Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Other Parishioners,

Well done to everyone for the way in which you have worked to restore order on Bakers Road before and after school! With nearly 400 children to be dropped off and collected in a short time frame it is really important for everyone to respect the way we manage traffic and pedestrians. Last Friday our Parking Officer was impressed, even though he had to fine a couple of drivers for not doing the right thing. I know that hardly anyone follows the rules about time (the drop-off zone is a 2 minute stop), but you are all taking the risk of copping a big fine.

Thank you to all the parents who know how it works but who have been tolerant of the fact that new families are just learning how it all works.

Some of you have asked why we close the gates near the oval. We close them so that if a delivery truck arrives or an ambulance needs to get in, we have a clear driveway for the vehicle. If you have a child in sick bay who cannot walk to the car, we can park your car at the front of the school and help you get your child into the car. If you do have such a situation, you can ask the teacher on duty to let you in, but it will only be possible in those exceptional cases. Otherwise, follow the parking signs and you will be OK.

The area at the back of the school, Hennessy Way, is not a pick up spot and the gate is only there for children who walk in from the houses at the back. There is NO parking along the back of the school at all. I would ask that you respect this, as parking along there means you are willing to put the lives of children who cross there at risk. Residents get very upset when we block the road.

If you think all this talk about parking and traffic rules is over the top try searching out this article, http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/grieving-family-speak-for-the-first-time-about-the-tragedy-at-carlingford-primary-school/story-fni0cx12-1226821027443

The article in the Telegraph paper tells the tale of a grieving family, it tells of an ordinary family getting the call every parent dreads. It was an ordinary school day last year in Carlingford. Fung Lui Ong and Andrew Stephen, parents at the local primary school, received a frantic call to tell them that their daughter Ellie had been hit by a 4WD car outside the school grounds. Their youngest daughter Zoe was unhurt, but their cousin Akshaaye had been killed instantly. Ellie has been in a wheelchair for seven weeks but Doctors are now giving her permission to try walking again. Ellie’s Mum spoke about the first three days in hospital when her daughter never made a sound except to wince in pain and how on the fourth day the shock subsided and she really started to cry.

The 3 children had been walking along the front of...
Principal’s Message (continued) ...

the school along a road very similar to our own, when the driver of a 4WD attempted to do a 3-point-turn, but instead ploughed into the little boy and pinned Ellie under the car.

Ellie’s parents do not blame the driver, but hope instead that she can work through that one careless mistake and possibly live a full life again one day.

The crash has had a huge effect on the school community. The Principal, Mr Hinton was first on the scene. He acknowledges that the Christmas Holidays gave the community time to come to terms with the tragedy, but he said that what he saw that day will be seared into his memory for life.

Ellie’s Mum, Fung Lui Ong, says that it is good that people now take time in dropping their kids off at school! Let us hope and pray that all of us will take time to drop the children off at St Elizabeth’s and make sure every one of them is safe. !

Religious Education News ...

“Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 4: 20

In this Sunday’s Gospel Jesus demands that we live by the Gospel. It is not enough to be outwardly good and religious, our innermost thoughts and feelings must be pure as well. If we wish to be disciples we must undergo a change of heart and mind. To behave faithfully is in our power. Everything we do and say should come from our innermost thoughts and feelings with the help of the Gospels and the help of the Holy Spirit.

Last Sunday, our whole St Elizabeth’s staff came together to celebrate Liturgy together to be Commissioned before our whole Parish. It was a wonderful experience where the staff as a whole promised many things. The promises we made were telling everyone what we believed as Faith Educators. These promises showed our innermost thoughts and feelings, that being Faith Educators is both a privilege and duty to the Good News of Jesus Christ and that we promise to live by and proclaim God’s word.

We have many new staff members this year, and I myself am in a completely new role as CIC which will have many challenges for me. We all had an opportunity to think about what our school is about and how we want to work together as staff, students, parents and parish. We thought about how our faith needs to be reflected in everything we do with each other from the littlest person in our school to everyone who leads our school. We as a staff are called to be of service to each other and to be Christ for each other at all times, to teach, help, heal and enjoy the children given into our care.

GOAL SETTING MEETINGS: 

Next week is goal setting for all children in our school. This is a great opportunity for all children to set themselves some learning goals and work towards achieving them. In light of this week’s gospel focus, it would be wonderful for families to set themselves a family goal in terms of attending a parish community Mass at least once or twice a month. This will particularly help support the children celebrating sacraments this year, but also build a strong relationship between our school, home and parish.

Remember that the link between school, home and parish is important. It’s not one or the other, it’s all three intertwined together and the relationship we share between ourselves, home and school and ultimately the church. I encourage you to really think about this at home with your family, paying particular attention to making an effort to attend Mass so that children become familiar with the idea of all of us working together and not in isolation!

After all, we are a family here at St. Elizabeth’s Parish School and all are welcome!

Maria Popowycz / Catholic Identity Coordinator (CIC) 
popoma@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au 

RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING: 
Wednesday 26th February - Reconciliation Parent and Activity Meeting at 7.00pm commencing in the Church. Parents and children celebrating the sacrament MUST attend.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES 

Those students in Yr6 looking to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation this year should have all received a notice regarding their participation in the Lenten Masses over this term. I ask if all the Mass forms could be returned as soon as possible. The children will be invited to stand with Fr Tad for the final Blessing and then process out with him. Children will then sign their name on the sheet located in the foyer of the Church for me to keep as a record.

School Sport News ...

This week we will be playing Noble Park P.S. in our Summer Inter-School Sports. It is great to see the vast majority of the Yr5 and Yr6 students come to school prepared for these events, as well as their weekly P.E. lessons. In Term 1, students need to be wearing a hat and runners, and bring a water bottle to school.

On Friday 14th March, the Greater Dandenong Division Swimming Carnival will be held at the NPAC (Noble Park Aquatic Centre). For those St. E’s students that are competent swimmers, and may belong to a swimming squad out of school, it is a great event for your child to have a go at. To assist your child, our District has organised a lane at NPAC for those budding swimmers to use before school in the lead up to the event.

The lane is open from 7.45am. till 8.30am. and entry is $2.40 per student. An adult must be present for their child’s training. The sessions will be supervised by trained teachers and coaches. The first day of training is Friday 21st February and will run every Tuesday and Friday morning until the Carnival.

Your in Sport / Dean Andrew
SEPARATION ANXIETY

Separation anxiety is the fear children have of being parted from their parents or guardians. It’s common and normal among babies and toddlers. A very small number of preschoolers and school-age children develop a more serious form of the condition, called separation anxiety disorder.

Separation anxiety reaches its peak in babies aged 14-18 months and typically decreases throughout early childhood.

Separation Anxiety Disorder
As children reach preschool and school age, they are less likely to experience separation anxiety. Of course, there will always be times when they only want to be with you.

If children in this age group seem particularly and regularly distressed about being separated from their parents, it’s possible they might have separation anxiety disorder.

Separation anxiety disorder is defined as occurring when the:
- anxiety interferes with the child’s life, and subsequently the parent’s life.
- severity of the anxiety is inappropriate for the child’s developmental level.
- characteristics of separation anxiety have persisted for at least four weeks.

Helping Children With Separation Anxiety
If your child is suffering from separation anxiety, there are lots of things you can do to help him/her.
- Tell your child when you’re leaving and when you’ll be back.
- Say goodbye to your child briefly - don’t drag it out.
- Settle your child in an enjoyable activity before leaving.
- If you’re leaving your child in a new setting (child care centre, preschool, friend’s house, babysitter), spend time at the new place with your child before the separation occurs. He/she needs to know he’s/she’s being left in a safe place with a person you can both trust, and he’ll/she’ll be less distressed if she’s left in a familiar place with familiar people.
- To increase your child’s feelings of safety, let him/her take something he/she loves from home, such as a teddy bear, pillow or blanket. These objects can be gradually phased out as he becomes more settled.
- Keep a relaxed and happy expression on your face when you’re leaving your child. If you seem worried or sad, your child might think the place isn’t safe and can get upset too.
- It can be useful to tell your child’s child care centre, preschool or school about his/her anxiety, and let them know about anything you’re doing to help your child. This way, other people in your child’s environment can give him/her consistent support.
- Gently encourage your child to separate from you by giving him/her practice. It’s important to give him/her positive experiences of separations and reunions. Avoiding separations from your child can make the problem worse.
- No matter how frustrated you feel, avoid criticizing or being negative about your child’s difficulty with separation.
- Make a conscious effort to foster your child’s self-esteem by complimenting him/her and giving him/her lots of positive attention.

Nan Perazzo / Wellbeing Coordinator
Cyberbullying - Supporting Your Child Online

Childhood bullying used to be face-to-face physical and verbal behaviour in the playground, classroom and on the way to and from school. Now online technology and constant connectivity has allowed bullying to harm children through often anonymous contact or actions. Cyberbullying can happen at any time and leave a child feeling unsafe and alone.

Cyberbullying most commonly occurs through:

- Comments posted in an open online environment such as Facebook.
- Direct text, email or instant messages online or on a mobile phone.

Children can manage cyberbullying with your support by taking the following action:

- **Blocking the person** cyberbullying and changing privacy settings. Retaliating or responding to the bully only gives them the attention and power they want.
- **Reporting the bullying.** Most websites have online help centres and reporting facilities, and online abuse is in violation of the Terms Of Use of most social networking sites.
- **Collecting the evidence.** Keeping mobile phone messages and printing emails or IM conversations.
- **Talking to someone they trust like parents or a teacher.**
- **Visiting the Cybersmart Online Helpline** (www.cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx) to chat with an experienced counsellor or calling the Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.
  
  cybersmart.gov.au

**Glossary:**

**Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying occurs when technology is used to deliberately and repeatedly engage in hostile behaviour to harm someone. Groups and individuals can be both the perpetrators and targets of bullying.

**Instant messaging (IM)**

Instant messaging is sending real-time messages from one computer to another by means of small ‘pop-up’ windows. They are a form of ‘instant email’ and are very popular with students and adults alike. They are usually a one-to-one communication medium, although some programs allow many people to chat at the same time, like a private chat room.

A full cybersafety glossary may be found at www.cybersmart.gov.au/glossary.aspx

Rebecca Gage
Learning & Teaching Leader

gagere@stedandenswth.catholic.edu.au
You Can Do It!

Because we are in a new, open space we have to be organised by ensuring that our space is tidy and ready for learning.

We have been persistent in learning new routines and procedures.

We have been confident in making new friends at St Elizabeth’s.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 28 January</td>
<td>28 January</td>
<td>School Closure Day</td>
<td>Staff Return</td>
<td>29 January</td>
<td>Term 1 begins for Yr 1-Yr 6</td>
<td>Foundation Students – Literacy Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 3 February</td>
<td>4 February</td>
<td>School Assembly 8.45-9 am Footsteps – F-Yr6</td>
<td>5 February</td>
<td>SWEL Week – whole school activities 9-11 am Whole school morning tea</td>
<td>School Tour – 9.30 am Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>6 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 10 February</td>
<td>11 February</td>
<td>Feast Our Lady of Lourdes</td>
<td>12 February</td>
<td>13 February</td>
<td>Summer Int School Sports Round 1 v Noble Park 9/5</td>
<td>14 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 17 February</td>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>Goal Setting Information Night 3.30pm/4.45pm/6.45pm</td>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>20 February</td>
<td>Opening School Year Mass / Announcement L4 Leaders – 9.15am</td>
<td>21 February</td>
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<td>Week 5 24 February</td>
<td>25 February</td>
<td>School Assembly 8.45-9 am Footsteps – F-Yr6</td>
<td>26 February</td>
<td>School Tour – 9.30 am Individual Goal Setting Meetings 3.30-6.30pm Reconciliation Parent Information &amp; Activity Night 7.30-8.30pm</td>
<td>26 February</td>
<td>Summer Int School Sports Round 3 v Westall 9/5 5/6L – Reconciliation – 11.30am</td>
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<td>Week 6 3 March</td>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday (Pancakes) Burning of Ashes – 10.30am</td>
<td>5 March</td>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>Summer Int School Sports Practice – St Elizabeth</td>
<td>7 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 24 March</td>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>Feast of the Annunciation</td>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>School Closure Day</td>
<td>28 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9 31 March</td>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>First Reconciliation – 2.15pm First Reconciliation – 6pm</td>
<td>2 April</td>
<td>School Tour – 9.30 am</td>
<td>3 April</td>
<td>Yr 1 &amp; Yr 2 – Mass (3rd week of Lent) – 9.15am</td>
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<td>Week 10 7 April</td>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>School Holidays</td>
<td>9 April</td>
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<td>15 April</td>
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<td>16 April</td>
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<td>Week 12 21 April</td>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>Term 2 Begins</td>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>School Tour</td>
<td>24 April</td>
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ST. ELIZABETH’S PARISH SCHOOL – TERM 1, 2014
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<td>Hama Beads Art, Book Marks, Picture Frame, Basketball, Tunnel Ball</td>
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**Contact Details ...**

St. Elizabeth's Out of School Hours Care Program
111 Bakers Road, Dandenong North
Ph: 0422 803 709 / 0426 283 721

Before School Care: Permanent: $12.00 / Casual: $13.00
7.00am to 8.55am Monday to Friday during school term, excluding all Victorian public holidays.

After School Care: Permanent: $14.00 / Casual: $15.00
3.15pm to 6.15pm Monday to Friday during school term, excluding all Victorian public holidays.

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

Late Pick Up Fees: Per minute: $1.00

For enquiries or further information, please contact Elarine on 0422 803 709 or 0426 283 721 during session times.

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