Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Thomas More School for the 2017 year, and we look forward to welcoming all our Preps tomorrow. A special welcome back to the following families:
Leppitsch — Kya & Emily
Burrows — Zoe
Cortes — Louis & Eva

A big welcome to new families in other grades:
De Jong — Eloise & Amelia
Oates — Malachi & James
Parks — Imogen & Zeke
Steenholdt — Leo

On staff, we welcome Miss Eleanor Batey in the 1/2 area and Miss Samantha Griffin in the 5/6 area. Welcome back to Mrs. Olivia Klopper who will be teaching music this year. Mrs. Frja Marquardt also joins us as support staff across the school.

A full list of staff and dates for Term 1 is being sent home today with the newsletter.

Buildings
No doubt everyone will have noticed the ‘cages’ around the admin block. Yes, our building work has begun. The office is now located in the library and the staff area is in the gym foyer, kitchen and meeting room. As you can imagine this will be an interesting time for us all.
The builders will be using half the car park for their vehicles; this will be sectioned off. Please be understanding of this need and be patient when moving around the parking area.

A slogan mentioned already seems to fit the situation well—small term pain for long term gain!

Newsletters
Wednesday is newsletter day, and what a big one it is today! This is our first newsletter for the year, and it has been printed in hard copy as there is so much to think about. From next Wednesday, the newsletter will be available on the school webpage and via email. I do hope that through the weekly newsletter parents are informed of all the school activities.

During first term, parents are invited to meet with their child’s teacher in a formal parent information meeting. The dates for these meetings will be notified to parents as soon as available.
The 1/2 Unit meeting will be held on Wednesday, 22nd February at 6.30pm.
There is a Sacramental Information session on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm for all families with children preparing for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Babies, Babies, Babies
Congratulations to Nichole and Gavin Warner on the birth of their first child, James Joseph. Mother and son doing well.
Congratulations to the Dwyer family on the birth of Beau, baby brother to Coco, Freddy, Daisy and Johnny.
Also congratulations to the Hallal family on the birth of Jayla, sister to Jasmine and Jordan.

Professional Learning
As part of the staff professional learning, there is one day each term allocated to enhancing their teaching craft. This will be a pupil-free day for students. The date for Term 1 is Friday 10th March.
I do understand the inconvenience these days can cause for parents and I thank you for your support; I know you realize it is in the best interest of your child’s learning.

Condolences
Please remember the Dixon family in your prayers on the passing of James and Emily’s grandfather.

May he rest in peace.

Enjoy your week ahead.

Mrs. Pat McConvill
Principal

February
7th—PA Meeting, 7.30pm
10th—Year 3-6 Swimming Sports
10th—PA Welcome Picnic
14th—PEB Meeting, 7.30pm
17th—Beginning of Year Mass, 12 noon.
**DEPUTY REPORT**

**Carparking**

The STM carpark is a busy place and we require your assistance in maintaining the safety of all families. We have three designated carparks for you to park, the school carpark, the parish house carpark and the oval carpark. We ask that parents use the designated parking bays to allow for the easy movement of traffic. We have 2 disabled carparks located outside the gym. We have 2 students who need to use this parking bay each day. There are also 2 disabled parking bays outside the church which are designated for those who have a disabled sticker on their car. We ask that you leave these bays free.

**Procedures**

The most important thing to remember is to drive slowly within the school grounds as there are always children about. Remember to always look carefully before driving out of the parking bays, especially if reversing.

In the morning we have a drop off system in place. The drop off zone is located in front of the Bike Shed. Please ensure your children alight from the vehicle safely on the curb side of the car. The road down the hill is the queue for the drop off zone.

In the afternoon we expect parents to park their car and pick their child up from the designated areas around the school. It is possible to park down the side of the hill where there are about six parking spaces available.

We ask that you do not park above the zebra crossing as this blocks traffic coming into the driveway.

We have bollards in place from 9:30 – 3:00. Our Year 5/6 students are responsible for putting them up and taking them down. Sometimes they forget and we ask if it is after 3:00 please contact the office and let us know.

As I said the carpark will be a busy place, especially with the builders taking up parking bays in the school carpark. We ask for your patience at all times. The first term is always a bit more hectic with new families getting used to the new school.

In the past few years we have highlighted the fact that students will be supervised after school in the office area until 4pm. This allows parents to stagger the pickup time and keep the carpark less congested.

**Nude Food Policy**

Please continue to support our school with our nude food policy. We are encouraging students to pack healthy lunches with limited packaging. If students do use glad wrap and packaged foods they are asked to take it home in their school bags.

**Working Bee - Saturday 4\textsuperscript{th} of March starts at 9am**

Please come along and support our first working bee for the year. We ask that the 5 / 6 families provide donations for the morning tea please.

---

**Years 3 -6 STM swimming carnival.**

**WHEN:**  Friday 10\textsuperscript{th} February, 2017

**WHERE:** It will be held at The YMCA Aquatic and Recreation Centre, Somerville, from 9:30am – 2:00pm.

- Year 3/4 will leave school at 9:00am and will return at approximately 12:15pm.
- Year 5/6 will leave school at 11:15am and will return at approximately 2:30pm.

We will be travelling by bus. There will be swimming races and also novelty events, so all students will have the opportunity to participate. Students choose their events on the day. 25m (1 lap), 50m (2 laps) or novelty events at the shallow end of the pool. All students will do 3 races for the day. *Only 50m swimmers are eligible for the District swimming event.*

*We will need parent helpers, to travel with us and officiate, so it would be great if you are able to help. Please fill in the volunteer section on your Care Monkey request.*
Welcome back to all our families for 2017 and welcome to all our new families who have recently joined us.

2017 Welcome Picnic - Friday 10th February

Our annual family welcome picnic is on Friday 12th February at 5.00pm until dark. Come along and join in the fun and games on the night as well as taking the opportunity to relax while meeting and chatting to other families. Perhaps you’ll join in the parents’ running race and take home the honour of winning the STM parents trophy for the year! BYO food, drinks, chairs, picnic rugs and smiles! We look forward to seeing many of you there on what has been in the past a terrific evening.

We also have Manhattan Express Food Truck at the Welcome Picnic selling lovely pizzas.

AGM - Tuesday 7th March

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th March, 2017. Beginning at 7.30pm in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Have you ever wondered why we do carparking duty at Mornington Market? Ever wondered what happens to our fundraising funds? Ever wondered how you can get involved in making decisions? Answer: Attend the AGM and become a crucial member of the St Thomas More Parents Association.

This is a very important and highly informative meeting for all parents at STM, we strongly encourage at least ONE member of your family to attend and gain a better understanding of the operations of the school committees like the Parents Association.

NOW RECRUITING!! STM Parents Association

Opportunities have opened up to become involved in the PA in 2017. We would love to have you involved!! It’s also a great opportunity to get to know many parents and families.

Roles up for review in 2017

President
Vice President
Assistant Treasurer
Treasurer Counters
Parish Education Board Parent Rep (PEB)
Parent Rep Co-ordinator
Mornington Carpark Co-ordinator
General Committee

Nomination forms are available in the office. Nomination forms are due into the office by Friday 24th February.

For more information or to express interest regarding executive and general positions please contact leonieroyall@yahoo.com.au

Parent Class Reps 2017 – Your Class Representatives

If you would like to help out in 2017 but only have time for a small role then this is perfect for you. We are looking for volunteers.

The Parent Class Reps will help organise year level social gatherings throughout the year. (morning teas, dinners, plays etc)

- Attend a Parent Rep meeting once a Term if available.
- Help the teachers and PA distribute information to your class.
- Welcome new families to the school.
- You DO NOT have to attend PA meeting.

Please contact Amanda Cooke or myself ASAP if you are interested, thanks.

Thank you to the people who have volunteered.
Prep D - Emily Husband and Simone Morley
Prep G - Marcia Torcasio and (new Prep parent required)
1/2N - Amanda Kelly
1/2L - Kate Hadley
1/2K - Emma Newton
1/2E - Christie Leppitsch
3/4M
3/4N - Jen Wills
3/4S - Emma Smith
3/4J
5/6J - Amanda Cooke
5/6M
5/6K - Leonie Zammit
5/6S - Geraldine Lynch

Sincerely
Leonie Zammit
President
Parents Association
leonieroyall@yahoo.com.au

STM DATES FOR THE DIARY

2nd February - Thursday - Tears and Tissues in gym foyer after drop off

7th February - PA Meeting 7.30pm (all welcome)

10th February - Friday - Welcome Picnic - STM Oval from 5pm

7th March - Tuesday - AGM - 7.30pm Multi Purpose Room
Camp Australia—Before and After School Care

Camp Australia are now offering Before School Care as well as After School Care at St Thomas More, in the multi-purpose room.

**Before School Care Program**
From: 6:45am to 8:30am each school day

**After School Care Program**
From: 3:30pm—6pm each school day.

To register please log on to [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au)

Please see Janet in the multi purpose room if you have any questions

**MORNINGTON RACECOURSE MARKET—CAR PARK DUTY**

Please advise Daniel Ferlin on 0410 184 494 with your confirmed attendance via text (incl your name) ASAP.

Please find the car parking rosters for the coming markets here. Together, this small contribution of our time is raising approximately $14,000 annually for the continual improvement of our school and the programs provided to our children. **All families will be rostered on an approximate 16 month cycle.**

If you are unavailable for your rostered month, please organise another family to take your place at least a week in advance of the market, and advise Daniel of the change asap.

**All Markets:**
- Arrive at 7:45am (all weather event); exception for Twilight market 1:45pm
- You will be told by the Market Leader when you can leave. This is typically around 12:30pm (6:30pm Twilight) but can alter depending on how busy the market is.
- Enter via the main gates of Racecourse on **Racecourse Road, Mornington.**
- Park in the designated area (Market Staff will be at the gate to assist you)
- Sign in with the Team Leader (for record keeping and Work Cover). **Team Leaders must collect a black folder from the school office the Friday prior to attending the market, and return it the following Monday.**
- Receive your safety vest.
- Market Staff will take you to your location in the car park where you will direct cars accordingly and finish at approximately noon. (On slower days Market Staff will advise if you can leave earlier).

Daniel Ferlin
0410 184 494
daniel_ferlin@hotmail.com

**Please Confirm Attendance ASAP**

**Re-rostered due to prior non-attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY 12th February</th>
<th>SUNDAY 12th March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cox (Team Leader)</td>
<td>Griffin (Team Leader)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boatwright</td>
<td>Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floro</td>
<td>Gooden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>Faidutti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones M &amp; A</td>
<td>Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landsaat</td>
<td>Kratzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saporito</td>
<td>Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Clair</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taverna-McDonald</td>
<td>Nottingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trimble</td>
<td>Owens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandermeer J&amp;L</td>
<td>Webster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whyte</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>