Dear Families

December is upon us and with it comes a very busy run home to the end of the school year. So many very special things continue to dot the school calendar even at this late stage of the year and the children are still very much engaged in a wide range of enjoyable and valuable experiences. Our middle and senior swimming program is in its first week of operation, our Foundation classes have their Prayers in Pyjamas evening tonight, the grade one children had a very enjoyable day at Werribee Zoo on Monday and between Indonesian cooking classes and Christmas baking the school Food Technology room has been getting a serious workout this week. It is an exciting time of the year with so many things still to come in the final weeks of what has been a fantastic year.

The success of the year is in no small reason due to the ongoing support of you, the parents. It is great to see so many of you helping out in so many different ways. A reminder that in appreciation of the great support you give, the teachers will be preparing a thankyou morning tea this Friday in the staffroom from 11am to 12pm. I hope most of you can come along for as little or long as you like and enjoy a chat and a nibble with each other. This is just a small way of showing our appreciation so please consider coming.

Have a great week, Mark

ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

The Season of Advent 2nd Sunday of Advent – Prepare a way for the Lord

In this second week of Advent we think of Mary and her anticipation as she awaits the birth of Our Lord, Jesus. In a similar way we should be anticipating and preparing the way of the Lord. We re-light the candle of hope and now also light the purple candle of Love. We know that God is love and we remember with thankful hearts the gift of Jesus, who came as a baby in a manger and lived and loved among us.

Week Two: Prepare a way for the Lord

During the Second Week of Advent we are reminded to prepare a way for the Lord. As we light this second candle of our Advent wreath let us remember that Jesus is the light of our world. May we always prepare a way for him in our lives.

Jesse Tree

Also this week you are invited to continue to deepen your family’s understanding of the Advent Season by reading and discussing the tradition of the Jesse Tree.

The Jesse Tree custom is a pictorial celebration of the Jewish history and ancestry of Jesus. Picture-symbols are hung upon a tree, each representing a fragment of the story of Jewish people leading up to Jesus who is, for Christians, the fulfilment of the prophesies contained in the Hebrew Scriptures. Each person represented by the symbols has, in some way, helped prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah.

The carrying out of this tradition involves obtaining a tree branch or small evergreen tree on which to hang the symbols, and perhaps a brief passage of Scripture related to the person depicted. The symbols may be hung on the tree throughout the season of Advent.

Those represented on the tree include; Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel, Joseph (coat of many colours), Judah, Ruth, David, Solomon, Joseph (husband of Mary), the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ her Son. Here is a link to an online template if you would like to make a Jesse Tree at home.
‘GREGOR McLEOD DAY’
Following on from the success of last year’s event, we would again like to honour the memory of Gregor with this year’s ‘Gregor McLeod Day’ on Friday, December 12th. Children are invited to wear casual clothes, and contribute a gold coin to our fundraiser for the ‘Very Special Kids’ charity organisation. Children might like to add a ‘touch of Christmas’ to their outfit! Please note, students from grades 3-6 will still be attending swimming, so will need to wear bathers underneath; no thongs/flip-flops please! We have also declared this day an official ‘swap day’ for card collectors. We hope that all families can support this special event, and help us raise some funds for this worthwhile charity! Kind Regards, Julie Prendergast

2015 ORIENTATION
On next Tuesday, 9th December, we will have our 2015 Orientation Morning. Our Grade 6 children will go to their prospective secondary schools and our new 2015 Prep children will come to St Robert’s. Children will work in their 2015 class groups with their 2015 teacher from 9:00am to 11:00am except for the Prep children who will attend from 9:30am to 11:00am.

LOST PROPERTY
Our lost property baskets are overflowing!!! We ask that families please check these baskets if you have mislaid any items recently. At the end of the year whatever remains will be washed and used for spare clothing or offered to the Uniform Shop for second hand sales. Please check to ensure that items are returned to their owner.

Also we ask that parents be diligent with swimming items at this time. We seem to be accumulating lots of swimming odds and sods.

MR STIRLING IS RETIRING
Bob Sterling has announced that he will be retiring from teaching music at the end of this year. Bob has taught music at many Catholic Schools throughout the years and has been instrumental in establishing several school bands, St Robert’s included. Teaching to novices and then saying farewell when they reach that all important stage that actual music is produced! Bob has shown infinite patience, encouragement and dedication to his students. The St Robert’s community wish him well and thank him for his contribution to our school over so many years – well done Bob!!

END OF YEAR MASS
A reminder that the St. Robert’s end of year, thanksgiving Mass is on Wednesday, December 10th at 6:00pm at St. Mary’s Basilica. During this Mass there will be a collection for our partner parish of Mary Immaculate, Timor Leste. We hope all families will take this opportunity to come together in praise and thanks to God. Thanks Annice Lappin

EXCHANGING CHRISTMAS CARDS
In line with Food and Healthy Eating Policy the school does not permit Candy Canes or Chocolate Santas etc. to be exchanged. Please stick to Christmas Cards only, thank you for your co-operation.

UNIFORM SHOP
Families are reminded that the uniform shop will be closed from Friday 12th December, so parents are encouraged to visit the shop before this date if they require additional summer uniform pieces. The shop will not re-open until February 2015.

ST ROBERT’S PARENTS & FRIENDS BUSINESS DIRECTORY – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Coming to families by separate email, current emailing system cannot cope with excess pages, is a new initiative from the Parents & Friends. Please take the time to check this email and respond accordingly.

MISSING IN ACTION
Several (8) of our newly purchased large containers have gone missing from the area outside our kitchen, we have the lids but not the containers. We suspect that they might have been borrowed to be used temporarily
for storage or cartage perhaps around fete time. They containers are required for the storage of our concert costumes. If you know of their whereabouts please contact the office and we would love to have them back.

INFORMATION RE: COMMENCEMENT OF 2015 SCHOOL YEAR
There seems to be a little confusion regarding the Student Assessment Days taking place on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th January. These two testing days apply to all St Robert’s students from Foundation through to Grade 6. The opportunity for families to log on and register a time for the assessment tasks will be made available online in the last weeks of this school year. It is our hope to accommodate families with multiple children in multiple grades at the same time. It is anticipated that the assessment tasks will take one hour to complete. More details on how to register a time, to follow at a later date.

WEDNESDAY 28th JANUARY  Pay 1st Instalment payment of $450 on this day and collect books from, 11:30am until 2:00pm. (Uniform shop is not open on this day)

THURSDAY 29th JANUARY  First Day of Testing 8:30am-3:30pm (Timetabled Students)
FRIDAY 30th JANUARY  Second Day of Testing 8:30am-3:30pm (Timetabled Students)
MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY  First day of school for all children. (Prep-Six)
(Prep children finish at 12:30 pm for Monday & Tuesday)

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR FOR PREPS
All Prep students, along with students from all other classes, will commence school on Monday 2nd February. Prep children will finish at 12:30pm on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday will be a rest day. All Prep children are expected to attend school for the whole school day (9:00am-3:30pm) from Thursday 5th February with the exception of Wednesdays which is a recommended day of rest for all Prep children. This will continue for a period of five weeks. (The last rest day will be Wednesday 4th March). All prep children will be expected to attend full time – 5 days a week thereafter.

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<td>2015</td>
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<td>Term 1</td>
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<td>29th January – 27th March</td>
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<td>(Jan 29th &amp; 30th Student Assessment Days) Students begin February 2nd</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
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<td>13th July – 18th September</td>
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<td>3rd October to 16th December (TBC)</td>
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PRIVATE SINGING LESSONS WITH REBECCA HAY – BELLA VOCE
Please see the attached flyer for more information on private singing lessons with Rebecca Hay. If you are interested in your child, grade 3-6, having lessons please complete the form and return to the school office.

Chilwell P.S. Outside School Hours Care Term 4 – DECEMBER 2014
To book or cancel care please call Olivia/Laune on 0417 014 973

- Thursday 4th Dec  Movie and popcorn
- Friday 5th Dec  Loom bands
- Monday 8th Dec  Christmas colouring competition
- Tuesday 9th Dec  Making Christmas angels

IMPORTANT!!! With the school year coming to a close, please finalise your account by FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER to allow admin time to process. If not fully paid placement of your child in 2015 will be suspended until account is cleared. . We encourage families to keep their account in credit. 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. Thanks – OOSH Staff.
STUDENT AWARDS

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

Gr F CC  Lucy Eldridge
Gr F CC  William Harry
Gr FJP  Evelyn Downie
Gr FJP  Ollie Wilson
Gr 1YE  Luke Pitman
Gr 1YE  Isabella Cameron
Gr 1MC  Miller Kennedy
Gr 1MC  Ally Lappin
Gr 2KT  All grade 2 for their fabulous hard work this year!
Gr 2LO  Amelia Muhor
Gr 2LO  Ava Masljak
Gr 3JS  Ben Phillips
Gr 3JS  Tom Ryan
Gr 3KH  Lachlan Lamb
Gr 3KH  Chloe Lappin
Gr 4MA  Finn Alsop
Gr 4MA  Lucy Richmond
Gr 4MM  Bonnie Leslie
Gr 4MM  Jonas Seecamp
Gr 5SP  Milla Lappin
Gr 5SP  Savannah Cook
Gr 6DB  Hilary Beggs
Gr 6DB  Isabella van den Berg
Gr 6PB  Montanna Adamko
Gr 6PB  Marisa Spanninga

BIRTHDAYS

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

3rd December  Matthew Johnson
6th December  Joshua Baum
8th December  Lachlan Berger
9th December  Chloe Bryant

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

Wed 3rd  St Mary’s Parish Mission
Foundation Prayers in Pyjamas, 6:00pm

Thur 4th  St Robert’s School Advisory
Board Meeting

Fri 5th  Parent Helpers Thank You
Morning Tea, 11:00am – 11:45am
End of Year Reports distributed

Tuesday 9th  Orientation Day, grade 6 students
attend their 2015 schools, other
students in 2015 classes
Foundation 2015 session 2

Wed 10th  End of Year Mass, 6:00pm at St Mary’s

Fri 12th  Senior Swimming concludes

Mon 15th  Grade 6 Farewell Dinner

Tues 16th  Grade 6 Excursion, Adventure Park

Wed 17th  Christmas Sing A Long 9:15am
End of Year Assembly 2:45 pm
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

Mon 14th  Foundation Photo Day

School Advisory Board Committee Members

Fr Kevin Dillon
frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au  Website: www.snewtown.catholic.edu.au

Mark Soldani  marks@snewtown.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
ST. ROBERT’S PRIMARY SCHOOL IS OFFERING DURING SCHOOL HOURS
PRIVATE SINGING LESSONS WITH REBECCA HAY – BELLA VOCE

PROFESSIONAL SINGER WITH OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
MUSIC COORDINATOR/ SINGER AT ST. MARY’S BASILICA
OVER 12 YEARS WITH ST. MARY’S JUNIOR CHOIR
SINGING TEACHER AT ST. MARGARET’S & ST.MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOLS
MUSIC TEACHER AT ST. MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
VALID WWC CHECK
CERT 4 TAE WORKPLACE TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT

LESSONS
DURATION: 30 mins  COST: $20 per lesson (paid per term length)
Lessons will be aimed to build confidence through singing. Each child is unique, so lessons will be
informative, helpful and fun, using techniques to inspire the individual students to enjoy singing and develop
at their pace. Exams will not be a focus, but rather an option.

Important Policy points you need to be aware of:
• Private music lessons are only available to children from Grades 3 -6
• Students wanting to participate in the program must not be enrolled in any other music programs
  offered at the school ie. if you already do piano/guitar you cannot enrol in singing.
• Consult with your teacher regarding the impact of class interruptions on their learning at this stage.
  • Any child receiving lessons is required to be a part of the St. Robert’s School Choir.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR INTEREST BY FILLING IN THE FORM BELOW AND RETURNING IT TO THE
OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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<tr>
<th>PARENT/GAURDIAN NAME</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
<th>STUDENT NAME</th>
<th>CURRENT GRADE</th>
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I am interested in placing my child………………………………….in the Private Singing Lessons
you are establishing through the school with Rebecca Hay – Bella Voce. I understand this form indicates
initial interest only. I have read and understood all policy requirements and have consulted with my child’s
class teacher whether lesson interruptions will have a negative effect on their classroom learning.

SIGNED:_______________________________        DATE:________________________

Specific details regarding payment/ terms of agreement etc. will be given to families indicating
interest if the program/lessons are to proceed.