Dear Parents,

Year 5/6 Camp
Next week, the 5/6 students and their intrepid teachers will be braving the cold as they explore Sovereign Hill, Ballarat. The aim of the camp is to consolidate their learning around key events and change in Australian history and to provide the opportunity for the students to build relationships with others and challenge themselves.

Thank you to the staff who are attending and give of their time to make this adventure possible.

Both Mr. Whyte and I will be on camp with the 5/6s, so Ms. Coassin will be in charge.

School Values
Below are the four values named as key values for STM:

• Respect
• Collaboration
• Innovation
• Integrity

Collaboration: Through this value, we aspire to build people who willingly share their ideas and responsibilities. We aim to develop in all of members of the school community the capacity to work together for a better outcome than can be achieved by any one person.

We build individual abilities through shared responsibilities to enable each person to contribute to the group with better understanding and improved skills.

Another aspect of collaboration is co-operating with each other and supporting one another. Specific skills are taught to support children working in teams.

Collaboration works in tandem with the other values e.g. speaking appropriately and listening to others well.

School Surveys
Last chance— the survey closes on Friday 13th May—there are currently 15 parent surveys completed, 37 to go.

Head Lice Check
It appears there has been some consternation about a school head lice check from comments on the ‘parent facebook page’.

Following several reported cases of head lice last term, it was decided to check all children’s hair. Council was approached, but they no longer offer this service. The school needs volunteers to do this; a notice in the school newsletter drew only one response. Now, a few more volunteers have come forward.

On Friday, Danielle O’Connor has organized for the children to have their hair checked by these volunteers in the MPR. The children’s privacy is important to us and the parents will be briefed on confidentiality processes and will be expected to follow these, as with any volunteers in our school.

If you do not wish for your child to participate, please let your classroom teacher know before Friday morning.

Have a happy week ahead.

Mrs. Pat McConvill
Principal

St. Thomas More
Primary School
Open Day
Wednesday 1st June
Tours by appointment—9:15am, 10am or 12pm
Please contact the school office to book a tour
Applications invited during the month of June

Anzac Day Badges
The sale of Anzac Badges raised a total of $179 The money raised assists the RSL with their welfare work with Veterans, War Widows and their children.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

Calendar
May
11th—Confirmation Workshop, 7.30pm
12th—School Mass, 12.15pm led by 1/2K
12th—Year 5/6 Interschool Sport
12th—Reconciliation Group 10, at 7pm
14th—Reconciliation Group 11, at 5pm
16th—18th—Year 5/6 Camp to Ballarat
20th—School Mass, 12.15pm led by 3/4N&S
20th—Year 5/6 Interschool Sport
20th—3/4s Afternoon in Tune, at 2.10pm
Deputy Principal Report

Working Bee
This Saturday starting at 9 am

The weather is looking perfect for working bee this Saturday. I hope to see a few families come along and help make our garden play area look better and safer for the children.

Main Jobs.

Garden Reno: The garden area next to the Gym is affectionately known as ‘The Jungle’ by the children. They use this space to play nature shops. Over time the garden beds have been worn out. We need to tidy the area, ready the soil for future planting and spread some mulch. We ask parents to bring wheelbarrows and picks and shovels.

Propagating Shed: The final touches on this project will allow the school to start the propagating process where we aim to grow our own plants and possibly vegetables in the future.

Maintenance: We have a few handrails, paths of travel and health and safety issues to address.

Wellbeing Night

5 Secrets to Develop confidence and resilience:

This Parent Seminar will be presented by Georgina Manning from Wellbeing For Kids.

Wednesday 1st of June @ 6:30 in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Please see the attached flyer.

Fee Reminder
The second quarterly instalment is due by Friday 20th May. Fee Statements will be posted to all families shortly. Thank you to all the families who have already paid their fees or who have made a commitment to pay fees by instalment.

Financial Assistance – Information for Parents in 2016, Term 2

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) – for concession card holders.

The CSEF is a Victorian Government initiative which will assist eligible families with the costs associated with school camps, sports and excursions.

Eligibility: To be eligible for receipt of the CSEF you must:

- be a Victorian primary or secondary school student up to the age of eighteen; and
- hold a means tested concession card, and/or
- be a temporary foster parent,
- eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of Term 2, 11th April 2016.

Annual Amount: $125 per year will be paid for eligible primary school students. Payments will go directly to the school and be tied to the student expenses relating to camps, sport and excursions.

How to Apply: Application forms are available from the school office. The valid Concession Card will be photocopied to accompany your application.

Applications Close: Friday 3 June, 2016.

Conveyance Allowance Program (CAP)

The conveyance allowance assists families with the cost of transporting their children to and from school when they meet the eligibility. The conveyance allowance is also available to eligible students whose nearest school is not serviced by a free school bus.

How to Apply: Application forms are available from the school office or school website (refer the instructions at the top of the page). Please use ‘Bing Maps’ to estimate your distance from school: http://www.bing.com/maps.

Applications Close:

Term 2: Friday 27 May
Term 3: Friday 19 August
Term 4: Friday 18 November

Please submit NEW applications to the school office by the due date/s.

The applications of existing CAP recipients will be rolled over provided the eligibility criteria are still met.

MUSIC NEWS

Interested Year 4 students attended a choir trial last week, and the first official Junior Choir session was held yesterday. Junior Choir will continue during the first half of lunchtimes each Tuesday throughout Term 2.

Music Reminders for the diary …

Friday 20th May … Year 3/4 Aussie Afternoon in Tune … in the gymnasium … starting at 2:10pm … families and friends very welcome

Wednesday 25th May … STM Senior Choir performance at the Harmonies Unite Choral Festival … Toorak College Mt Eliza … starting at 7pm … families and friends very welcome.
**MOTHER’S DAY STALL**

Thank you to Caroline Storen and Fiona Parkyn for your wonderful selection of Mother’s Day Gifts and arranging the stall.

Thank you to our gift wrappers: Fiona Parkyn, Fleur Crawford, Gabby Bowtell, Nada Cevizovic, Michaela Webster, Lisa Vandermeer, Niamh Hislop and Caroline Storen.

Thank you to the people on the stall: Josie Palancian, Jo Marshall, Eliza Spring, Louisa O’Neill, Toni Flaus, Caroline Storen and Fiona Parkyn.

A special Thank you to Ally St Clair for donating the wonderful scarves and jewellery. They were extremely popular. (Ally is Grandmother to Madison in Prep D and Max in Prep T)

It is lovely watching the kids choose their gifts, so much thought and excitement goes into it. We hope all our wonderful Mums had a very special weekend.

**MOTHER’S DAY MORNING TEA**

The Mother’s Day Morning Tea was a wonderful morning. A BIG THANK YOU to Jo Bastone and her staff at Benito’s, we had a beautiful morning. We will be making a donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Thank you to all that attended.

**2016 MAJOR FUNDRAISER - 80’S MAYHEM AND MADNESS featuring Sports and Music Trivia**

**Save the Date: SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST 2016**

We are planning on holding live and silent auctions and are looking for donations of vouchers, goods or services. Maybe you own a business or work for somebody who would be willing to make a donation. Or you may just have unwanted prizes or gifts you would be willing to part with. All businesses who donate will be given recognition on our Facebook page and in the newsletter. We would be grateful if voucher donations could be dated from the 27th August 2016.

Donations can be left at the office or if you would like to discuss, please contact myself leonieroyall@yahoo.com.au or Amanda Cooke amandacooke3@bigpond.com

Donations over $500 will qualify as a Major Sponsor.

We are also looking for sponsorship, if you are interested please contact Christina for more information.

paulchristina1@bigpond.com

All money raised goes back into the school for our children's education.

**WORKING BEE - THIS SATURDAY 14th MAY**

Year 3/4 are asked to providing the morning tea, please drop a plate off on Friday afternoon or deliver to the undercroft Saturday morning.

We would love to see each family attend at least one working bee per year. Kids welcome, BBQ lunch supplied.

**WORKING BEE CO-ORDINATOR REQUIRED**

- Co-ordinating the quarterly working bees. (4 per year)
- General maintenance – building various gardens and small retaining walls, mulching gardens, maintaining paths and stairs in safe condition, cleaning gutters, drain pits, painting.
- One off major projects/structures

These jobs are often done by volunteers outside the normal working bee scheduled days.

We still need to fill this role. Andrew Taylor will be available this year to help with the role. If you are interested please contact Leonie, thanks.

**1/2 MORNING TEA - NEXT WEDNESDAY 18th MAY**

COME ALONG AND JOIN US FOR A LOVELY BREAKFAST/MORNING TEA AT BARMAH PARK VINEYARD CAFÉ, 945 MOOROODUC HIGHWAY

TIME: AFTER SCHOOL DROP OFF

PLEASE RSVP TO YOUR CLASS REP

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

**PREP MORNING TEA - SAVE THE DATE**

Tuesday 24th May 11am - Prep Morning Tea - Commonfolk 16 Progress st, Mornington

**STM DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- 14th May - Working Bee - 3/4 to provide morning tea.
- 18th May - Year 1/2 Brunch / coffee at Barmah Park Vineyard (after drop off)
- 24th May - Prep Morning Tea - 11am Commonfolk 16 Progress st, Mornington
- 2nd June - Years 3/4/5/6 7.30pm Dinner at Assaddini Wine and Tapas Bar
- 7th June - PA meeting 7.30pm in staffroom
- 17th June - Friday - 5pm - Hip Hop Disco (Prep to Year 6 students only)

Sincerely

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

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