Dear Parents,

Family Week
Next week, leading up to Mothers’ Day, we celebrate all our families. At St. Thomas More we are very proud of our families and we will focus on how families work together and help each other. The week will culminate in our Mothers’ Day Mass, led by our beautiful Preps on Friday 6th May at 9.15am.

Of course, families come in all shapes and sizes. We promote respect for each individual and respect for each family and the environment provided for their children to grow. Home is so often a very busy place—working, preparing meals, homework, getting the kids to bed and doing many other tasks, including the house work before finally getting to sleep; only to wake up and do it all again. Thank you to all our families in this busy lifestyle who take time to support their children’s learning.

Another event next week is a family class in Life Skills; all families are invited to join in this special event. In this Family Class, parents and children participate in games and relaxation activities that they can then take home and use on a regular basis. The leaders provide fun, ‘bite-sized’ exercises that you can try at home to help each family member unwind and connect with each other.

NAPLAN
As part of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), national tests will be held in literacy and numeracy for all students in Australia. Students in Year 3 & 5 will sit the tests in the week beginning 10th May on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

We do expect children to be at school to be part of this testing process. However, some students experience great stress in these situations and the results do not provide an accurate result for them. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents in consultation with the child’s teacher.

If you wish to have your child withdrawn or would like further information, please contact me or speak with your child’s teacher.

School Surveys
Latest figures— Students are all completed, and staff are mostly completed. We still need more parents; there are currently 7 parent surveys completed, 45 to go. The survey closes on May 13th—please help us out.

Fitness Bands
Some children are wearing fitness bands to school as their watch. Please be aware the school does not take responsibility for loss or damage to these items. Parents are asked not to send expensive items along to school. It is most upsetting for all concerned when something goes amiss.

Have a happy week ahead.
Mrs. Pat McConvill
Principal

Important Dates for Year 5s and 6s!

Year 7 Enrolments Padua 2018
Enrolment forms to Padua College by Friday, 13th May.
*VSN numbers can be found on your child’s school report.

Year 7, 2017 Government School Applications
need to be returned to our school by Friday, 13th May.

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

Calendar

April
27th—Confirmation Workshop, 7.30pm
29th—School Mass at 12.15pm, led by 1/2N
29th—Reconciliation for Group 6, at 7pm
30th—Confirmation Commitment Mass

May
1st—Confirmation Commitment Mass
3rd—Family Life Skills
4th—Reconciliation for Group 7, at 7pm
5th—Family Life Skills
Deputy Principal Report

5 Secrets to develop Confidence and Resilience: Georgina Manning

Last year Georgina Manning spoke to the parents about Anxiety in Children. It was very popular with parents and the feedback was extremely positive. This year school has organised Georgina to speak to the staff and parents.

The date and time are as follows.
Wednesday 1st of June at 6:30. A flyer advertising the session will be attached to today's newsletter

Parent Tips on Anxiety
www.wellbeingforkids.com.au

Regular fun exercise

- There is nothing better than exercise to beat anxiety. Using your physical body allows the stress build up to be released and in turn our mental state is altered significantly. Even just a gentle walk for 30 minutes with your child will help to reduce their anxiety significantly. Walking and talking is a great way to connect, share feelings, problem solve and role model a fantastic coping strategy when things get tough.

Use humour

- If appropriate use humour to ‘break’ the anxiety by trying to laugh at what has happened or about a worry. Humour and laughter is a great antidote to stress and anxiety.

Role model calm behaviour

- Role modelling calm and relaxed behaviour is important because children watch how you deal with life on a day to day basis. If you get anxious easily then your child will learn how to react to minor upsets in life.

- If your child is anxious, it is also important not to get worried about their anxious behaviour as this will also be ‘catchy’. Children look to parents to role model an easy going approach to life.

Working Bee: Saturday 14th of May:
Starts at 9:00 am

Please place the date in your diary. We ask families to attend at least one working bee during the year. We realise there is a lot of sport on Saturdays so even if you can come along for an hour or two that helps. It is a great way for parents and students to work together to keep our school looking neat and tidy. There are always a few maintenance projects to complete. Just remember that the children love coming along and playing with their friends. They have a lot of fun.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS
Our School is Becoming ResourceSmart

This year our school is taking action to become more environmentally sustainable through a Victorian Government initiative called ResourceSmart Schools.

ResourceSmart Schools is a program that helps our school embed sustainability in everything we do. We are aiming to reduce our resource use (like electricity and water) plus support indigenous plants and animals. This will also hopefully help us save money. We also want to involve students, families and other members of our school and local community.

In 2016, we are receiving funded support from Catholic Education Melbourne and Sustainability Victoria.

We are working with Jane Burns from CERES Environment Park on the actions of the Core, Waste and Biodiversity Modules. This year, we are aiming to... create a strong foundation for our sustainability program, continue to build on our sustainability achievements, monitor our resource use by using a free website called ResourceSmart Online, improve our gardens, improve our energy/waste/water systems, get our community involved, participate in exciting events, supporting our students and continue to involve sustainability in our curriculum. We can’t wait to... share our achievements with you, see our gardens grow, reduce our school’s impact, help make the Earth a better place and contribute to a sustainable future for all.

Read more about ResourceSmart at
https://secure.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au

Denise Ferguson
Sustainability Leader
Maker Space at St Thomas More

On May 2nd, we will conduct our first session of Maker Space. This lunchtime club will utilise a variety of materials and programs to encourage children to make, tinker, invent and create. The club will operate every Monday (during lunchtime) in the MPR and will cater for all ages and abilities. We hope to see many ‘makers’ come along and have a go!

The PA meets on the first Tuesday of every month, the next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd May 2016. Everyone is welcome. Meetings begin at 7.30pm in the staffroom. Contact leonieroyall@yahoo.com.au for more information.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL - Thursday 5th May

The Mothers Day stall is very busy and gets very hard to keep track of payments therefore this year we have made a change. If your child would like to buy a gift from the Mother’s Day stall can you please send $5 to school with each child on Thursday 5th May.

If your child does not have $5 they will not attend the stall during school hours, but can purchase a gift after school from the gym. The stall will be open from 3.15 - 4pm. Extra gifts can also be purchased after school.

MOTHER’S DAY MORNING TEA - Friday 6th May - PAYMENT NOW DUE

Mother’s Day Morning Tea for all our wonderful Mothers, Grandmothers and friends. The Morning Tea will be at Benito’s, Nepean Highway Mt Eliza from 10.15am straight after our beautiful Mother’s Day Mass. Toddler corner available plus great door prizes. Thank you to all who have paid, looking forward to a lovely morning.

If you would like to attend the Morning Tea please return the slip from the flyer and $15 to the office by THIS Friday 29th April.

We have decided to cut back on door prizes at our Mother’s Day Morning Tea and instead each year donate the money to research into the prevention and cure of Women’s Health issues, such as breast cancer, ovarian cancer etc. This year we will make a donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The more people who attend the morning tea, the more money we will have to donate. Thanks

GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY - MORNING TEA

There are still plates to be picked up from the gym foyer. Can you please do so ASAP, Thank you so much.

WORKING BEE - SATURDAY 14th MAY - WORKING BEE COORDINATOR REQUIRED

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.

SAVE THE DATE - Kids Hip Hop Disco (Prep to Year 6 students only)

Friday 17th June - 5pm - 7pm in the school gym. Optional dinner packs available - More info to come

STM DATES FOR THE DIARY

3rd May - PA meeting 7.30pm in staffroom
5th May - Thursday - Mother’s Day Stall - $5 per gift
6th May - Friday - Mother’s Day Morning Tea at Benito’s
14th May - Working Bee (Co-ordinator still required)
18th May - Year 1/2 Brunch / coffee at Barmah Park Vineyard (after drop off)
2nd June - Years 3/4/5/6 7.30pm Dinner at Assaddini Wine and Tapas Bar
17th June - Friday - 5pm - Hip Hop Disco (Prep to Year 6 students only)

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