Dear Parents and Guardians, Students and Other Parishioners,

Parents have always been the first educators of their children, but in this 21st century they are becoming critical educators in new and unprecedented ways. The idea that schools have the main responsibility for teaching children is becoming questionable! The fact that children today have access to up-to-date news, information and entertainment is changing not only where they learn, but also what and how they learn.

Schools as you know are changing to meet this reality. No longer can schools see themselves as the main gateway to learning. Learning is available to anyone who can connect to the internet at any hour of the day or night. Schools still have a major role to play in helping children to learn, but so do parents. Parents are responsible for children for 18 hours a day, whilst schools have the children in their care for 6 hours a day.

When you consider the powerful learning tools in your own homes, that means that your children have potentially many more hours of learning at home than at school. It is a scary thought really as much of that learning is done without supervision in lots of homes.

Yet our children’s learning needs are not that much different to the needs that children had when I was a child. Children need to learn how to manage
themselves socially and emotionally, they need to learn skills that allow them to manage their
time and their responsibilities, and they need to learn that life is a meaningful experience.
They need to learn all these things as much as they need to learn to read and write in order to
communicate with others. They also need to learn to use mathematical skills and they need to
learn to think logically. They need to learn to use their imagination too.

It makes a great deal of sense then that schools and parents work closely to support each other
in the education of our young people. When I was a child, my parents went to school once or
twice a year to speak to the teacher and perhaps visited to see a performance or concert. When
I had young children, I was more involved, but it was involvement through Parents and
Friends and helping at tuck shop and sports days and some assistance in the classroom.
Parents today need more than just involvement with their children’s life, they need to be
engaged in education themselves and working as partners with their children’s school.

What does this partnership look like? It starts with parents and teachers recognizing that they
have to work together to give children the very best possible start in life. Choosing a school
where you feel welcomed is critical. I sometimes see parents come on school tours with a
notebook and I think that is great. They are obviously very concerned that they find a school
that matches their expectations and a school that will work closely with them. They are
looking for a school that has values and understandings that are closely aligned with their own.

We hope that parents of children at St Elizabeth’s take every opportunity that they need to
work closely with us in the education of their children. We hope that you find us very
approachable, we hope that you feel very welcome here, we hope that the forms of
communication we offer meet your needs, whether that be the newsletter, the Level
newsletters, the website or our Facebook page.

We hope that the sessions we run on the ways we work with the children meet your needs.
Has our Faith Program, which starts with Prayers in PJ’s for the little ones right through to
Confirmation Information with Yr 6 children, helped you to talk to your child about their faith?
Has it assisted you to support their spiritual growth? Have our sessions on Walker Learning
helped you understand the importance of creative play and developing and fueling children’s
curiosity about the world? Was the Literacy Helpers Program useful, did it help you to see
ways to encourage good reading skills in your child? Was the Cyber-Safety Session helpful in
showing the importance of monitoring your children’s use of the internet and particularly
social media sites? Did our session on how we support our students to develop responsible
behaviors (Adlerian approach to pastoral care) help you to manage social skill formation in
your own home with your own children? Are our teachers welcoming you and assisting you in
educating your children? We certainly aim to do so.

Are there any areas which we have missed? Are you finding that there is an area of your life
where you need support in educating your child? We would be more than happy to hear from
you so that we can investigate ways to assist you. You only have to pick up the phone,
9575258 or email us at principal@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au. Our school wants to be
partners with you so that learning is a seamless experience for our students. Being a parent is
hard work and we want you to know that we are here to assist you. We do have the expertise
and experience of professional expertise. Tap into this wisdom and let us support you in your
educational role!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ACTION ON FUNDING!

You may have been following the progress of the Governments' Better School Plan and seen that it has now been endorsed by both the major political parties. You may not be aware that it now contains better outcomes for Catholic Schools. Thanks to all of you who returned your letters to school and which in turn we forwarded to Alan Griffin our local Member of Parliament. Our Director, Stephen Elder, has acknowledged that it was this contact with local members of Parliament that shifted the position so that Catholic schools were not disadvantaged.

I received a letter from Alan Griffin thanking everyone for their interest and detailing the fact that Catholic schools will now receive an extra $1.6 billion dollars in additional funding over the next 6 years. I also received a statement from Mr Ross Fox who is Director of the National Catholic Education Commission, welcoming the commitment of all state and territory Catholic Systems to the Commonwealth Government’s funding arrangements now known as the Better Schools Plan. According to Ross Fox, no school will be worse off under this arrangement and every child will benefit from it over time. The Better School Plan also preserves the autonomy and ability of Catholic systems to distribute funding according to identified local need.

Our colleagues in Government Schools have already accepted a new wage claim but staff in Catholic schools are yet to agree to a new Industrial Agreement. When it does come down it will soak up much of the funding increases but without a new funding plan we would not have been able to meet the expected salary increases!

UNIFORM POLICY

Our St Elizabeth’s Uniform Policy makes it quite clear that extreme hair styles are not appropriate for children attending primary school. Several children appear to be unaware of this policy but as all parents agree to abide by school policies when they sign up for enrolment, can we suggest that parents make sure that when children have their hair cut or styled, it is in keeping with normal standards.

Obvious hair colouring and extreme or attention seeking hair styles are not permitted. For safety and health reasons it is required that children with shoulder length or longer hair, have it tied back. Hair accessories must be in school colours eg hair ribbons or headbands.

Christine Ash
Principal
This week we celebrate the ‘Feast of the Assumption.’ It remains for us a Holy Day of Obligation. The Feast of the Assumption was pronounced as a defined dogma of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius XI in 1950, so we can consider it to be ‘recent’ teaching. Yet the belief in the Assumption from which this dogma developed, dates back to the beginning of the Church’s story, to the apostolic age. It belongs within the tradition of the Catholic Church being affirmed and passed down throughout history.

It is a feast that reminds us of the preciousness of life and death and the respect and dignity we show for those who have died. It is a Feast that reminds us that we belong to what we call, ‘The Communion of Saints.’ Each time we gather at Mass as part of the ‘Eucharistic Prayer’, we pray:

“Have mercy on us all; make us worthy to share eternal life with Mary, the Mother of God, with the apostles and with all the saints who have done your will throughout the ages. May we praise you in union with them, and give you glory.”

On this feast day, we also celebrate the special favour that God gave to Mary, our Mother, that Mary was taken up into the glory of heaven, not only with her soul, but also with her body. The Church celebrates that this is her reward for her love of God and her years of faithful prayers and suffering. Mary is the Mother of Jesus' Church and queen of apostles. Every time Mary asks Jesus to give us graces, he listens to her request.

After the resurrection from the dead, we, too, can go to heaven. As we celebrate the feast day of Mary, we can ask our Blessed Mother Mary to guide, protect and care for us through this prayer.

Almighty, ever-living God, You raised to eternal glory the body and soul of the immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of Your Son. Grant that our minds may always be directed heavenward and that we may deserve to share in her glory.

Amen.

Keep smiling!

Elisabetta Salierno
Catholic Identity Coordinator
saliel@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
CLASS LITURGIES:

Thursday 22nd August:
Yr 5 & Yr 6 Learning Community will prepare and lead the 9.15am Mass.

Friday 30th August:
Yr 3 & Yr 4 Learning Community will prepare and lead the 9.15am Mass.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS:

Confirmation:

Thank you to all the families who attended the Confirmation Parent Information evening this week. If you were unable to attend, please read through the information pack sent home with your child and return the Sacrament of Confirmation Enrolment Form by Thursday 29th August.

The Confirmation levy for of $25.00 can be paid through the school office. You may wish to prepare yourselves and organise the payment, Lisa will then issue you with a receipt. The levy covers: Dove pins, Lysterfield Reflection day, bus hire, certificates, classroom resources and the key Resource used for the Home Activity Pack.

“If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can’t, you’re right.”

MARY KAY ASH
Resiliency Robbers by Michael Grose / parenting ideas.com.au

All parents have the best of intentions when raising kids. Wanting what is best for kids can cause parents to make decisions that are not always in their children’s long term best interests.

If you buy the line that the promotion of resilience is in the best interests of kids check out the following common parenting mistakes that reduce resilience.

Robber 1: Fight All Their Battles For Them
There is nothing wrong with going into bat when kids struggle or meet difficulty inside or outside school but make sure this is the last resort, not the first option.

Resilience Notion 1: Give kids the opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness.

Robber 2: Make Their Problem Your Problem
Sometimes parents can take too much responsibility for issues that are really up to children to work out or decide.

Resilience Notion 2: Make their problem, their problem.

Robber 3: Give Kids Too Much Voice.
In this era of giving children a voice, it is easy to go overboard and allow them too much of a say in what happens to them. Kids often take the easy option to avoid hard or unpleasant situations.

Resilience Notion 3: Make decisions for kids and expect them to adjust and cope.

Robber 4: Put Unrealistic Or Relentless Pressure On Kids To Perform
Expectations about success and achievement are important. Too low and kids will meet them. Too high and kids can give up. Too much and kids can experience anxiety.

Resilience Notion 4: Keep expectations in line with children’s abilities and don’t put excessive pressure on them.

Robber 5: Let Kids Give In Too Easily
Resilient learners link success with effort. They don’t give up because they don’t like the teacher or when confronted with a multi step or more complex activities. Similarly they don’t bail out of a sporting team half way through a season because a team is not winning or they are not enjoying it.

Resilience Notion 5: Encourage kids to complete what they have started even if the results aren’t perfect.

Robber 6: Neglect To Develop Independence
Don’t wait until they are teenagers to develop the skills of independent living. Start early and promote a broad skill set so that they can look after themselves if you are not around.

Resilience Notion 6: Don’t routinely do for kids what they can do for themselves.

Robber 7: Rescue Kids From Challenging Or Stretch Situations.
There are many times kids are put in situations that are outside their comfort zones for a time. For instance, giving a talk, singing at a school concert or going on a school camp may be challenges for some kids. They are all situations that kids usually cope with so show your confidence in them and skill them up rather than opt for avoidance.

Resilience Notion 7: Overcoming challenges enables kids to grow and improve.

Sometimes the manageable hardships that children experience such as a friend moving away, not being invited to a party or completing a difficult school project are fabulous learning opportunities.

They help kids stretch and grow. Dealing with them effectively also teaches kids that they are capable of coping when they meet some of life’s curve balls. And that is a huge lesson to learn at any age.

Nan Perazzo / Wellbeing Coordinator
‘A learning intention describes what pupils should know, understand or be able to do by the end of the lesson or series of lessons.’ (Learning Unlimited, 2004)

One of the major research projects our teachers have been undertaking this year is using learning intentions in their lessons and assessing the impact this is having on student learning. The idea of using learning intentions is that teachers are making it explicit to students what they are going to be learning. This is different from what the students will be doing.

In the above photo we can see that our Foundation students were learning:
- to identify and write the ‘who’ in a sentence; and
- to record the main sounds in words.

The activity that the students were doing was to write a sentence to match the picture. When doing this activity the students were asked to identify ‘who’ the sentence was about and to identify the sounds they could hear when they spoke the words they wanted to write. The idea of using learning intentions is that the student can then name that they are learning to write a sentence where they can identify ‘who’ the sentence is about and identify some of the sounds in the words they are writing, rather than saying that they are learning to write a sentence describing a picture.

One of the ways you can use learning intentions with your child is to ask them “What did you learn at school today?” rather than “What did you do at school today?”

‘If learners are to take more responsibility for their own learning, then they need to know what they are going to learn, how they will recognise when they have succeeded and why they should learn it in the first place.’

- (An Intro to Assessment for Learning, Learning Unlimited, 2004)
Our ‘You Can Do It’ person this week is Emma.

Emma spoke confidently during our Cross Arts performance.

She had a loud clear voice and used a lot of expression.

Emma was also very helpful and gave many good suggestions in making our performance better.

Congratulations Emma on being 3BL’s ‘You Can Do It’ star.
Congratulations to the students who have already completed the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge. The Challenge ends on the 12th September, but so I have time to verify the reading records, I am asking that all entries be done by 7th September. If you need any help, please come and see me.

Thank you to our local Bakers Delight store in Waverley Gardens.

When purchasing goods from Bakers Delight in Waverley Gardens, please remember to mention our School by name. They are donating a percentage spent to the school. What an easy fundraiser!

Mark your calendars - **PIE DAY** is Wednesday 18th September. Wear your footy colours (gold coin donation).

Supporting kids living with cancer and their families.
A special tuckshop order will be coming home next week for this day.

**FATHERS DAY STALL** - change of date.

The stall will be held on Tuesday 27th August. List of items and prices coming home soon.

School fees are due on 19 August 2013.

Please make sure you have put arrangements in place to pay the remainder of your school fees by this date.

If you have not already done so, could you please supply Vivienne, our school Bursar, with your email address so we can send your next statement electronically.

**Market Night** Friday 18th October.

Stalls still available. $20 BYP trestle, $25.00 table provided.
Information is on the school’s website, or if you prefer, see Parents and Friends Committee or Trixie Martin for information.

St. Elizabeth’s will be closed on Thursday 19 September and Friday 20 September 2013. Term 3 finishes on Wednesday 18 September - **not Friday 20 September**.

We are hoping there will be a program offered by Youth Leadership Victoria as part of our After School Care Program on these days. We will advise you closer to the end of term.

**NAZARETH COLLEGE - SCHOOL TOUR**

Nazareth College, Manning Drive, Noble Park North have scheduled a school tour day on Friday 23 August at 9.30 am. Please register your attendance with Bernadette Bryant on 9795 8100.
STAY COOL AT SCHOOL THIS SUMMER

Win a CommBank Marquee for your school and an iPad Mini for yourself by depositing in your School Banking Account in Term 3.

Every time you deposit in your school banking account between 12th August and 13th September in Term 3, 2013, you will receive an automatic entry into the draw to win an iPad Mini for yourself and a CommBank Marquee for your school.

For more information, simply contact your School Banking Specialist, Debbie Mikkor on 0423 758 058.
Contact Details...

St. Elizabeth’s Out of School Hours Care Program
111 Bakers Road, Dandenong North
Ph: 0422 803 709 / 0402 133 225

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

After School Care: Permanent: $13.00 / Casual: $14.00
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 0402 133 225 during session times.

Weekly Activities...

Beginning: Monday 19th August, 2013

Monday
Natural Art, Painting, 40-40, Footy, Netball, Skipping Ropes

Tuesday
Computer Games, Writing Games, Pressing Flowers, Hula Hoops, Tiffy Knockout, Fruit Salad

Wednesday
Marble Game, Play Dough, Dress-Ups, Hair & Makeup, Cheeky Monkey, Cops & Robbers

Thursday
Lego, Shaving Cream, Pinhole Camera, Basketball, Peg Games, Poison Ball, Badminton, Footy

Friday
Jewellery Making, Tracing, Playstation, Smartie Bingo, Origami