Dear Parents,

We are deeply saddened at the sudden passing of Mrs. Carole O’Farrell, a former teacher at St Thomas More. Carole started teaching at STM in 1984, and stayed for 27 years. At the end of 2010 when Carole retired, she had held many positions of trust at the school such as classroom teacher, Religious Education Coordinator, literacy support teacher. She touched the lives of many children and their families.

“Many of Mrs. O’Farrell’s former pupils would recall her daily blessing of each child prior to taking them up to the sails with the words ‘May God bless you and keep you safe until we meet again’.” (A School with a View, 2007)

Our prayers and thoughts are with her husband, Lance, and her family and many friends.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord.  
And let perpetual light shine upon her.  
May she rest in peace. Amen

Ash Wednesday

Today is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, a cross is drawn on our foreheads. The cross is drawn with cold ashes from burning the leaves from the palms used from Palm Sunday the previous year. The ashes remind us that God has the power to make us grow – just like seeds grow after a fire. Lent lasts for 40 days. This is the time when we try to grow in love and goodness. Just like God wants us to. Lent helps us prepare for Easter.

How will your journey through Lent help you prepare for Easter this year?  
Lorraine Coassin, REL

Emergency Management Procedures

With the February heat still to come, parents are reminded that St Thomas More School has been identified as being at high fire risk and will be closed on days declared by fire authorities to be Code Red.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days notice of a planned closure. We will contact you directly by letter, and SMS message, with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.

No staff will remain on site when the school is closed by the threat of fire. We will also cancel any offsite activities and out-of-school care during the fire season if the activities are at risk.

Unfortunately, in today’s world, the school must also be prepared for other dangerous situations, such as bomb threats, adverse weather, intruders, chemical leaks etc.

Each term staff and students prepare for any of these threats by enacting emergency-type scenarios to ensure staff and students are drilled in their roles for emergency management procedures.

Our key priority in any of these situations is the safety of the children. Parents will be notified of a situation after the children are safe and emergency services permit.

Yesterday, our emergency management training provider, Dynamiq, led us through a mock bomb threat in the school. The assessor was very impressed with the knowledge of staff in their roles and the calm and precise manner in which the children moved to the evacuation site.

Have a wonderful week ahead.

Mrs. Pat McConvill
Principal

Parent Information Meetings

Dates for parent meetings are as follows:
Prep – Thursday, 25th February, at 7.30pm
1/2 Unit – Wednesday, 17th February at 7pm.
3/4 Unit—Wednesday 10th February at 7:30pm
5/6 Unit—Tuesday 16th February at 7pm.

Sacramental Information -Thursday 18th February at 7.30pm.

Calendar

February
10th—3/4 Unit Parent meeting, 7.30pm
12th—Beginning of Year Mass, 12 noon.
12th—Welcome Picnic at 5.00pm.
16th—5/6 Unit Parent meeting, 7pm
17th—1/2 Unit Parent meeting, 7pm
18th—Sacramental Meeting for Parents, 7:30pm

March
18th—Staff Professional Learning—School closed
Deputy Principal Report

School Fees
Fee statements were posted out to all families last week. Please complete the form asking for your payment option and return to the office by Monday, 15th February.

Congratulations
Welcome to the Danaher family on the birth of Harriett. A new little sister for Madeleine in Prep D.

A Year 6 Leadership Story
There is a blossom tree located in front of the Year 5/6 classrooms. Every year it sprouts beautiful blossoms and livens up the whole area near the decking. People are amazed at its beauty. There is a fantastic story associated with this tree. Many years ago a family sadly left St. Thomas More and as a parting gift donated this tree for our gardens. It wasn’t quite the right time to plant the tree so it sat outside the office for a few weeks. I was a bit worried that the tree might die and how embarrassing it would be. One day a Year 6 boy named George Young knocked on my door and said he was looking for a job to do at lunch times. What an opportunity. I told George about the tree and how I was worried that it might die. He said, “leave it with me Mr. Whyte, I will water it each day and make sure it doesn’t die” sure enough George stuck to his word and the tree survived. I was very proud of George. We were very pleased to finally plant the tree where you will find it today. The Year 5/6 teachers retell this story each year to the 5/6 students to give them an example of what people can do to contribute to life here at STM. Small acts of kindness and thoughtfulness do make a difference. George and his family have a strong history at STM. His dad, Chris is the chairperson of the Parish Education Board, his mum Trish was one of the original Library Assistants and heavily involved in the Parents Association, his sister and brother also attended our school. Sadly one of his sisters died at an early age and Caitlyn’s garden behind the office is named in her honour.

Our Year 5/6 teachers have been busy organising our school leaders and they will be announced at this week’s mass on Friday. It is a very exciting day for the Year 6 students. In the classrooms the teachers have discussed the word leadership and what the roles entail. An important part for the students is to work together in their designated groups to plan things which will make our school run smoothly. They work closely with a staff member who guides them with things to implement during the year. Watch this space to hear of enterprising things happening around the school in 2016.

Working Bee
Saturday 27th February starts at 9am
If you are able to spare a couple of hours on Saturday morning we would love to see you at our school working bee. For those of you new to STM, the students love coming along to the working bees to play with their friends and spend some time helping around the school. The Year 6 families are supplying a yummy morning tea, so remember to drop off your donations to the Undercroft. Please note that you don’t need to be that handy on the tools to participate.
Looking forward to seeing you there.

Dad’s Only Night (DONs) Barefoot Bowling: Friday 18th March – 6:30
The Parents Association have organised a night for the dads. It will be a great way to get to know new dads at STM. Friday 18th March at Mt. Eliza Bowling Club. More details to follow but pencil the date into your diaries now. Unfortunately no children allowed.

PARISH CAR BOOT SALE
Saturday 5th March 2016 - 8am–2pm
The Parish Pastoral Leadership Team is again running a Car Boot Sale in the Parish car park. All funds raised will go towards supporting the work of the Parish. There are many ways to come along and join in the fun:
- Book a site - $25.00 per car site - make some money, have a clear out and make some space at home.
- Don’t want to run a stall, but still have goods you no longer want? - donate them to the Parish Stall and all funds raised will go directly to the Parish.
- Come along and buy! There will also be a Sausage Sizzle and other refreshments available.
- Volunteer to – be a parking attendant, sell raffle tickets, cook sausages, or help on the Parish Stall
All enquiries to:
Anne-Marie Hyde 0409 020 120 amhyde122@gmail.com
Maree Taverna 0425 721 207 mareetaverna@hotmail.com

Sports News
This year School Sport Victoria has a new registration process for the following sports: Australian Football, Basketball, Football (Soccer), and Netball (12 years and Under)

Trials are no longer held at District level.
Please follow the link to the SSV website for more information.

https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/TeamVic/Pages/onlineRegistrationInformation.aspx
PARENT HELPER WORKSHOP

DEAR FAMILIES,

YOU ARE INVITED TO BE PART OF YOUR CHILD/REN'S CLASSROOM. YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER AND BE PART OF THEIR CLASSROOM AS A LITERACY HELPER.

WE ARE HOLDING WORKSHOPS IN MARCH. IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU, COME ALONG AND MEET LIKE MINDED ADULTS. PLEASE BE PART OF THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE READ AND RETURN THE ATTACHMENT. LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.

CATHY MCKENZIE

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The PA meets on the first Tuesday of every month, the next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st March 2016. Everyone is welcome. Meetings normally begin at 7.30pm in the staffroom but due to the AGM this meeting will start at 6.30pm in the MPR. Contact leoniero-yall@yahoo.com.au for more information.

2016 Welcome Picnic - Friday 12th February
THIS FRIDAY

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.

AGM - Tuesday 1st March

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st March, 2016. 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.

Please note, attendance is noted on the evening and apologies are expected to be given into the office direct prior to the 1st March.

NOW RECRUITING!! STM Parents Association

Opportunities have opened up to become involved in the PA in 2016. We would love to have you!! It’s also a great opportunity to get to know so many parents and families.

Roles up for review in 2016

Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Treasurer Counter
Parish Education Board Parent Rep (PEB)
Parent Rep Co-ordinator
Working Bee Co-ordinator
General Committee

Please see attached to the newsletter a list of Job Descriptions for the vacant Committee roles.

Nomination forms are due into the office by Friday 26th February.

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

DONs (Dads Only Nights) is Back with Barefoot Bowls.

Date: Friday 18th March from 6.30pm
Mt Eliza Bowling Club 90-100 Canadian Bay Rd Mt Eliza
$10 including bowls and complimentary snack

More info to come.

Save the Date - our Class Reps are arranging the following social events for Term 1, your Class Rep will be in contact with more information soon.

Thursday 25th February - Prep Morning Tea Eden Gardens after drop off
Friday 4 March - 1/2 Drinks at The Mt Eliza Wine Bar from 7pm
Tuesday 15 March - Prep Dinner - Venue TBA
Friday 18 March - 3/4 and 5/6 Morning at Gravity Zone (School Day Off)

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK - Search and ask to join “Mores on the Mount”. This is a social chat and information page for PARENTS ONLY OF ST THOMAS MORE. The page is always updated with information about events around the school and social events within the parent bodies.

STM DATES FOR THE DIARY

12th February - Welcome Picnic - from 5pm on school oval
25th February - Prep Morning Tea - Eden Gardens after drop off
27th February - Working Bee. Year 5/6 to supply morning tea
1st March - PA Meeting at 6.30pm in MPR
1st March - AGM 7.30pm in MPR
4th March - Friday 1/2 Drinks at The Mt Eliza Wine Bar from 7pm
15th March - Tuesday Prep Dinner - Venue TBA
18th March - Friday 3/4 & 5/6’s Morning at Gravity Zone
18th March - DONs (Dads Only Nights) Barefoot Bowls.

Sincerely
Leonie Zammit
President
Parents Association
leoniero-yall@yahoo.com.au
STM Netball—Winter Season

Winter Netball Comp Registrations close this Friday 5th Feb.
If your child is interested in playing netball and they were born in 2008+ please head to the website www.stmnetballclub.org to Register.
Cost is $210 & this includes Netball Victoria Registration. Season runs March to September. Please email 1nr Registrar Tamara dtrussell@optusnet.com.au if you have any queries.

STM STORM – ST THOMAS MORE BASKETBALL CLUB INC.

2016 WINTER SEASON NEW PLAYER REGISTRATION & INFORMATION DAY

WHEN: Monday 22nd February at 3.30pm - 4.30pm
WHERE: Outside the Undercroft

New & Returning Players Welcome. Frankston Competition Offered
All Ages from U8 – U18 – All Abilities New / Second Hand Uniforms & Merchandise Will Be On Display Please Feel Free to Register Prior via www.stm-storm.sportingpulse.net.

$90 Registration Fee for Training & FDBA Registration. Additional Court & Uniform Fees will Apply.
Please Email Julie @ stmbasketballclub@gmail.com or Call 0413211610 If You Have Any Queries

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.

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/Car Parking Coordinator
0410 184 494 / daniel_ferlin@hotmail.com

** Please Confirm Attendance ASAP

^^ Re-rostered due to prior non-attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY 14th February 2016</th>
<th>SUNDAY 13th March 2016</th>
<th>SUNDAY 10th April 2016</th>
<th>SUNDAY 8th May 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McDonagh (Leader)</td>
<td>Faulkner (Team Leader)</td>
<td>Batten (Team Leader)</td>
<td>Crawford (Team Leader)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auger</td>
<td>Andaloro</td>
<td>Barr</td>
<td>Cummins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalais</td>
<td>Firth</td>
<td>Biasuzzo</td>
<td>Gerring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harangazo</td>
<td>Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>Clutterbus</td>
<td>Ingaliso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunt D &amp; Z</td>
<td>Higgins A</td>
<td>Hamod</td>
<td>Jones R &amp; A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignaggi</td>
<td>McKeran</td>
<td>Lancia</td>
<td>MacFarlane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>Mirabella</td>
<td>Muccignat</td>
<td>McLaughlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polatidis</td>
<td>O’Halloran</td>
<td>Patane J &amp; B</td>
<td>Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postregna</td>
<td>Russell</td>
<td>Piva</td>
<td>Sinopoli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storen</td>
<td>Stewart</td>
<td>Porto</td>
<td>Smith C &amp; M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taranto</td>
<td>Verhofstadt</td>
<td>Poutney</td>
<td>Trubiani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsukakoshi</td>
<td>Wray</td>
<td>Vaughan</td>
<td>Vandermeer P &amp; L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>