Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Other Parishioners,

We are called to reach out to our brothers and sisters in this world and treat them as we would treat Jesus himself. This week we actually took a great step in being witness to that powerful Gospel message.

We have now officially joined the Friendship Program supported by Kadasig Aid and have our very special sister school in the Philippines. Our school is the Matutinao Elementary School in the village of Barangay Matutinao which is in the Badian Province on the Island of Cebu. Cebu is one of the 7100 islands that go to make up this unique country. The capital city is also called Cebu, but our little village school is located on the coast about 3.5 hours drive from Cebu City.

The school is a Yr1-Yr6 school and there is a kindergarten. There are 258 children in the school and 8 teachers. The local homes do not have electricity but there is power connected to the school. Many families have no income as the unemployment rate is 60%. There is very little in the way of resources in the school, children do not own pencils or pens or even have access to paper.

Glenys, the spokesperson for Kadasig, did not think that the school had a computer and there is definitely no library. Children share workbooks. Anywhere between 5 and 10 children share 1 workbook. Not every child owns a toothbrush!

The school is set in a beautiful area where the Matutinao River meets the sea. A local attraction is the Kawasan Falls and so there is an element of tourism there as well as some fishing and natural food processing. The total population is 1480 people.
The whole village is very excited about the friendship program as it means that the school and the children have the possibility of getting support that is beyond their dreams! The Mayor of Badian and the Captain of Barangay have thrown their full support behind this partnership and the Principal of the School has committed to working very hard to improve the results for the children as part of the program.

What do we get out of the Friendship?
We get to know what it feels like to be an active Christian and/or a responsible citizen of our world. We get to learn that money and power alone do not make for a happy life. The children of this village are by all accounts great at sharing with each other, living without judging each other and living in harmony with their environment.

Glenys and Erin are the unpaid volunteers who work for Kadasig in Australia. They explained the program to the students at assembly and then stayed on for morning tea with the Mums and Dads. This gave us an even better insight into life in the villages. Glenys adopted 3 children from the Philippines and spoke about the lack of access to oral hygiene. Children often arrive in this country for adoption with a mouth full of decayed teeth, and decayed teeth set up all sorts of other health problems. Just buying the children a toothbrush is a huge step forward. You have to provide soft ones though or you cause more damage to their teeth and mouths! Glenys also talked about giving the families a cake of soap. Many will just leave it on a shelf for others to admire! Too good to use.

Our students and our parent group were very confident that we can, and should, start helping our friends in Matutinao as soon as possible! Glenys has provided us with a box that will arrive soon for us to fill with donations, but before we do that we want to raise $100 so that the workbooks can be photocopied and every child can have a workbook. The last school that received that support saw their academic results soar. So our first fundraiser will be a coin trail from the front gates to the PAC on Monday May 12th. Your child can donate 5 cents or any other kind of coin. Encourage them to raid their own piggy banks and ask family and friends to raid their loose change box. Let’s see if we can reach the PAC and make a huge difference immediately for our new friends!

Easter Raffle Winners
The Easter raffle winners at the end of term 1 were as follows:

Foundation—Isabella W. (FLA)
Yr1—Erica A. (1/2SB)
Yr2—William S. (1/2TZ)
Yr3—Luis Z. (3/4TL)
Yr4—Akila P. (3/4RM)
Yr5—Simone D. (5/6GA)
Yr6—Perry S. (5/6DL)

Christine Ash
Principal

School Sport News ...

Last week we began our much anticipated Auskick and NetSetGo programs for 2014.

We have been very fortunate to secure Trish from AFL Victoria who will be coordinating the Auskick for the first 6 weeks.

Next Wednesday is the last week to sign up for these two great programs.

Last Thursday we began our winter inter-school sports season. Our Yr5 and Yr6 students will be participating in footy, soccer, rugby tag, netball, t-ball and school based activities every Thursday morning throughout term 2.

Yours in Sport
Dean Andrew
“Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks for the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, give praise to His name.”

Welcome back to this second term as we joyfully celebrate this Easter Season. We began this new term with all levels developing units of work that focus on the Easter story and the centrality of the Easter event for all who name themselves as Christian. This is who we are; each week as we proclaim our Creed, we affirm our belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are Easter people who live in the joy and hope of the promise of a new resurrected life with the Lord.

In this week’s gospel we reflect on Jesus appearing again to his disciples. At the end of Luke’s gospel, the disciples were still trying to understand what happened to Jesus, and Jesus was still trying to help them figure it out. Following his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples again while traveling on the road to Emmaus. They still had a hard time recognizing him. To help them know he was really there with them, Jesus ate a meal and broke bread with them. The early Church of Luke’s community had the same problem, and much of Luke’s writing was intended to help these new Christians see that the resurrection was indeed real.

Changes take place in all of us that prevent people who have not seen us for some time from recognizing us. When friends and relatives see our children after a long absence, they almost always comment on the changes in size, height, hair color, voice, and mannerisms. While Jesus appeared changed to the disciples and we have never even seen him at all, we still know he is with us. Each week at Eucharist, Jesus comes to us in a special way. Sometimes it is we who have to change in order to recognize Jesus and receive the joy he brings us in the Eucharist.

Maria Popowycz  
Catholic Identity Coordinator  
popoma@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

What’s happening this month? All classes will continue to reflect on and break open the weekly Gospel stories that also speak to us of the presence of the Risen Lord.

Yr1 & Yr2 Learning communities beginning the Unit – “Alleluia Is Our Song.” In this unit, students recall and explore the accounts of the women at the empty tomb. They also ponder the meaning of Easter through the symbols of darkness and light. Finally, students recall and explore the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and how the Holy Spirit is active in their own lives in their own gifts and talents.

Yr3 & Yr4 begin the Unit, “Alleluia – He Is Risen!,” and the sacramental focus will shift from Reconciliation to First Communion. In this unit students develop their understanding of the seasons of Lent and Easter. They explore how they grow closer to God and others during Lent, especially through a commitment to the Lenten practices of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Students examine the symbols, stories and celebrations of Easter.

Yr5 & Yr6 begin the Unit, “Sacred Stories – Sacred Peoples.” In this unit students learn about how the people of Israel were formed, how they related to God, and how the early Christians understood Jesus Christ. Students explore family stories, examining the values and beliefs held by their families, revealed through these stories. They consider the roles of prominent Old Testament figures such as Moses and Miriam. They also investigate how the first Christians understood Jesus Christ through an exploration of the commandment to love God and to love one’s neighbour in the gospels. Finally, students reflect on how God has been and is a part of their own life stories. As you can see, a very busy, but fulfilling term ahead of us all!

SACRAMENTAL NEWS

First Communion:  
Our sacramental focus throughout this Easter season will be on the Sacrament of First Communion. Last week I sent home the date for your child’s sacrament and the Parent Activity Pack and the date for the Preparation for First Communion Night. Please mark the dates on your calendar. There will be many letters regarding your child’s sacrament, so please keep an eye on the forms coming each week!

Confirmation Candidates:  
Thank you to the many families who have taken up the challenge to be regularly participating at the Mass here at St Elizabeth’s.
CONSEQUENCE FOR CHOICE

At St Elizabeth’s Parish School we believe in the innate goodness of every human being and uphold the unconditional acceptance of each individual. In supporting a strong sense of belonging for all within the community we maintain the following beliefs and principles:

- An encouraged person possesses the courage to accept him/herself unconditionally.
- To encourage means to give heart to a person.
- Encouragement is different to praise; encouragement recognizes contribution and effort while praise is an external reward for a well done task.
- Discouragement underlies all inappropriate behavior.

At St Elizabeth’s we recognize our responsibility to support our students to develop responsible behavior through maintaining the following beliefs and practices:

- Fostering the values of justice, love and respect by modeling appropriate behavior, restorative practices and developing warm, supportive and positive relationships with students.
- Developing close partnerships between home and school and supporting parents in their understanding of relevant school philosophy, policy and practice.
- Displaying sensitivity to the home environment and the effects critical family events have on a students’ behavior.
- Establishing and maintaining high expectations of student behavior.
- Promoting self discipline through the establishment and application of consequence for choice.
- Identifying and acknowledging appropriate behavior using encouragement.
- Providing class meetings, circle time as a forum for the discussion of issues of student/teacher concern, a vehicle for group decision making and the establishment of social order i.e. agreed behavioral expectations.
- Maintaining a school and classroom climate which promotes personal growth and positive self esteem for all.
- Establishing a school and classroom climate which promotes cooperation rather than competition.
- Establishing a school and classroom climate which is safe, structured and orderly.

We promote a strong sense of attachment and belonging for all students by engaging in the following encouragement strategies.

Consequences For Behavior

At St Elizabeth’s Parish School we believe that responsible behavior develops when students are given the opportunity to make choices and experience the consequences of those choices. We believe that this practice stimulates students to become more responsible for their individual behavior and increases self discipline.

There are two types of consequences:

1. **Natural** - reflect the reality of the situation; and
2. **Logical** - reflect the reality of the social order; the agreed expectations of behavior.

**Natural consequences** represent the routine effects of reality of the natural flow of events without interference from teachers e.g. a student who fails to return a parental permission slip cannot go on an excursion. It is the natural order or reality of the situation which impresses the student, the teacher is not involved and adopts the role of the friendly bystander; “I am sorry that you cannot go on the excursion, but you know what to do for the future.”

**Logical consequences** are guided and arranged by the teacher in consultation with the class group and allow the reality of the social order to impress the child rather than the authority of the teacher. Consequences are appropriately utilized when the student as prior knowledge that his/her choice will result in a particular consequence.

Consequences when applied effectively satisfy the following criteria:

- **Reasonable** - uncomfortable, unpleasant but not extreme, suffering is not conducive to the learning process.
- **Related** - logically related to the behavior.
- **Respectful** - no moral judgment implied, the student is treated with dignity and respect.

Nan Perazzo
Wellbeing Coordinator
Parents and Friends News

The Mothers Day stall will be held on Thursday 8th May. Classes will be rostered to come to the stall during the day. A pink notice has been sent home with a list of items for sale and the cost, if you haven’t see it, please check in school bags. If you’d like another copy, please email Trixie on info@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au and she will email it to you.

There are still a few families who have chocolate drive money to return to the school, please do so as soon as possible. Letters were sent home last term as a reminder.

We would love to have new (and old) faces come along to our meetings and enjoy a meet and greet cuppa. Please do not think that coming along will give you a job, it won’t … unless you would like one.

The next Parents and Friends meeting is to be held on Wednesday 21st May at 2:20pm in The Nook. This meeting will discuss upcoming fundraisers including the Market Night, Fathers Day stall as well as a social event.

Book Club

Book Club orders are due back on Friday 9 May. No late orders will be accepted. Thank you.

News from the Nook - Morning Cuppa

As there is no Assembly next week due to Yr5 & Yr6 Cross Arts rehearsal, a morning cuppa will be held in The Nook, all welcome.

Lost School Uniform

Could all families please check their children’s school uniform. If you find any school uniform items which are not yours, could you please return those garments to Lisa at school office. Thank you for your support.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

This weekend is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together, to rediscover each other and focus on your relationship in a very positive way. There is no group sharing.

Forget life’s tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together in the first place. Your marriage deserves that kind of attention. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

2014 weekend dates :
13-15 June, 15-17 August and 21-23 November in Melbourne.
Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday.
Accommodation and all meals provided.
For further information and bookings: Contact Marianne & Marcel Van den Bronk on (03) 9733 0997 or Email vicbookings@wwme.org.au.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
6 May 2014

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on Tuesday 6 May at 6pm in the school staffroom.
Learning and Teaching...

Apps To Be Aware Of

Technology, especially if you're not staying up-to-date, can be very deceptive. Your kids may be downloading Apps that you think are innocent and just a simple way for them to keep in contact with their buddies, but unfortunately, this isn't always the case. Many of these apps and websites have age restrictions of 12+ that are widely ignored.

To keep your children safe, it's best that you monitor their technology use. Look through their apps, texts and pictures.

Here are some apps and websites to be aware of:

**ask.fm**
This app & website lets users ask questions anonymously and is not moderated at all. There is no way to tell which accounts are watching what you post.

**omegle**
When you use Omegle, it picks another user at random and lets you have a one-on-one chat with each other. Chats are completely anonymous, although there is nothing to stop you from revealing personal details if you choose to.

**yik yak**
This is like a local bulletin board for your area by showing the most recent posts from the 500 users located closest to your area. It allows anyone to connect and share information with others without having to know them.

**pheed**
One popular feature is the ability for users to livestream what they're doing at any given moment. It allows for the sharing of all sorts of content, including text, photos, videos and audio.

**snapchat**
Send photos to other users that disappear after 10 seconds. However, these photos can be kept by using other apps. Many photos shared here are not images that you would want your child to see or be sharing of themselves.

**vine**
While this mobile app can be used to post short videos, some users are using the app to videotape others without their knowledge or using the app to mock or harass other kids.

**kik**
This is an instant message service similar to iMessage. However messages can only be seen on the devices that send or receive the messages.

**whisper**
Users are encouraged to "post secrets anonymously." However, this app also has a GPS attached and shows the area that a user is posting from. You can also search for other "whisperers" that are in the same area as you.
You Can Do It!

Wade B.

The 2BH Learning Community has chosen Wade to be our “You Can Do It” person. Wade has been chosen for his confidence, persistence and organisational skills.

Wade always completes set tasks on time, is friendly towards all students and willing to help other children in the grade. Wade listens carefully to all instructions so that he can always do his best work.

Well done Wade on being 2BH’s “You Can Do It” Star!
Monday 5th May, 2014

YOUTH LEADERSHIP VICTORIA PRESENTS - ST ELIZABETH’S OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM

Weekly Activities...

**Beginning:**

- **Monday:** Tracing, Computer Games, Board Games
- **Tuesday:** Play Dough, Dominos, Lego Blocks
- **Wednesday:** Dress-Up, Marble Games, Connect Four, Chess Game
- **Thursday:** Writing Games, Chalk Drawing, Piranha Panic
- **Friday:** Hot Chocolate / Popcorn / DVD

**Contact Details:**

St. Elizabeth’s Out of School Hours Care Program
111 Bakers Road, Dandenong North
Ph: 0422 803 709 / 0426 282 721

**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: $13.50 / Casual: $14.50
- 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.
- (No vacation care available in January.)

**Late Pick Up Fee:** Per minute: $1.00

For enquiries or further information, please contact Elarine on 0422 803 709 or 0426 282 721 during session times.