Dear Parents,

Our school community is very important to who we are at St Thomas More School. This was evident at last week’s welcome picnic where new families mixed seamlessly with current families. It was a very relaxing and enjoyable evening for all involved. Thanks to the parents who organized the activities.

Our community spirit is also evident in our children. Being outside several mornings each week, it is so positive to see the children welcome each other with big grins and a morning greeting. They are happy to be here and they are happy to be in each other’s company.

None of this comes about by chance—it is modelled and reinforced by the actions of parents and teachers. Let’s continue to work in partnership to ensure a sense of belonging and a sense of compassion for each other.

STM Playgroup

There has been a playgroup associated with the school for many years now. It was developed as a way to build our community, support young families through friendship, and provide an opportunity for the children to know each other before coming to school. The group met one morning a week between 9am and 11am. For the past few years, they have gathered in the gym foyer. The gym is available on Monday, Tuesday or Friday morning, whatever will suit most people involved.

Numbers fell away last year and we would like to revive the group. If you are interested in being involved please contact the school office or email stmmtlza@stmmtlza.catholic.edu.au

Please let us know if you would like to be part of the playgroup, what day/s you prefer, and if you would be willing to be part of the organising group.

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.

Sacramental Information -Thursday 18th February at 7.30pm.

Lent

Lent is a time for us to prepare for Easter. You probably remember that during Lent we were always asked to “give up” something in preparation for Easter. The sacrifice of doing without something we take for granted was a way to reflect upon the great sacrifice of Jesus at Easter. We ask the children to “take up” something, something that will help them be a better person as Jesus asks us to be. This might be remembering to smile at others, help out more around the house, be more caring and thoughtful to others and really think about being compassionate and mindful of other people. By doing this we can really try to begin to understand what Jesus asks of us when he asked us to love one another.

Lorraine Coassin, REL

PEB Report

The Parish Education Board met last week to discuss various issues for the school.

1. Following the many hoax threats received across the country, the Emergency Management Plan was discussed, with regular monitoring and external reviews. It was firmly reiterated the children’s safety is our first priority.

2. The Board is still waiting to hear of the success or not of a funding grant to support our refurbishment of the Admin Building. The grant authority has not made any decisions on applications submitted last year. We hope to hear some good news in Term 2!

Thank you to all our parents for your support yesterday; it is greatly appreciated.

Have a wonderful week ahead.

Mrs. Pat McConvill

Principal
Deputy Principal Report

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 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.

Deck chair day

Dear School Community,

You are invited to attend our whole school READING event. It is on next Tuesday 23rd February at 3:00pm.

May it be a wonderful event, so please come along!

with thanks

Cathy McKenzie and Webster Seeley (school captain)

PS : INVITING ANYONE WISHING TO TRAIN AS A CLASSROOM HELPER PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM.

Swimming Sports Tuesday 9th Feb.

Last week all year 3-6 students participated in our Annual swimming sports. It was a great day at Somerville YMCA Aquatics centre. There were some fantastic competitive races with some very close finishes. Our place judges did an excellent job at determining the correct positions and we had some video evidence to back it all up. Without the help and support from parents these days are very hard to run successfully. So a big Thankyou to all the parents who volunteered to help out and turned up to help out on the day.

The children were very well behaved and were a credit to our school. The staff at the YMCA were very impressed! I especially enjoyed it when the students joined in on the water aerobics on the sidelines whilst the members were having a class. It was a great site to see them having fun and being respectful within the community at the same time.

District swimming will be held on Monday 22nd February at The Pines Pool, Frankston. All children who made the team will no doubt represent our school with their best performances and behaviour. I look forward to another great event.

Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More, Mount Eliza
Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle 2016

From now until the end of April, the Parish is selling tickets in the annual Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle.

Please note that ALL of the net proceeds from the sale of these tickets will be returned to the Parish of St. Thomas More. By pooling our resources with other Catholic Parishes, we’ve been able to offer much better prizes than we could possibly fund on our own.

1st Prize: Toyota Corolla Ascent Sport 5 door auto hatch, valued at $26,990
2nd & 3rd Prizes: Toyota Yaris 1.3l auto hatch, valued at $22,000 x 2
4th & 5th Prizes: Coles/Myer Gift cards, each to the value of $1,000 x 2
6th-14th Prizes: Coles/Myer Gift cards, each to the value of $500 x 4

Tickets sell for $2 each. We’d like to sell tickets and distribute books of tickets outside the Church after Mass over all 12 weekends, but we still need more volunteers to take this on. No hard sell involved - the tickets should sell themselves. If you can help, (after one Mass, either for a couple of weeks or the entire time) please call 9787 7777 and leave a message for Irene.

We encourage parishioners including school families to take a book to sell. To request a ticket - or better still - a book of tickets, call 9787 7777, or drop into the Parish office or School office. All raffle books (including unsold tickets) must be returned to the Parish office with payment by Tuesday April 26th.
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 leonieroyall@yahoo.com.au for more information.

2016 Welcome Picnic - Thank you to Sally Richmond, Christina Day, Jacqueline House, Kelly Davies, Laura Snow and Ben Crawford for all your help with arranging the welcome picnic. Congratulations to Ben Crawford for winning the STM parents trophy for this year! It was a terrific evening.

A big thank you goes to Fleur Crawford for co-ordinating the picnic. This was Fleur’s last major event as the Parent Rep Coordinator. On behalf of the PA, the STM parents and myself, I would like to thank Fleur for doing a wonderful job. Fleur arranged many morning tea’s, dinners and social functions which gives us all the chance to get to know one another and helps creates this wonderful school community we have at STM. Fleur also took on the role coordinating the Class Stalls for the Festival last year and she did an amazing job. Thank you so much Fleur, all your work is very much appreciated.

AGM - Tuesday 1st March

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st March, 2016. Beginning at 7.30pm SHARP 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 leonieroyall@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

Easter Raffle Time!

We would really appreciate your donations for our awesome Easter raffle. We need Easter eggs, Easter related toys, decorations, baskets to hold prizes in.

Please drop your donations off at the office by 21st March. Raffle tickets will be coming home this week. The raffle will be drawn at the assembly on the last day of Term 1, 24th March.

STM DATES FOR THE DIARY

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 Lounge Three87 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.
21st March - Last day for Easter Raffle Donations
24th March - Easter Raffle

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

Indoor soccer (Futsal) for parents

Join us every Thursday at 7:30pm in the school gym throughout the year including holidays if you are keen. All parents welcome to join us - it is not a competition. Irrespective of your ability or level of fitness, this casual 1 hr kick-around would be suitable for all. The cost of participating will be $15 each per term. Contact me for any information.

Regards
Daniel Ferlin
0410 184 494
CANTENE NEWS
A reminder that we are now selling Fresh Fruit Tubs which include watermelon, grapes and strawberries. These are a yummy healthy addition to our canteen for 2016. They are selling for $1.50.

Rosters for 22nd Feb:
Canteen: Michaela Webster, 9-11 Monique Boatright, 1130-130 Shannon Cater
Counting: Sue Smits, Laura Snow, Fiona Parkyn, Chantal Jenkins

Regards,
Susie Power-Reeves

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. Register by 10th March.
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

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