Dear Parents,

As the end of another year draws near, it is time to express our gratitude to all the people who make STM such a wonderful supportive community.

* Thanks to Father Laurie for his ongoing support of the school and the community.
* A very big thank you to all the sensational teachers and support staff. It is indeed a privilege to work with such a dedicated group. A very special thanks to Theresa Virgona for her dedication to the STM community.
* An enormous thanks to Peter, Jo and Dani who do a brilliant job in the smooth running of the office.
* Thank you to all parents who helped with the many events across the year; your assistance is greatly appreciated.
* Most importantly, a very special thank you to the beautiful children of our school. Their smiles and their gentle ways inspire us all to continue our learning and teaching with them.

Let me take this opportunity to wish all our families a very safe and peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. I hope you all enjoy the holiday break with your children and return to school well-rested and rejuvenated for an exciting 2017.

End of Year Mass

On Friday, we celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass for the end of the school year at 2.15pm. We give thanks for the wonderful year we have had and to farewell the students and families who are leaving our community. The children may wear a ‘touch of Christmas’ with their school uniform.

Following Mass, there will be a farewell afternoon tea in the staffroom for Theresa Virgona; all parents are invited to attend.

Farewell to Our Families

We have some families who have arrived at the end of their time at STM. So we say thank you to them for their contribution to our school life and wish them well:
Antonie, Bastone, Bierman, Brancatisano, Carr, Collins, Darrer, Emond, Farish, Gerring, Harangozo, Herbert, Higgins (Hudson), Malignaggi, McDonagh, McIntosh, Mealmaker, Mooney, Morris, Muccignat, Parker, Poda, Rosenblum, Smith (Joseph), Story, Taylor (Nicholas), Torcaso, Tranter and Tsukakoshi.

2017 Staffing

Yesterday, the children were delighted to meet their ‘new’ teacher and classmates.

The class teachers for 2017 in each area are as follows:

Prep: Mrs. Gianna Hakim and Miss Danielle Wells,
1/2: Miss Eleanor Batey, Mrs. Kelly Scheen, Miss Nicole Cicchini and Ms. Lorraine Coassin
3/4: Mrs. Mandy Shankie, Mrs. Sarah Anderson, Miss Jayde Jenkins and Mrs. Nadine Boundy
5/6: Mrs. Jill Chaplin, Mrs. Michelle Moncrieff, Ms. Kate McCormick and Miss Samantha Griffin.

In our wonderful support staff, Mrs. Kathy Shaw is taking 12 months leave; Mrs. Olivia Klopper will be teaching music next year.

Fee structure

Included with this newsletter is a letter from Father Laurie which outlines the family fees and tuition charges for 2017. I hope this information assists with your financial planning for next year.

Have a happy week ahead.

Mrs Pat McConvill
Principal
Working Bee Thank you

A final thank you to all the families; parents and children who have attended our working bees during the year. We made many areas around the school safer and more interesting for the students. We have averaged around 25 families each time and sometimes both parents have participated. There is always a great team behind the working bees. Our catering parents have ensured the morning teas are organised and the BBQ well cooked. Thanks also to the families who donated food for the hungry workers and the children of course!!

Here is what we achieved in 2016, not to mention the fun and friendships created.

- Repaired loose handrails and bricks in the whale area
- Tidied garden shed and disposed of any unwanted materials
- Loads of mulching around the garden beds
- Cleaned spouting and drains
- Installed pipes and sprinklers in the hothouse and potting sheds
- Created new steps in the Jungle
- Repaired and fixed water tanks and pipes,
- Tidied vegie gardens
- Made new garden beds
- Moved loads of crushed rock and levelled paths
- Repaired the road and drainage near the oval
- Fixed the KIDS MATTER sign to the wall outside Mrs Hakim’s classroom
- Cleaned the gym kitchen
- Built a cover for the long jump pit on the oval.
- Painted the seats in the Jungle
- Completed our Propagating and Hothouse project.

We now have sprinklers which are connected to a timer so that we can water and grow plants and vegetables in the future.

Christmas Eve Mass on the Oval

Actors and singers are needed to help with this celebration. Please see attached notice with all the information. It needs to be returned by this Friday – 9th December.

Project Action

Throughout Semester Two, Year 3/4 classes have been involved in a student-driven project called Project Action. Children have worked in teams to devise a plan to raise money for our 'sister school', St Thomas More's School, in East Timor.

This project has encompassed learning across a range of curriculum areas including financial mathematics and economics, persuasive writing and advertising, interpersonal skills, presenting to an audience and taking action for a social justice cause. Projects are student-driven and as a result, teachers have observed a high level of engagement and motivation for the learning involved.

Teams have generated a range of strategies for raising money and have worked hard to generate their 'product' to sell.

On Wednesday December 14, any teams yet to take part in Project Action will have the opportunity to sell their product or service. We invite parents to send a small amount of money to allow their child to participate in the day’s activities. (Less than $5.00 is sufficient).

Please note that money to create the products is not required from home as costs are covered by the school.

Many thanks,

Year 3/4 Teachers.
The PA meets on the first Tuesday of every month, the next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th February 2017.

Parental Association

Thank you to the whole PA Committee - for their hard work, persistence and dedication to “team work” that makes our school so special.

And to all the families who have helped with PA events, Welcome Picnic, Working Bees, Mornington Market Carpark, Mother’s and Father’s day, Chocolate Drive, Easter Raffle, Kids Disco, 80’s Night, Fun Run etc - Thank you

Parents Association

STM DATES FOR THE DIARY:

16th December - 2.30pm Pick up hams, puddings and wine in the gym

16th January - Monday - 2017 Prep - Play in the Park - From 10am

2nd February - Thursday - Tea, Tears and Tissues

7th February - PA Meeting 7.30pm in the staffroom

10th February - Friday - Welcome Picnic - STM Oval from 5pm
Reading Group Reflections from 5/6 — Kensuke’s Kingdom

About mid-way through this term the teachers and students started going to book club. The students were sent to a group with students from multiple classes. We were allocated a teacher (Our Group Leaders) and each group got a different book. The book we are reading is called Kensuke’s Kingdom (pronounced Ken-Ske-E). It’s an interesting story of a boy that’s been through the trouble of his parents losing their jobs and then the family starting a round-the-world sailing trip. Michael was thrown overboard while trying to collect their dog, Stella. He’s washed up on an island and has found a man called Kensuke; he knows little English. They’ve slowly bonded and now they’re great friends.

Connor McCreesh

Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? How did you overcome what’s happened and be able to find your way back? Have you needed to work outside the box? Have you needed to find your way out of a sticky situation? In Kensuke’s Kingdom a young boy called Michael has lost his family, is stuck on an island and needs to learn how to survive. I recommend this book to those who like action-packed adventures. It is a very good book and shows how you can survive in the toughest situations.

Oscar Scheen

This term the 5/6s have been lucky enough to start a session known as book club. We have been split into groups and are reading all different varieties of books. In Mrs Warner’s group we have been reading a book called Kensuke's Kingdom. When we first started getting into the book I wasn’t really interested in it but as we have been doing more sessions the book has definitely grown on me. I have really enjoyed reading with other people, and also with a different teacher, and discussing the book together.

Lily Webster

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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. All families will be rostered on an approximate 16 month cycle.

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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**SUNDAY 11th December**
Cater (Team Leader)  
Cooke  
DeLord  
Dwyer  
Harper-Treloar  
Harvie-Bracchi  
Jacouvu  
Leamon  
Leonard  
Newman  
Sparrow  
Steel

**SUNDAY 15th January**
Doyle (Team Leader)  
Cannon  
Hislop  
Holins  
Jenkins  
Martin  
Matheson  
Michie  
Natoli  
Obligado  
Reid  
Shaffier

**SUNDAY 12th February**
Cox (Team Leader)  
Boatwright  
Floro  
House  
Jones M & A  
Landsaat  
Saporito  
St Clair  
Taverna-McDonald  
Trimble  
Vandermeer J&L  
Whyte  
Wills

**SUNDAY 12th March**
Griffin (Team Leader)  
Garrett  
Gooden  
Faidutti  
Hunt  
Kratzer  
Lynch  
Marshall  
Nottingham  
Owens  
Webster

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**SATURDAY 17th December**
(145pm TWILIGHT)  
Galvin (Team Leader)  
Fay  
Gibson  
Hosking  
Mauro  
Rosenblum  
Sharpe  
Sharvin  
Spring  
Taylor A & J  
Torcaso  
Tranter  
Wilson

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