Dear Parents,

As the Fire Danger Period draws near, we are very aware of the beautiful, but dangerous, surroundings we have at STM. The school is bound by the fire authority’s danger ratings and warnings.

Schools – and children’s services – identified as being at high fire risk will be closed on days declared by fire authorities to be Code Red. Our school has been identified as a school at high fire risk.

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.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

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.

On high fire risk days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days, children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the safest option when a Code Red day is declared is to leave the night before, or early in the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for the threat of fire, last week the staff were re-trained in their roles for emergency management procedures. On Monday, this week, the school was placed in a lockdown scenario, which was assessed by Dynamiq, our emergency management training provider.

**What can parents do?**

Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed. Make sure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website, and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff.

You can access more information about school closures on the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd’s (CECV) website <www.cecv.catholic.edu.au>.

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**All Saints, All Souls**

On Saturday, 1st November, we remember the Saints in our church who have devoted their lives to living a life for God. We especially remember St. Thomas More, our school and parish patron, and St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, our own Australian saint, in our prayers.

_I knew a saint once: He was a young man with an old grandmother, a sick mother and two brothers in wheelchairs as a result of a genetically inherited illness. He stayed home, unmarried and unpromoted all his life, to care for each of them, all the way to the grave. His inspiration didn’t come from rock stars of American glitterati. It came from saints, the heroes of the daily._

**School Closure Days**

The school is closed for students on Friday 31st October and Monday 3rd November for professional learning and report writing.

Tuesday 4th November is the Melbourne Cup Day holiday.

**Undercroft Refurbishment**

The Undercroft behind the Church has recently been refurbished with the toilets being refitted and the rear storage area reclaimed. We now need to clear up the mess around the shelving at the northern end and this will happen in the next few weeks. There is also a lot of old “furniture” etc. in the rear storage area to be disposed of. If there are any personal items there, we would like to have them removed. Material belonging to our Parish and School groups (Parents Association, Social Club, St Vincent de Paul, Children’s Liturgy etc.) should be identified and clearly marked. Any enquiries or suggestions to the Parish Leadership Team.

**Please note, there will not be a newsletter next Wednesday with the short week.**

Have a wonderful week ahead.

Mrs Pat McConville
Principal

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**Calendar**

**October**

30th - Walk to school day
31st – Staff professional learning, no students

**November**

3rd – Report writing day, no students
4th – Melbourne Cup Day, public holiday
7th – Prep-2 Athletics Day
8th - Working Bee
11th—Remembrance Day Liturgy 10:30am
12th—2015 Prep Orientation, 2-3.15pm
CAR BOOT SALE
Saturday 15th November 2014
The sale will run from 8am to 2pm.
Vendors can set up from 7.30am
Major fundraiser for the Parish this year
Please support the Car Boot Sale.

To date there has only been a modest response from potential vendors. Don’t be shy, it is a great opportunity to have a good clear out at home and make some extra cash.

If you only have a few unwanted items you could donate them to the Parish site and we can sell them, and the proceeds will be given to the Parish. All goods to be brought on the day and given to the well marked Parish Site.

The Car Boot Sale promises to be a very enjoyable Community event. There will be a Sausage Sizzle, and the Mocha Man will be selling cups of Coffee.

The cost of a site is $25.00 and you can set up a table, a trestle or a clothes rack to display your wares, or just work from the boot of your car. If you haven’t got anything to sell please consider volunteering to help on the day:

we will need 2 Car park attendants and 3 people to cook sausages.

If you have any queries, about selling, donating OR volunteering please do not hesitate to contact either Anne-Marie or Maree.

All enquiries to:  Anne-Marie Hyde 0409 020 120 amr28@bigpond.com or Maree Taverna 0425 721 207 mareetaverna@hotmail.com

St. Thomas More Primary School has recently become a part of the Kids Matter Initiative. KidsMatter is an Australian mental health and wellbeing initiative set in primary schools. Research clearly shows that children who are mentally healthy are better able to meet life’s challenges. They are also better learners and have stronger relationships. Good mental health in childhood lays the foundations for the future.

The first step in the process was to form a Core Team. This team consists of Sally Schultz (parent), Lys Crowe (Family Liaison), Theresa Virgona, Kelly Scheen, Nadine Boundy, Michelle Moncrieff and Peter Whyte. This team has representatives from all areas of the school community.

The initiative is made up of 4 components for the school to focus on.

Positive school community
Social and emotional learning
Working with parents and carers
Helping children with mental health difficulties

Once the Core team is created the first step is to promote the initiative within the school community. You will have noticed the WHAT MATTERS signs around the school. We firmly believe that KIDS MATTER.

Relaxation and Yoga
This week the Year 1 / 2 and 3 / 4 students took part in some mental health activities. Fleur Crawford and Sally Schultz took the 1 / 2’s for some yoga lessons in the Gym. Lucy Neilson (parishioner) took the Year 3 /4’s for relaxation classes in the Multi –Purpose Room.

Here are a few photos.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal:
Each year our school has generously donated Christmas presents to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. During the month of November we will be calling on families to donate a present to children in our local community who are less fortunate than us. We encourage our students to choose a gift for a child who is similar in age to them. In the past some students have even used their own money to buy the gift.

Working Bee - November 8th
Our main focus for the working bee will be the cleaning up of the Art / Music / Italian Rooms. The garden areas and paths require a spring clean and a face lift.

Walk To School:  Thursday 30th of October
We are providing two meeting places for students and families to begin their walk to school on Thursday. Eden Gardens, on the corner of Nepean Hwy and Canadian Bay Rd and the Quinns Parade Roundabout Café / Hairdresser. There will be a staff member at each location. We will meet together and leave at 8:30 for the walk to school. It is important for parents to walk with their children to assist with supervision. If you are unable to walk with them we require you to nominate another parent to supervise your child during the walk.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Some healthy refreshments will be available in the gym for after your walk, served by the Wellbeing group.
MUSIC NEWS
One day to go! Music: Count us in will happen tomorrow in the MPR! On Thursday 30th October, at 12:30pm, we will join in with the Australia-wide ‘big sing’. It is estimated that there will be over 500 000 children and teachers singing the same song at the same time all over Australia. What a great thing to be a part of!

Talent of Talents is our annual variety entertainment show … for the children by the children! Lots of children are busily practising their acts all over the grounds of STM. We are happy to check songs that may need adult filtering any time from now on. It is better to check sooner rather than later so that there is plenty of time for alterations that may be needed. Auditions for the show will be held as follows …

Monday 10th November … Year 1/2
Tuesday 11th November … Year 3/4
Monday 17th November … Year 5/6
Tuesday 18th November … Combined Year level auditions & any ‘leftovers’!

Afternoon in Tune is an enjoyable way of sharing some of the children’s musical learning with parents and friends here at STM. There will be an Afternoon in Tune presented by the Year 1/2’s on Monday 1st December. More details will be forthcoming shortly.

Yours in music!
Kathy Shaw

Fun Run Thanks
Annual Fun Run – Proudly sponsored by the Palamara family and Mt Eliza Village Fruits!
Thank you to all the parents and teachers who helped last Friday to keep our runners cool and ensure the fun run ran smoothly. A big thanks to the kids for drumming up sponsors and participating in the run. And finally a very big thank you to the Palamara family at "Village Fruits" for the huge donation of fruit that we all enjoyed!
Winners will be announced next week…. It’s very close at the moment!

Dads Golf Day
A fantastic day was had by the 21 Dads who attended the STM Dads Golf Day on Sunday. Congratulations to Paul Day, Wayne Parrish and Heath Wilson who took out the competition on the day. Thank you to Peninsula Country Golf Club and Heath Wilson for putting on the day for our Dads, the course, the weather and the BBQ and refreshments afterwards were perfect!!

STM Trade / Market Night – Friday 14th November – It’s going to be HUGE!!
We have 32 businesses registered to attend on the night, it’s shaping to be a great event. Homewares, jewellery, beauty, cooking, arts and craft, paintings, kids stuff, garden and maintenance, ladies fashion, food and wine, lingerie and heaps more! Who knows you may even come along and buy a pool! Gold coin donation entry with a complimentary glass of champagne or wine and free entry into a big raffle!
If you are available to help Josie on the night, that would be greatly appreciated! Please email talk2josie@hotmail.com

Christmas Ham Fundraiser - Did you get your order form??
Need a ham for Christmas?! We are running a ham drive from the award winning free range peninsula butcher, Coolart Country Smokehouse. Hams are traditionally smoked in-house and are gluten free. They won best ham-on-bone 3 years running at the Melbourne show! 4.5 – 5kg half legs for $81.00 – don’t miss out, orders must be in by November 14! Please pay either by cash or you can pay by credit card, either by visiting the office, or leaving your credit card number, expiry date and CCV details on the order form.

Italian Day! – Thursday 27th November!
Are you available between 12.15 and 1.30 on this day? We would love your assistance to serve the kids Pizza and Gelato for lunch. If you are able to help for this short time, please email talk2josie@hotmail.com. Many hands make light work!!

Want to know what’s coming up?....

SAVE THE DATE - Friday 5th December——Annual STM Parents Christmas drinks.

Family Mass
Can you help? The Parish and PA would love to see more families at this wonderful once a month event. Family Mass is a great opportunity for our STM to come together on a social basis, enjoy Mass with our children’s involvement and then perhaps get together for a BBQ or meal on the oval or in the undercroft afterwards. We are looking for someone (or 2) to assist in coordinating the Mass, arrange families for readings and processions etc, and perhaps encourage families to stay afterward for a social gathering. All great things start small, if we can get this little social group up and running, who knows how big it may end up in years to come! If you are interested, please email talk2josie@hotmail.com

All Welcome! - Parents Association Meetings
Our very last PA meeting for 2014 is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd December, we will start earlier at 7.00pm. Anyone and everyone is welcome. Contact talk2josie@hotmail.com for more information.

Sincerely
Josie Palancian
President
STM Parents Association

Mornington Market Carparking
As we approach the socially busy Christmas end of the year please plan ahead for your commitment to car park duty. Any issues? Please contact Daniel Ferlin 0410 184 494.
Daniel Ferlin, Car Parking Co-Ordinator
Mornington Racecourse Market Car Park Duty

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.

PLEASE ADVISE DANIEL FERLIN ON 0410 184 494 WITH YOUR CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE VIA TEXT (INCL YOUR NAME) ASAP.

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 7:45 am (all weather event)
- You will be told by the Market Leader when you can leave. This is typically around 12:30pm 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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Junior Athletics Day

Junior Athletics Day will be held on Friday 7th November.
We need some parent volunteers to assist with running the events.
The focus is all about fun and participation. No ribbons for placegetters.
Prep classes 11:30 – 1:00pm
1/2 classes 2:00 – 3:30pm
Please let your child’s class teacher know if you are able to assist on the day.

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SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER
MacFarlane (Team Leader)
Bradbury
Canning
Crawford
Harvey
Ingaliso
Kent
McLoughlin
Murray
Patrick
Powell
Purdie
Smith C & M
Gerring^^

SUNDAY 25th JANUARY
Boyden (Team Leader)
Garrett
Glover-Karlsson^^
Gregory
Mooney D&K
Morris-Sieloff
Nielson
Parkyn
Patane-Keady
Sayers A&D
Smith D&K
Unkles
Wallace

SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY
Carr (Team Leader)
Allan^^
Eustace
Jones R&A
Leaver
Malignaggi
Reynolds
Rosenquist-Diaz
Smitheram
Snits
Szadura

SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER
Hamod** (Team Leader)
Batten
Hislop
Lancia
Owen**
Porto
Biasuzzo**
Snow
Vaughan**
Verhofstadt**
Muccignat**
McEvoy^^