Dear Parents and Guardians and other members of the Parish Community,

Happy Mother’s Day to all the special ladies in our community.

The Parishioners have been very involved in discussions about the new layout and arrangements in the church. Many of you might have been part of the talk and have decided your preference. The majority see great merit in turning the church around so that the altar stays at the top of the steps. However, the area at the top of the steps is not part of the church building as it was built with funding from the Government and therefore cannot be used as a place of worship except on a temporary basis.

There will have to be a lot of negotiation between the Catholic Archdiocese and the Catholic Education Office to see if there is a way that a permanent arrangement could be worked out within the limits placed on the building by the government funding regulations. This process could take a long time, so we need to work together patiently to prepare for the process. In the meantime, the church will go back to its original layout.

Regardless of the way the furniture is arranged, we are lucky to have a beautiful church space on our premises. Some schools are placed well away from their church and cannot make use of it in the way we can use it. We are blessed to have that opportunity.

Congratulations to all our First Eucharist students this weekend.

CUBBIES ON THE YARD
The pallets have arrived and are in place along the back area of our yard. I have a team of trusted individuals from Level 3 under the supervision of our Level 4 maintenance team, Jack and Sebastian, who are inspecting the pallets for broken bits and sharp nails and staples. Armed with hammers, the sharp bits are being flattened and the broken bits repaired.
Next week we will begin to let the children use this area. When I first spoke of my desire to give the children a space where imagination could be stimulated, I asked parents if they had an issue with the children playing in an area where they could get splinters. No-one said they were concerned so we have set about creating this construction space.

However, you need to know that they might scrape their fingers, they might meet the occasional spider, they might get splinters, they might scratch their knees playing with the bits of wood etc. If you DO NOT want your child to play with the wood and the pallets, you will need to make that clear to your own children. We can’t manage who plays there on a day to day basis. We don’t have the time to sort it out when we are on duty, so please make sure you tell your children if you do not want them to play in that area, then they are accountable to you if they get a scrape or a scratch!

The next thing that I would like to buy are some camouflage nets. They make a great cubby house roof! If you work on a building site or a factory where you can see things that are unwanted and about to be discarded that would make a great addition to the construction area, please donate it. If it is dangerous, I will refuse it but if it can fire someone’s enthusiasm and imagination without serious harm, we will use it. If you are a plumber, perhaps you have some plastic tubing. If you work on an orchard, perhaps you have some timber boxes. Let your imagination show you the potential of what other people might consider rubbish!

**NAPLAN**

Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday all students in Yr. 3 and 5 are required to sit the NAPLAN test. The results give us an important piece of information that we add to the evidence and data that staff already collect throughout the year. We do not coach children how to pass the test in itself, but we do show them what a test looks like and we let them do some practice questions. It is not hyped up so that it becomes a scary thing looming over children, they are encouraged to see it as just one more way of showing their progress in learning.

Of more importance is the fact that the data is collected to show the Government the trends in Literacy and Numeracy. This kind of test has its uses in keeping track of a school’s system progress and national and state trends. However, it is not a test of the whole of a child’s learning. Its certainly not the best test to see if your child is on track to become a useful contributor to society, nor will it predict your child’s ability to consider themselves a success in life. It can’t tell you about your child’s happiness and it can’t tell you about your child’s spiritual and emotional growth.

One of the things that I really enjoy about working with you is the fact that you are wise in working with your children and you know that it is just one more piece of our assessment. In some suburbs, the NAPLAN test brings out all sorts of anxiety and leads to parents stressing children at the very time they need to be calm and focused. Keep it in that healthy perspective and your child will do their best!

Christine Ash
Principal

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**CRYPTOSPORIDIUM INFECTION**

The Health Department of Victoria has asked schools to alert parents to the fact that there has been an outbreak of Cryptosporidium Infection in Melbourne recently. Crypto is a parasitic infection that causes gastroenteritis. The symptoms though can last for weeks. If you take your children to swimming pools your child might be at risk. Tiny particles of human faeces, smaller than can be seen by the human eye may be in the water. Normal levels of chlorine do not kill this parasite.

Parents should ensure that they and their children take the following precautions to protect themselves and others:

- do not swim if you have diarrhoea in the past 2 weeks.
- shower and wash thoroughly with soap before entering pool.
- wash your hands with soap thoroughly after changing nappies or going to the toilet.
- avoid swallowing pool water.

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**ENROLMENTS FOR LEVEL 1, 2014**

Enrolments for Prep 2014 opened 1st week of term 2. Any existing families with younger siblings due to start next year and wanting an enrolment form, please collect from the School Office, and make an appointment for your interview.

If you know of any children wanting to enroll at St. Elizabeth’s in 2014, could you please let the School Office know.
“You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead …”

Luke 24

The Easter Season is almost at an end. For the past six weeks the readings have proclaimed: Jesus is alive, he has conquered death, go and tell everyone. This week we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. We remember how Jesus prepared his followers to be ready for that time when he would return to His Father yet promised that he would always be with them, that he would not leave them alone. He also promised that he would send His Spirit to be with them as advocate, as comforter and they rejoiced. Our Gospel this week finishes with the apostles gathering together in the Temple, no longer afraid, instead now full of joy and openly giving praise to God.

Whether we realise it or not, we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, ‘Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.’ This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning ‘to be sent’, indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world, in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

We continue to experience the abiding presence of Christ in our daily lives or else we wouldn't be here at St. Elizabeth’s. God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is not distant to our lives or impervious to our needs; we believe in a Companion-God who seeks our company as much as we need his.

During this week our church invites us to thank God for the mountain top of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are co-creators working for the master Creator. I invite you to hear Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a self satisfied believer to an enthusiastic member of a church moving out to change the world. Finally, after reading this gospel with your family, ask each member to choose a word that most makes an impression on him or her. Once all members have shared their word, have them explain how they see that word alive in the world today, in their own actions, or in actions they think would make the world a better place. Help one another make plans to carry the Good News to others.

Have a lovely day!

Elisabetta Salierno
Catholic Identity Coordinator (CIC)
saliel@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
**CLASS LITURGIES:**

Friday 17th May:  ‘Family Week - International Day of Families’ Whole School Mass at 9.15am
Friday 24th May:  Level 3 Learning Community Mass at 9:15am
Friday 31st May:  ‘Feast of the Visitation’ Whole School Mass at 9.15am

**SACRAMENTAL NEWS:**

**First Communion:**
Family Activity night and Liturgy Preparation continue each Wednesday night. There was a great sense of togetherness and many shared family stories. It certainly made me think about my family and how we come together. I look forward to meeting with the groups over the coming weeks.

First Communions commenced last weekend. It was wonderful to see the children celebrate the sacrament for the first time. I look forward to the rest of the celebrations throughout this month. A reminder that to mark the end of the First Communion program the Level 3 children will host the Sunday 10.30am mass on Sunday 23rd June. This will give all those who have celebrated First Communion an opportunity to come together with all their friends and share in this mass.

**Confirmation Candidates:**
Commitment weekend - **Feast of Pentecost: weekend of 18th and 19th May.** We ask the candidates to attend the Sunday 10.30am mass to formally enrol themselves in their on-going program. Thank you to the many candidates with their families who are continuing their commitment to regularly attend mass here within this parish community.

**Feast of the Visitation:**
Our Feast day, the **Feast of the Visitation** is on Friday 31st May – we will be celebrating a whole school mass at 9.15am and invite you to join with us as we remember who we are here at the family of St Elizabeth’s.
GENERALIZED ANXIETY

All children worry, but too much worrying can be a sign of generalized anxiety. This is a tendency to worry about many areas of life, anything from friendships to world events. You can help a child who experiences generalized anxiety learn to handle and overcome his/her worries.

Identifying Generalized Anxiety

Generalized anxiety typically emerges when children reach school age. It’s not often seen in younger children.

Children with generalized anxiety might:

- worry about lots of things - for example, health, schoolwork, performing at school or in sports, money, safety, world events.
- feel the need to be perfectionists.
- be scared of asking or answering questions in class.
- find it hard to perform in tests.
- be afraid of new or unfamiliar situations.
- seek constant reassurance.
- complain about feeling sick when worried.

It’s easy not to notice generalised anxiety, because children who have it can work very hard in the classroom and other situations. It can be difficult to know they’re constantly worrying. But they will often ask lots of questions, over and over, in new situations - for example, ‘What’s going to happen?’ or ‘What if ... ?’

There are also some physical signs: daydreaming, stomach aches, headaches, tiredness and inattention. Children might also spend a lot of time getting to sleep at night, because they’re worrying about the events of the next day.

All young children ask lots of questions - they like to know what’s happening, when and where. This is a normal part of learning and understanding daily life. But if you’re concerned about the kinds or number of questions your child asks, it’s best to talk with your GP or health professional.

Here are some other ideas to help your child learn to handle her generalized anxiety.

- Gradually reduce the number of reassurance-seeking questions (for example, ‘What is going to happen?’) your child is able to ask you. If you’ve already answered your child’s question, encourage him/her to think about the situation, come up with the answers, and rely on his/her own judgment.
- Some children use lucky charms or special clothes or objects to make a situation ‘safe’. This is OK to start with, but consider gradually phasing them out so your child can eventually face new situations without them. He’ll/she’ll learn that he/she can handle it on his/her own.
- Think about whether to let your child’s school or preschool know about his/her anxiety. Sometimes it might be useful for the school to know about your child’s worries, particularly before events such as excursions, camps or carnivals. But it can sometimes be good not to tell the teachers, so that when your child comes across something that makes him/her anxious he’ll/she’ll learn to handle it on his/her own.
- It’s tempting to give your child constant reassurance, and to help him/her avoid the things he/she worries about. This will only make the problem worse. It’s important for him/her to learn to handle worrying situations.
- No matter how frustrated you feel, avoid criticizing your child or being negative about his/her worry or need for reassurance.
- Make a conscious effort to foster your child’s self-esteem by complimenting him/her and giving him/her lots of positive attention.
- When your child manages to calmly do something that normally makes him/her worry, give him/her lots of encouragement.

Nan Perazzo  /  Wellbeing Coordinator
Last Friday our Level 3 and Level 4 students competed in an Intra-School Cross Country event. It was held at Barry Powell Reserve and, for the second year, we competed alongside Silverton Primary School. To say it was a windy day would be a gross understatement; the wind blew strong and was relentless from the north for the entire event. It was a credit to the kids to get through the event with such positive attitudes.

54 students have now been invited to represent St. Elizabeth’s to run at District level to be held on Friday 31st May. The sports captains have organised a Tuesday Lunchtime Running Club that is open to all students, not just those who have been selected for District.

There were many great stories of the day; of children toughing it out in the conditions and pushing themselves over the line irrespective of their finishing position. For me, I enjoyed watching young Jordan from 3HH finishing in the top ten even though he is too young to compete at District – definitely a rising star in this event.

Thank you to all of the parents that came down and helped out with the event and cheered and supported our students in this grueling event. Also thank you to the teachers for all of their help on the day.

And finally, a big congratulations to Blue House on winning this year!

Yours in Sport
Dean Andrew / Sports Teacher

You Can Do It ...

Juliana

Juliana from 2TZ is our ‘You Can Do It’ Star!!

Juliana always speaks to the class with confidence. She uses a clear voice and looks at the class when she is sharing her thoughts. Well done Juliana, we love listening to your ideas.
Learning and Teaching ...

2013 NAPLAN YEARS 3 & 5

How to best support your child:-

- Kids pick up cues from us – so keep it low key. The test will cover normal classroom/curriculum work learnt over a period of time – so no extra tutoring or last minute studying is necessary;
- Encourage your child to do their best but don’t put any pressure on them - emphasize that this is just one of many tests they will have during their schooling, and is to help them learn better;
- Encourage your child to have a good night sleep;
- Give them a solid healthy breakfast – but don’t overload them;
- Provide healthy snacks and lunch and plenty of water;
- Most of all – reassure them that you are proud of them …

...for who they are - not what they can do.

No test can ever measure a person’s worth

How long are the national tests for Year 3 and 5?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Tuesday 14 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 15 May</th>
<th>Thursday 16 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Language Conventions 40 min, BREAK Writing 40 min</td>
<td>Reading 45 min</td>
<td>Numeracy 45 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Language Conventions 40 min, BREAK Writing 40 min</td>
<td>Reading 50 min</td>
<td>Numeracy 50 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rebecca Gage
Learning and Teaching Leader
gager@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

Adapted from work published by Sue Bull and Cathie Renfrew

School News...

SCHOOL BANKING

We currently have 112 registered bankers at the school but we are only getting approximately 50 school bankers each week. The Commonwealth Bank is running a competition in Term 2 for all the consistent Dollarmite bankers in Australia. If you participate in School Banking three or more times this term, you will automatically go into the running for the nationwide competition which first prize is a $5,000 holiday anywhere around Australia. There are also 25 runners up prizes valued at over $700 each.

Don’t forget to bring your bank book in every Thursday morning. It doesn’t matter how much you bank. Even if you bank 50 cents, you will receive a silver token making you a step closer to receiving a Banking Reward and being able to purchase what you are saving for.

If you have collected ten silver tokens, you are able to choose a Dollarmite reward. Please fill out the table below, choosing one of the nine rewards available (the Torch is now available) and return it with your ten silver tokens in your Dollarmite Wallet next time you do school banking.

If you have any questions, pop a note in your deposit book or please come and see me at the office during snack time on a Thursday morning. Keep up the great work!

From your School Banking Co-ordinator
Don’t forget to ask for your stickers when you shop at Woolies. The offer ends on Sunday June 9th.

We have a designated box at Woolworths Waverley Gardens as well as one in the school foyer and in the church foyer.

Parents and Friends.

Come along and join the friendly Parents and Friends Association. This hard working group raise money which goes towards the needs of the school for the benefit of our children.

Mark your calendars and diaries for the Parents and Friends meetings: ~

- 20th May ~ 2:15pm in the Staffroom
- 15th July ~ 2:15pm in the Staffroom
- 16th September ~ 2:15pm in the Staffroom
- 11th November ~ 2:15pm in the Staffroom

- 17th June ~ 7pm in the PAC
- 26th August ~ 2:15pm in the Staffroom
- 14th October ~ 2:15pm in the Staffroom
- AGM 9th December ~ 2:15pm in the Staffroom

Thanks
Trixie Martin

LRC help needed.

If you have some spare time, I’d love some help putting labels into books, stamping, taping and some covering. It is all very easy to do. If you can help, please come and see me Monday – Thursday.

Trixie Martin

MENTAL ARITHMETIC WITH ABACUS PROGRAM

An amazing program is now available to interested parents with children from Prep to Year 6 where students can learn mental and manual arithmetic with abacus. Abacus is a “Whole Brain Development” program with a proven concept that can improve arithmetic skills and also enhances the mental abilities like concentration, observation, visualization, imagination and memory.

Tuition Fees: $16.00 per session (1 hour per session)
Abacus set plus 2 exercise books: $30
Venue: Ferntree Gully
Time: After School Hours and Saturday

Please contact Choon Lim at GCM Abacus Method:-
Mobile: 0431 616 364
Email: choonbailim@yahoo.com

Learn Guitar at St Elizabeth’s

- Small group lessons for 30 minutes during school hours
- $16.50 per lesson (group of 3)
- Enrolment forms at school office or contact Choon

Mobile: 0431 1616 364
After hours: 03 9758 0731
Email: choonbailim@yahoo.com

Keyboard Kids Music School
0417 390 481
Keyboardkids@bigpond.com

“FREE Trial Lesson”

“Looking for ways to enhance your child’s learning, then music may strike the right chord”.

Keyboard Kids Music School would like to offer your child the opportunity to learn the piano/keyboard. Learning to play a musical instrument has been shown to have great benefits for a child’s development.

COST: Shared Lesson in group of 2 - $18
Private Lesson 20 min - $19
Private lessons 30 min - $28

Lessons are held once a week on a Wednesday. Please email keyboardkids@bigpond.com for an enrolment form or call Shirley for more information on 0417 390 489.
YOUTH LEADERSHIP VICTORIA PRESENTS
ST. ELIZABETH’S OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM

Contact Details...

St. Elizabeth’s Out of School Hours Care Program  
111 Bakers Road, Dandenong North  
Ph: 0422 803 709

Before School Care:  
7.00am to 8.45am Monday to Friday during school term,  
excluding all Victorian public holidays.  
Permanent: $11.50   Casual: $12.50

After School Care:  
3.15pm to 6.15pm Monday to Friday during school term,  
excluding all Victorian public holidays.  
Permanent: $13.00   Casual: $14.00

Vacation Care / Pupil Free Days:  
7.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday  
Per Day: $45.00

Late Pick Up Fees:  
Per minute: $1.00

For enquiries or further information, please contact  
Elaine on 0422 803 709 during session times.

Weekly Activities...

Beginning: Monday 13 May, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Drawing, Tracing, Colouring, Pool, Computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Hairdressing, Fake Cooking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Paste, Learn &amp; Fun, Playing with Marble Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Skipping, Dancing, Playing with Play Dough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Outdoor, Rolly Polly, 40-40, Sand Pit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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