Dear Parents,

**School Camp**
When you are reading this newsletter, the happy Year 5/6 campers will have returned from an amazing 3-day experience at Camp Rumbbug, Foster. Every time I attend school camps I am humbled by the time and effort that goes into what is a very demanding time for the adults.
This is an activity that is extra-curricular, which means it is not something the school has to offer. I am very grateful to the wonderful teachers and helpers who so generously give their time away from their family for your child’s enjoyment and memories. Thank you to Peter, Michelle, Jill, Nichole, Nicole, Vanessa, Lorraine and Danielle - it could not happen without your commitment. And yes, they do have some fun as well!
Each camp I have attended has also shown the importance of these activities for the students. Not only is it fun, they are also challenged to move outside their comfort zone, be it as basic as sharing a room to something more challenging as abseiling or crawling through mud!

**Leadership Groups**
Last Friday our Year 6 leaders were announced together with the Student Representatives for Preps to Year 5. A full list will be in next week’s newsletter. A special congratulations to the school captains for 2015, I look forward to working closely with them.

**School Captains:** Laila Dalais, Bryn Smith
**Vice Captains:** Annabel Smitheram, Lachie Hodder

**School Photos: Tuesday 10th March**
Please note that envelopes went home last week. Any families who would like to have photos of their children taken together, please collect a *Family Photo Envelope* from the school office.

**The envelopes need to be returned to school on the day of the photos.**

**Professional Learning**
All teaching staff will be involved in the professional learning day, this Friday 6th March. School will be closed for all students. The staff will be working with the Religious Education Adviser from Southern Region Office, reviewing our approach to planning our RE curriculum.
From Tuesday 10th March, Prep students will attend school fulltime.

**Lenten Prayer**
In this second week of Lent we are asked to listen to what God has to tell us. To use the words of the song...

*When we listen we can hear you,*
*Speaking to us of your wonderful ways,*
*When we listen we can hear you*
*Guiding us all of our days.*

**Working Bee**
Thank you to Peter Whyte and Andrew Taylor for organizing last weekend’s working bee and to the caterers for feeding the busy workers. A very big thanks to all the families who attended to make the school grounds look so amazing - a job well done!

**SunSmart**
STM is a SunSmart school and all families, staff and children are reminded they need to have hats for school until the end of April. Children who do not wear their hats will be asked to play under the cover of the shade sails. This a responsibility the school takes seriously as it promotes better health for all.

**Grandparents Day**
On Friday 20th March, all grandparents and special friends are invited to join us for Mass at 9:15am in the gymnasium. The children will then take their special visitors to their classroom for some activities leading up to the morning tea break. Grandparents and special friends are invited to morning tea in the gym. We do hope many families can join us on the day.

**Fee Reminder**
A reminder that payment in full is due by this Friday 6th March. If you have opted to pay in quarterly instalments, the first instalment is due by this date. Please contact the office if you have not received your fee statement. Thank you to all the families who have already paid their fees, or who have made a commitment to pay fees by instalment.

Have a wonderful week ahead,
Mrs Pat McConvill, Principal.
Invitation

St Thomas More's
Parents' Association
Annual General Meeting

Thursday 5th March
7:30pm sharp, MPR

You are invited to join us at this important event; to reflect on the achievements of the past year, receive an overview of the year ahead and where you may take the opportunity to get involved in future activities and decision making at the school.

AGM AGENDA

1. Welcome: Josie Palancian, PA President
2. Opening Prayer: Fr Laurie Pearson
3. Present:
4. Apologies:
5. Minutes:
6. Fr Laurie’s Address:
7. Pat McConvill’s Address:
8. PA President’s Report: J Palancian
9. PA events and Slide Show:
10. Treasurer’s Report: T Taranto
11. Election of New Committee for 2015:
12. General Business:
13. New PA Handover Meeting Date:
14. Motivational Guest Speakers: Nikk Seagren, Yolande Hobby
15. Close and Prayer: J Palancian, Fr Laurie

MUSIC NEWS

I apologise for any confusion caused by the CHOIR & ENSEMBLE attachment with last week's newsletter. I put an article in the school newsletter to explain the attachment, but I should have put Year 5/6 in the title of the attachment to avoid any misunderstanding. Senior Choir and Ensemble is just for those Year 5/6’s who have already completed the trials held over the previous three weeks. Fifty Year 5/6 students are now members of the STM Ensemble (they will work in two groups at different times during the year) and forty Year 5/6 students are now members of the STM Senior Choir (they will work as a whole group throughout the 2015 year). The attachment last week was for the Year 5/6 parents of these students.

Year 4 children will be invited to participate in Junior Choir during Term 2 for part of one lunch time per week. This will be for interested Year 4’s. More news about this will be forthcoming in a couple of weeks.

I am happy for any parents to chat at school or email me for further information or questions about Choir or Ensemble, or about anything musical!

Happy days!

Kathy Shaw
kshaw@stmmtlza.catholic.edu.au

(Music Trivia Fact ... The harmonica is the world’s best-selling music instrument!)

Helpers needed for the Library

I have a small wonderful and dedicated group of parents who regularly cover Library books with contact. If you could spare some time (in your own time at home), I would appreciate your help. Let me know if you are interested, and I can talk to you further about this task, and add your name to the list. Thanks,

Katie Rodgers

Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More, Mount Eliza
Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle 2015

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, valued at $24,490
2nd & 3rd Prizes: Toyota Yaris WR, 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 9

Tickets sell for $2 each. We’d like to sell tickets and distribute books of tickets outside the Church after Mass over all 10 weekends, but we desperately need 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 let Fr. Laurie or Irene know or add your name to the signup sheet in the Church asap.

We encourage parishioners and 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 Monday April 27th.
Parents’ Association:

March meeting – Thursday 5th March, 6:30pm PRIOR to the AGM.

As always, you are welcome to attend.
The PA meets on the first Tuesday of every month (school holidays being an exception). Anyone and everyone are welcome. Meetings begin at 7:30pm in the staffroom.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held THIS COMING Thursday 5th March, 2015, 7:30pm.
The official Agenda is included in the newsletter.
Light refreshments and supper provided.

Have you ever wondered why we do car parking 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’s 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, should you need to bring along your children, Mrs Nadine Boundy (3/4N) has kindly offered to open up her classroom for the children to relax in whilst the meeting is on.

All information regarding executive and general positions that are available is now available at the office.

Please note, attendance is noted on the evening and apologies are expected to be given into the office direct prior to the 5th March.

This year we are also pleased to have great guest speakers, they will speak to parents about all things parenting, displaying positive leadership in your children's lives and your ability to influence yourselves in a more positive way on a daily basis. We welcome Nikk Seagren from Inspire Tribe Life Coaching services.

Final words from Josie -

I have had the absolute pleasure to have been the President of the Parents’ Association for the last two years. Having been at St Thomas More for five years, being a part of the PA is something I always considered and now wished I had done earlier. I admire the hard work of all the parent volunteers, the friendships, the wonderful staff and, above all, the strong community spirit that binds our school and its families. How proud we should all be.

I feel incredibly grateful for my time, the opportunity I’ve had and the wonderful support I received from all levels. Amongst so many others, I would also like to extend a special thanks to Father Laurie, Pat McConville, Peter Whyte, Jo Muller and Danielle O’Connor for all their assistance and support.

I look forward to taking a back seat for a while, and will look back and enjoy the memories of the busy last couple of years, yet proudly with all that was achieved with such great support from many of you.

I leave the best of wishes for those ‘Stepping Up’ to the plate I trust that you will all do a fantastic job continuing to steer the PA and do amazing things!

Thank you to all of you and regards, Josie.

Easter Raffle Time!!

It's that time of year again!! We need lots of yummy donations for our awesome Easter Raffle. Please drop all donations off to the office by Wednesday 25th March. We also need baskets to put the prizes in if anyone has any handy. Please return raffle tickets ASAP. The raffle will be drawn at the last assembly in Term 1, Friday 27th March.

WELCOME PICNIC

The Welcome Picnic had been rescheduled to Friday 13th March, from 5:00pm until dusk.

Everyone is welcome to join in, so if you're new to the school or you've been around for a while please join us on the STM Oval. It's always a fun evening, full of fantastic organised activities run by a few parents and Year 5/6 helpers. Some of the activities will include parachutes, soccer obstacles, egg and spoon races and many more for all ages from kinder kids up to Year 6. Not to forget the parent sprint, if you're keen to get your running legs on. All you need to bring is a picnic for your own family. So come along and join in the fun. See you there...

2015 STM Christmas Family Festival

Friday 13th November is the date for our Christmas Family Festival. Although the night is many months away, now is the time to start planning. I am looking for any parents that are interested in joining a small sub-committee to assist in the planning and organisation of the festival. Our first meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 11th March at 8:30pm. If you are interested in joining the sub-committee or helping in any way, please email via: philips.angela.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

Looking forward to meeting some new parents. Ange Grima

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 for the car park rosters. Any issues?

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

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 one hour kick-around is suitable for all. The cost of participating is $15 each per term. Contact me for any information. Regards, Daniel Ferlin, 0410 184 494.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

• Thu 5th March - PA Meeting, AGM
• Thu 12th March - Year 1/2 dinner, 7:30pm, Doppiozero
  Cool Stores, 475 Mooroonduc Hwy
• Fri 13th March - Welcome Picnic, 5:00pm till dusk
• Wed 25th March - Easter Raffle Donations due

Sincerely
Josie Palancian, President
STM Parents Association

talk2josie@hotmail.com
Another reminder that you now have to purchase tomato sauce sachets for 10c if your child wants this with their lunch. We also now have smaller choc chip ‘Go Go’ cookies, Vege chips and Allens have now reduced the size of their Killer Pythons so we will offer a 40c option for the smaller version or place two in a bag for 80c. Just put in either 40c or 80c and canteen ladies will know.  

Susie.

Rosters for last two canteens this term. are:

March 16th
Canteen: 9-1 L Downes, 9-11:30 K Siciliano, 11:30-1:30 D Patane
Counting: V South, D Sayers, L Snow, ??

March 23rd
Canteen: 9-1 J Gorka, 9-11:30 V Cox, 11:30-1:30 S Ciro
Counting: N Hislop, J Marshall, K Parrish, S Smits

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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