Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the families who came along to support the staff at the commitment Mass on Sunday. It was lovely to see so many school families there.

Our Prep families have been invited to attend the 10am Mass on Sunday 26th February as a welcome to the School and Parish. All families are invited to attend to support the little ones. Morning tea will be provided afterwards.

**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.

Each term staff and students prepare for any 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.

Next week, we will again have an emergency-type scenario to ensure staff and students are fully aware of the procedures.

**Condolences**

Please remember the McCarthy family in your prayers on the passing of Fynn’s grandmother. 

*May she rest in peace.*

**Class Contact Lists**

Class contact lists will be developed over the next few weeks. If any families do not wish to be included, please contact the school office by Friday 17th February.

**Parent Nights**

February 15th—Year 5/6 at 7.30pm
February 20th—Year 3/4 at 7.00pm
Year 3 Sacramental Meeting 7.30pm
February 22nd—Year 1/2 at 6.30pm.
Wednesday, March 1—Preps, from 6.30pm.

There is a **Sacramental Information** session on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm for all families with children preparing for Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

**St Thomas More Parish Pastoral Plan**

Last Wednesday, Father Laurie launched the new Parish Pastoral Plan for 2016-2019. As the school is an integral part of the Parish, there are aspects of school life included. Copies of the Plan may be collected from the school office or Parish office.

If you would like to be involved in any of the activities listed in the plan, please contact the Parish office on 9787 7777.

**Fee Statements**

Statements were posted to all families last week. Please contact the office if you have not received one.

A variety of fee payment options, including direct debit and credit card deduction, are offered. Payment in full is due by Friday 3rd March.

Please complete the Fee Payment Nomination form and return to the school office ASAP along with the credit card/direct debit authorisations (if you have elected to pay fees this way).

If you would like to discuss other arrangements please contact the school office by Friday 24th February to arrange a meeting with the Principal.

Enjoy your week ahead.

*Mrs. Pat McConvill*

Principal
**Building Works**
We are starting to see quite a deal of progress with the dismantling of the Admin building. On Saturday the tiles were removed and this week the roof trusses have also been removed. Here are some photos from this week’s demolition.

**School Carpark: Speed Limit and Parking Bays**
It is important to follow the rules of the carpark. The speed within the carpark is 10 km and even better if walking pace. We expect that parents will park in the parking bays provided. You cannot block any of the entrances or exits.

Remember that for after school pickup, there will be a line of cars waiting to park into the parking bays. We ask that parents are patient and wait their turn.

A Big Reminder that we are encouraging a staggered pickup after school. Students are always supervised in the sails area until 4pm. If you arrive between 3:40 and 4:00 you will easily find a park.

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**Working Bee 4th March**
Dear Parents of St Thomas More,
The first of the working bees of this year is scheduled for the 4th of March. Please keep this Saturday morning free to help maintain and improve our school. The working bee will kick off at 9am and go until after lunch, if you can donate any of your time it is much appreciated. Morning tea and lunch are provided. There is a range of jobs that need doing, from painting railings through to creating a new seating area and constructing retaining walls to control erosion. All skill sets are welcome, if your day job is pushing a pen I am sure we can train you in the art of holding a paint brush.

Regards
Arthur House (Working Bee Co-ordinator)

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**Camp Australia**
**Before & 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

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

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**CANTEEN NEWS**
A reminder that we no longer stock Tropical Juice (mistake on price list). The only Juice flavours we have are Orange, Apple & Blackcurrent and Apple.

**Rosters for 20th Feb**
**Canteen:** 9am-130pm Michaela Webster, 9am-11:30am Viv Cox, 11:30 am -1:30pm Laura Harbour

**Counting:** Kelly Davies, Eliza Spring, Trudy Fitzpatrick, Marisa Sinopoli

Please let me know asap if you cannot make your shift.

Susie Power-Reeves
0401139124

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**Indoor soccer for Parents!**
We’ve been playing for almost 3 years now! Irrespective of your ability or level of fitness, this casual 1 hr kick-around is for all parents every Thursday evening, 730pm start. Please text me if interested or for more info. The cost of participating is $15 pp per term to cover cost of hire.

Daniel Ferlin
2017 Welcome Picnic
Thank you to Fleur Crawford and Sally Richmond and helpers for all your work arranging the welcome picnic. Thank you to the 5/6 students for all their help. Congratulations to Shaun O’Halloran and Nic Leonard for winning the STM parents trophies for this year! It was a terrific evening.

Thank you to Shan Newman and Manhattan Express Food Truck, it was great having you at the picnic.

School Disco - Friday 3rd March - Prep to Year 6 (no siblings)
STM are going COCONUTS with a Tropical Beach Theme Disco on Friday 3rd March in the school gym.
5.30pm - 7pm
Entry $5
Entry and Snack Pack $10
Forms and correct money to be returned to the office in an envelope by MONDAY 27th Feb. Flyer coming soon.

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.

Both Father Laurie and Pat McConvill will do a short presentation updating everyone on important school matters.

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 and 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!! It’s also a great opportunity to get to know so 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
General Committee

Nomination forms are available in the office. Nomination forms are due into the office by Friday 3rd March.

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

COFFEE MORNINGS
PREP - Are invited to the Corner Pantry from 9am on Thursday 23rd Feb
1/2 PARENTS - Are invited to Lintons from 9am on Wed 8th March.
3/4 PARENTS - Are invited to the Corner Pantry from 9am on Fri 3rd March
5/6 PARENTS - Are invited to the Corner Pantry from 9am on Tues 21st March

PREP PARENTS DINNER
All Prep Parents are invited to dinner at the Canadian Bay Hotel on Tuesday 14th March from 7pm.

GRAVITY ZONE
10th March Friday All year levels 10am-3pm $16, $25 incl Lasertag

STM CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL - SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2017
Save the date! Plenty of fun for the whole family with thrill rides, amusements, showbags, face paint, food stalls, entertainment and more!

This is our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year, we are looking for a volunteer to coordinate this wonderful event, we are also looking for people to be part of the planning team. (We have lots of information from 2015 and will be happy to help and support the 2017 team). We have a meeting on Friday at 2.30pm to discuss the rides, we would love for anyone interested to come along. For more info please contact myself or Christina Day

RITCHIES IGA COMMUNITY BENEFITS CARDS FUNDRAISING
When shopping at Ritchies and using a community benefit card linked to St Thomas More Primary School, Ritchies will donate money back to us. These cards/tags can be used at ANY Ritchies store throughout Vic, NSW and Qld by our staff, families/ grandparents and friends.

If you would like to support our school and you don’t already have a CB card/tag please collect one at the registers next time you shop at ANY Ritchies store to use every time you shop. All you do is nominate St Thomas More Primary, it’s that easy! This is an easy way for us to raise funds for our school with no costs involved. Since commencement of the Ritchies Community Benefit Program our school has received $50,685.13 in donations from Ritchies.

Please note we do have pre-registered keytags available for collection in the office.

Parents Facebook Page - “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. To join please search and ask to join “Mores on the Mount”

STM DATES FOR THE DIARY
23rd Feb - Thurs - Prep Morning Tea - 9am Corner Pantry
3rd March - Friday - 3/4 Morning Tea - 9am Corner Pantry
3rd March - Friday - School Disco - Prep - Year 6
4th March – Sat - Working Bee - 5/6 to provide morning tea.
7th March - Tues - AGM - 7.30pm Multi Purpose Room
8th March - Wed - 1/2 Parents Morning Tea - 9am Lintons at Eden Gardens
10th March - Gravity Zone All year levels - 10-3pm $16
14th March - Tues - Prep Parents Dinner 7pm CB’s
21st March - Tues - 5/6 Parents Morning Tea - 9am Corner Pantry

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

The PA meets on the first Tuesday of every month, the next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th March 2017. Everyone is welcome. This meeting will begin at 6.45pm in the MPR. Contact leonieroyall@yahoo.com.au for more information.
**STM Netball Club of Mount Eliza News**

**UNIFORMS**
Mandy Barr is the uniform officer, she will be at the St Thomas More school gym the following times for you and your child to try on and collect any uniform that has ALREADY BEEN purchased online, please bring along a copy of your receipt on the day, you will not be able to collect it otherwise. NO PAYMENT is able to be taken on the day, sorry. Mandy will have plenty of sizes available of each item. Uniform can be purchased via your laptop only by logging into your mynetball account / my forms and purchases / online registration forms / uniform.

**Uniform collection times:**
Friday 17th Feb 3.00pm to 4.00pm or Saturday 18th Feb 11.00am to 12.30pm

**COMMITTEE MEETING:** Our first meeting for 2017 will be next Tuesday 20th Feb at 8.00pm in the STM Gym meeting room, we hope to see many of you there on the night.

Many thanks everyone, we will ensure our best to keep you updated whilst we sort out our website! Any queries on anything at all in the meantime, please email me: talk2josie@hotmail.com

Regards Josie Palancian Secretary

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**STM Storm Basketball Club**

**WINTER SEASON 2017**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION for WINTER SEASON 2017 is now open to all players**

**REGISTRATION CLOSES Monday 6th March**

Please see attached flyer for more information.

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**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 15 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**

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