Dear Parents,

Next Tuesday, our Year 6 students will be visiting their new secondary schools. We believe they are well prepared for a smooth transition onto secondary and are very capable in their learning and in developing new relationships.

We will also welcome our 2015 Prep cohort to school. This is a very exciting time for these little children and their families, be they first, second or youngest child in the family. I trust they will have a positive experience and special memories to tide them over until late January. Our current students will ‘move up’ for a session to spend time with their teacher and classmates for 2015. Teachers have worked very hard to place children appropriately for a wonderful year of learning. As parents you know your child very well; as teachers we know your child and their learning styles. I appreciate that you understand it is the teacher’s role to place your child in the best learning environment for them. We accept the responsibility in educating children very seriously and our decisions are all made with the child’s best interest at heart. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Year 3/4 Portsea Camp
It was a privilege to join our 3/4 students on their recent camp - they are to be congratulated and should feel very proud of their efforts and friendships on camp. Thank you to Peter Whyte and Mandy Shankie for organizing, and to all the staff who gave their time and energy to make it such a success. It is a big commitment for staff, and our community should feel very proud of their efforts.

Advent
As we move to the Second Sunday of Advent, we are still waiting. Not a waiting of anxiety, but one of becoming prepared, a getting ready to celebrate. It is a time of hope as we await the coming of Jesus, who lived the simple life as we are asked to do. What are we doing this week to prepare?

Before School
Each morning over the final few weeks of term, students will be able to access the oval area to be part of a fitness activity, walking or running around the oval. This activity will start at 8:30am and will finish at 8:45am as teachers open their rooms for students to be ready for their learning day. Please note students should not be dropped off before 8:30am as they are not supervised any earlier.

2015 Staffing
I am sorry to say that Mrs. Ewing will not be returning to teach next year; Lee-Ann has decided to take some time with her family. I thank her immensely for the wonderful work she has done with the Preps for the past two years and look forward to her returning at some time in the future.

I am pleased to announce Miss Danielle Wells will be teaching Prep with Theresa Virgona next year. I am confident they will make a very capable team as well.

This is the only change to staff for 2015 and I am very grateful we are retaining our wonderful staff. The commitment and passion for their work is a credit to each person and to them collectively as they always work in the best interest of the child. I am very proud to be part of the STM teaching community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Peter Whyte on his re-appointment as Deputy Principal for the next 4 years. I am confident Peter will continue to work hard in the best interests of the children and the school community.

The class teachers for 2015 in each area are as follows:
Prep: Mrs Theresa Virgona and Miss Danielle Wells,
1/2: Mrs Gianna Hakim, Mrs Kelly Scheen, Miss Nicole Cicchini and Ms Kate McCormick
3/4: Mrs Mandy Shankie, Ms Lorraine Coassin, Mrs Annette O’Brien and Mrs Nadine Boundy
5/6: Mrs Jill Chaplin, Mrs. Michelle Moncrieff, Mr. Ben Vevers and Mrs Nichole Warner.

All our wonderful support staff are returning in their current roles.

Have a great week.
Mrs Pat McConvill
Principal

Calendar

December
Wed 3rd Advent Liturgy at 10:30am
Fri 5th Talent of Talents
Fri 5th Parents’ End of Year Gathering
Tue 9th Transition morning, 9:00-11:00am
Wed 10th Parent Information Night for 2015 Preps
Fri 12th End of Year Mass at 12 noon.
Tue 16th Year 6 Graduation Mass at 7:30pm
Thu 18th Students finish at 3:30pm
**DAKS: replies due today.**

**Sleep out on the school oval: Saturday 6th December**

Two years ago, the school and Parents Association organised the first ever camp out on the oval and it was a huge success. We are pleased to say we have organised another one.

**Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

Each year our school generously donates Christmas presents to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. We are 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. **Please drop them to the office by the end of the week unwrapped. Thank you.**

**YEAR 3 / 4 CAMP**

This week the Year 3 / 4 students enjoyed a two day camp at Portsea. Ten staff and 106 students attended the camp. This was the first time our school has attended the Portsea Camp. The students took part in canoeing, swimming, flying fox and fishing activities. They were certainly very lucky with the fine and warm weather on the camp. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the camp. The students were very well behaved and supported their friends at all times. To the staff, congratulations on your efforts, it is a big responsibility to care for this large number of students for 48 hours. There are certainly some tired people at school today. The following are some reflections from the 3 / 4 students.

**The 3/4 camp to Portsea was amazing. Everyone had a great time. The beds were comfy, the food was delicious, the activities were awesome. The staff were so friendly. The awesome activities were canoeing, swimming, fishing and the flying fox. I don’t know if any camp could beat it.**

*By Olivia Poda.*

**Hello, this what I thought of Portsea Camp. The food for breakfast, lunch and dinner was yum, I loved the dessert but I think you should be able to choose to sit next to your best friends. I loved the dormitory but it would be better if the people would be a bit quieter. I liked fishing. It would be better if we used rods not reels and it would also be better if I caught a fish, but apart from that everything was perfect.**

*By Bailey Fennell.*

**We did canoeing, swimming, giant slide and flying fox and fishing and the caves wwwwhhhhoooooaa!!! There were 12 cabins and 2 dormitories, I was in the dormitory for boys. Over all it was ok.**

*By Lillianna Vallesi.*

**Well Portsea camp was awesome, but I guess that’s what you expect me to say, so here’s more detail: The first activity was swimming. It wasn't the type where you do fifty laps 'round the bay, it was just recreational. At fishing, a whole heap of people caught jelly fish and gave them names. In between my favourite activities there were eating times. I liked fishing and canoeing. I had a real blast playing with some of my old, new and forever friends. The food was good as well, so in the end camp was awesome!**

*By Aeirin Faulkner.*

**We went to Portsea camp on the 1st December. It was fun we went canoeing, swimming and fishing. I almost caught a crab, it ate the bait and it went. We did the flying fox and if you grabbed the fake $50 you could change to a real $50 but no one had got it so far. I was in the dormitory with my friends. We ate yummy food—afternoon tea we ate shapes, lasagna for dinner and ice cream, for breakfast we had cereal and toast, snack two watermelons and cookie and for lunch, spicy chicken wrap with other toppings.**

*By Sienna Piovillico.*

On Monday the 1st December the 3 /4's went to Portsea for our camp. I loved the food because it was lasagna!! My favourite activity was swimming because I saw a stingray. The beds were comfy, the staff were friendly and I made some new friends.

*By Reagan Morel.*

On the 1st December we went on school camp! We went to Portsea. It was AMAZING! I loved the flying fox. It was so fun!! I went down no handed. You had to reach a tyre and get the $50.00 note. Just saying it was fake but you could give it to the office and receive a real 50 (turns out to be it was a joke)! We had very warm weather so it was easy to get sunburnt. The best part was when I got stuck on the flying fox for five minutes. Cabins: The girls in my cabin were Michaela, Coco, Louisa, Maddy P and Mackenzie. It was so much fun!!

By Lillianna Vallesi.
**MUSIC NEWS**

* Talent of Talents is on this Friday, 5th December, in the school gymnasium. The show will begin at 9:45am. We will break for morning recess at 10:55am and then continue with the show at 11:35am. We aim to be finished by lunch time, but if we have not finished all the acts by then, we will continue at 2:00pm. A program of acts is on display on the office windows. Parents and friends are welcome.

* Afternoon in Tune … filled the MPR with people, singing, acting, narration, rapping, chanting and lots of dancing! It was a celebration of music, movement and two stories … The Little Red Hen and The Gingerbread Man. The afternoon was presented by the Year 1/2’s, supported by the music leaders and watched by the choir and ensemble groups, teachers, parents and friends. It was a great afternoon of music! Congratulations to Year 1/2’s and to everyone who helped to make the afternoon so enjoyable. Special thanks go to all those who helped to move all the chairs, instruments and other bits and pieces after the show.

* Senior Choir and Ensemble programs have all finished up this week. This year the choir has spent time learning about pitch and breath control when singing and chanting. They have sung songs from different musical genres and styles, including show tunes, soft rock, humorous songs, echo songs and those sung in canon and counterpoint. They have been involved in school sacraments, school events … such as the opening of the environmental trail and the principals’ conference… and Afternoon in Tune programs. The ensemble groups have spent valuable time learning how to use a variety of tuned and non-tuned percussion instruments. They have worked on various pieces of music as a ‘team’ and created and played their own musical masterpieces. They are looking forward to presenting a drum drill at Talent of Talents on Friday. Congratulations to all choir and ensemble members for their interest and commitment to their musical learning.

Happy days!
Kathy Shaw J

**STM SPORTS TOPS AND SINGLETs**

Stocktake of singlets and tops has begun. Please check if you have any of these at home, and return them ASAP! If they are not returned it leaves us without enough uniforms to cater for the years to come. Mrs Carbis

**Parents’ Association:**

* 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 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

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**

All children are invited to come dressed as their favourite Christmas Story character to the Christmas Eve Mass on the Oval at 7:00pm. We need some children to play some important roles in acting out the Gospel story. Please see the attached flyer for all the details, and the form to fill out if your child/ren would like to be involved.

**Mornington Market Carparking**

Thank you to all who have upheld their commitment this year by committing to their scheduled market. May 2015 continue to be a successful fund raising effort. Please refer to the last page of this newsletter and confirm attendance by text for all those rostered in January onwards.

Any issues? Please contact Daniel Ferlin, 0410 184 494, Car Parking Coordinator.

Sincerely
Josie Palacian, President
STM Parents Association
talk2josie@hotmail.com

**Italian Day**

Our Italian Day last week was a great success and the weather made it a perfect day. The children thoroughly enjoyed the range of activities including pasta making, crostoli, dancing, tombola, soccer, bocce and theatre. A highlight for many was the performance of “Aladdin” by Fables and Frolics Productions.

The costumes were the best ever so complimenti e grazie to all the children for your wonderful and colorful outfits! Many thanks to our wonderful parents for your amazing efforts!

Cento Grazie (a hundred thankyous) to the staff of St Thomas More’s for your help and support in the organization and implementation of the day especially Gianna Hakim for making pasta with all the 1-2 classes.

A special Grazie to Rosa Malignaggi who made Crostoli with the 3-4 classes, giving her whole day to help us.

Mille Grazie (a thousand thankyous) to Josie Palancian, Susie Power-Reeves and the team of terrific mums who gave up their time to organize a delicious lunch for us.

A special thank you to Nathan C, Max G and Michaela L for their help with the set up, sound and vision for our parade.

It was great to see the parents who came down to watch the children perform too.

See you next year! Ci vediamo l’anno prossimo!

Peter Brady

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**Family Mass**

Parents who would like to assist with the Mass may contact Peter Brady at peterbrady@stmaryspg.com.au.
**CANTENE NEWS**

There are only two more canteen days left for the year! Canteen WILL be open on the last week of term. Please let me know if you are finding it hard to do your shift as I can get someone to cover you! Thankyou to everyone who has supported the canteen this year, we couldn't run it without you!!

Susie

Rosters for the last 2 weeks are:

**December 8th**
- **Canteen:** Liz Downes, Michaela Webster, 11-1 Amanda Higgins
- **Counting:** Niamh Hislop, Christina Day, Sue Smits, Emma Smith

**December 15th**
- **Canteen:** Michaela Webster, 9-11 Svetlana Ciro, 11-1 Jo Gorka
- **Counting:** Viki South, Laura Snow, Niamh Hislop, Emma Smith

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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.

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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