the lower classes, changing the children, the high cost of transporting the children to and from the venue on inclement weather days and the inability to secure a venue at a more appropriate time in the year are all solid grounds for the abandonment of the program. As mentioned earlier this issue has been tabled for further discussion at our meeting next week and as always I invite parents to voice their opinions on the matter to their representatives on the Board either in person or via the email contact provided at the base of this newsletter.

Once again this week a large contingent of children from St Robert’s participated in a number of events on the Geelong Schools sporting calendar. Pictured are the boys and girls who represented St Robert’s at the District Basketball championships. We had two boy teams and one girl team playing in the competition and all played with great spirit and a high level of sportsmanship. St Robert’s Boys Red and the Girls team won their way through to the Division Round Robin which is a terrific achievement. Congratulations to all of you and Good Luck!

Some of you may have seen the photo, published in this morning's Geelong Advertiser, of the children across Geelong participating in the Bellarine Division Cross Country Championships held yesterday. Although none of our students featured in the photo they were certainly there and we are very proud of their efforts. Grace Purcell, James Afford, Lachlan Trethowan, Ashlyn Dwyer, Bella Gard and Georgia Woods all ran really well with Ashlyn (6th place) and Bella (8th) making it through to represent the Bellarine Division in the Western Metropolitan Regional Championships. Congratulations Bella and Ashlyn! Two noticeable absentees from this event were Tanner Bruhn and Charlie Lazaro who qualified to run but unfortunately couldn’t be in two places at once. Both Charlie and Tanner had been selected by the District and Bellarine Division to participate in the Western/Melbourne Metro Regional Primary Schools Football trials, which is a fantastic achievement. Tanner and Charlie have won their way through to the combined Victorian Country/Metro squad and, along with another 78 hopefuls from Country and Metropolitan regions, will be vying for a place in this year’s Victorian State Team. Well Done boys! We all wish you well.

Once again I have good cause to say it time and time again, a big thank you to our parents for their continued support in all our sporting events.

God bless. Have a great week,

Mark
CATHOLIC IDENTITY

The Feast of St Robert

The St Robert’s community will come together to celebrate the Feast of St Robert on Friday 6th June. We had planned a whole school Mass to mark this celebration however, unfortunately Fr Dillon is not available to us on this occasion. In place of Mass it is likely that a whole school non-Eucharist Liturgy will be held, this to be confirmed. From recess to home time all our students will participate in House Group Rotations of activities which include; Skip rope for Viqueque, DVD in the Chapel, Card Games in the Library, Computer Games in the ITC room and Activities on the Oval. Children are to wear their Sports Uniform on this day. A celebratory Hot Dog Lunch will be served to all our students at lunch time.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE

The Winter edition of Australian Catholics Magazine is coming home today. The feature of this issue is Respecting Human dignity – Exploring what it means to value each human life. Hope you can find time in your busy day to have a read of this great magazine.

National Reconciliation Week – 27th May - 3rd June

Reconciliation literally means ‘re-establishing friendly relations’ or ‘healing old wounds’.

Have you heard of Reconciliation Week? It’s a campaign held every year in Australia that works to build stronger ties between Indigenous Australia and other communities through media and community events – and it’s happening this week (Tuesday, 27th May to Tuesday, 3rd June. There are a lot of reasons why reconciliation is important, but the key to it is understanding who Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are and where they come from.

Reconcile what?

Reconciliation literally means ‘re-establishing friendly relations’ or ‘healing old wounds’. In practical terms, it’s about acknowledging our cultural history and the devastating and complex relationship Indigenous Australians have had with colonial Australia, but ultimately learning from that past as a way of reshaping the present and making a better future for all Australians. When Adam Goodes, Australian of the Year, received abuse at the AFL recently, it wasn’t a great example of friendly relations, but he responded positively - he walked away, and then later used the incident as an opportunity to educate the community about why racial insults were damaging to our community’s relationship with other Australians. In 2010 there was a similar situation when Rugby player Timana Tahu overheard racist slurs made towards a fellow player who was Indigenous. Tahu made an admirable statement by walking out of the game.

Words can hurt

Racist insults like the two above can be very upsetting for all people, and can have a negative impact on how welcome they feel in their own community. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, racial abuse follows a colonial history of physical violence and dispossession. The words don’t insult just one person – they affect an entire culture. Reconciliation works to prevent that from happening and it’s everyone’s responsibility to keep working on the relationship between Indigenous Australians and other Australians. Reconciliation starts with a question, rather than an assumption about the past. With most racism stemming from a lack of awareness or understanding about another culture and its people, education is significant in the path to creating an Australia which is inclusive and respectful of its Indigenous peoples.

ST ROBERT’S GOT TALENT

As a further celebration of St Robert’s Feast Day it is proposed that we will have a St Robert’s Got Talent event on Friday 6th June, commencing at 10:00am. Children from grade 3 to grade 6 interested in participating in this talent show are asked to register their interest with Mrs Lewis by Friday 30th May. Auditions will be held on Monday 2nd June (and Tuesday 3rd June if necessary). These auditions are to be brief, approximately 1 minute, children may perform in one act only and costumes are not necessary on this day. Finalists will be notified on Wednesday ready for Friday’s Final!
ST ROBERT’S FRIEJDRTSHIP AND PRAYER GROUP
The next gathering of the St Robert’s Prayer Group will take place this Thursday 29th May at 9:00am in the Chapel. All welcome.

MOON GAZING
Advanced notice is given of our Moon Gazing Night which will be held on Wednesday 11th June and Thursday 12th June, weather permitting. Come along and join as we moon gaze using the great telescopes so generously provided to us by the Parents and Friends Association.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL
The Geelong Conference of St Vincent De Paul is running their annual Winter Appeal throughout June. They are appealing for clothing, blankets, doonas and some non-perishable food items through our school communities. List of preferred non-perishable food; Long life Milk, Breakfast Cereal, Pasta and Noodles, Soup, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Fruit, Tea Bags and Coffee, Tinned Baked Beans or Spaghetti. If you are able to assist please leave donated goods at the office, thank you.

Chilwell P.S. Outside School Hours Care
To book or cancel care please call Olivia/Laune on 0417 014 973

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28th May</td>
<td>Making Honey Joys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 29th May</td>
<td>Octopus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 30th May</td>
<td>Beading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 2nd June</td>
<td>Chalk Drawing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3rd June</td>
<td>Dream Catchers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EFTPOS facility is available – for payments over $10.00. Form at the office or from the OSHC.

IMPORTANT! We encourage families to keep their account in credit. Thank you – OSHC Team.

Just a reminder to all families who have a permanent after school booking. If unable to attend please cancel before 2.30pm to assist staff and avoid session fee. Thanks – OSHC Staff.

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

Gr F CC  Baxter Roth
Gr F CC  Zara Massey
Gr F JP  Lyle Williamson
Gr F JP  Cooper Kennedy
Gr 1MC   Zara Goodall-Wilson
Gr 1MC   Malakai Morrissy
Gr 1YE   Xavier Walker
Gr 1YE   Ben Costa
Gr 2 KT  Ewan Guinane
Gr 2KT   Lucy Robertson
Gr 2LO   Harry Hardy
Gr 2LO   Vittoria Conte
Gr 3KH   Owen Sanigorski
Gr 3KH   Sophie van den Berg
Gr 3JS   Joshua Power
Gr 3JS   Nicholas Dowling
Gr 4MA   Thomas O’Malley
Gr 4MA   Flynn Richards
Gr 4MM   Osca Riccardi
Gr 4MM   Finn Jaques
Gr 5NF   Indi Ryan
Gr 5NF   Millie Watson
Gr 5SP   Michael Bird
Gr 5SP   Oliver Stephens
Gr 6DB   Charlie Lazzaro
Gr 6DB   Nici Raimondo
Gr 6 PB  Eva Hay
Gr 6 PB  Lachlan Wilkes

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

Happy Birthday to:

28th May  Elle Stevenson
29th May  Nicholas Baric
29th May  Indigo Irving
30th May  Dante Conte
1st June  Lachlan Jaques
3rd June  Oliver Stephens
**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**MAY**
- **Thur 29**<sup>th</sup> Excursion to Barwon Grange Gr 1MC
- **Fri 30**<sup>th</sup> GDCSSA Lightning Premiership Excursion to Barwon Grange Gr 1YE

**JUNE**
- **Mon 2**<sup>nd</sup> State Boys/Girls Tennis Championships, (Qualifying students only)
- **Fri 6**<sup>th</sup> St Robert’s Feast Day Celebrations
- **Mon 9**<sup>th</sup> Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
- **Wed 11**<sup>th</sup> Moon Gazing (weather permitting)
- **Thur 12**<sup>th</sup> Region Primary Cross Country, (Qualifying students only)
- **Sat 14**<sup>th</sup> First Eucharist, 6:00pm
- **Sun 15**<sup>th</sup> First Eucharist 11:00am
- **Mon 16**<sup>th</sup> Junior Swimming commences
- **Tues 17**<sup>th</sup> Bellarine Division Football Lightning Premiership
- **Thur 19**<sup>th</sup> Bellarine Division Netball Lightning Premiership
- **Fri 20**<sup>th</sup> Mid-year Progress Reports distributed

**JULY**
- **Mon 14**<sup>th</sup> Term 3 commences
- **Thur 17**<sup>th</sup> State Cross Country Championships
- **Mon 21**<sup>st</sup> Whole School Assembly
- **Wed 23**<sup>rd</sup> Grade 6 Camp – Kangarooibbe

**AUGUST**
- **Fri 1**<sup>st</sup> Grade 6 Interschool Sports
- **Sat 2**<sup>nd</sup> St Mary’s Parish Dinner
- **Mon 4**<sup>th</sup> Whole School Assembly, 3:00pm
- **Fri 8**<sup>th</sup> Grade 6 Interschool Sports
- **Thur 14**<sup>th</sup> Reconciliation Family Activity Night 7pm-8pm
- **Fri 15**<sup>th</sup> Grade 6 Interschool Sports
- **Mon 18**<sup>th</sup> Whole School Assembly, 3:00pm
- **Thur 21**<sup>st</sup> First Reconciliation, 5:00pm and 7:00pm
- **Fri 22**<sup>nd</sup> Grade 6 Interschool Sports

**SEPTEMBER**
- **Wed 3**<sup>rd</sup> Grade 2 Prayers in Pyjamas, 6:45pm
- **Fri 5**<sup>th</sup> Grade 6 Interschool Sports
- **Tues 9**<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Family Night, 7:00pm-8:00pm
- **Fri 12**<sup>th</sup> Grade 6 Interschool Sports
- **Mon 15**<sup>th</sup> Bellarine Division Athletics, Land Field (Qualifying students only)
- **Wed 17**<sup>th</sup> School concert at The Arena
- **Fri 19**<sup>th</sup> End of Term 3

**School Advisory Board Committee Members**

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