Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Other Parishioners,

This week in an effort to gather evidence and data to support our comments to parents and guardians in the June reports, we asked the children in Yr5 and Yr6 to complete a survey about their experience at school. We need to gather a complete picture of each child’s social development in order to support their learning. Our work is not just about the National curriculum, we are helping our children to be well developed people in every aspect of their lives. We also have an obligation to make sure we do all we can to keep children safe, and that means supporting those who are making school unsafe for others. Teachers are very observant, but we do not see everything! Just as parents can’t see everything that goes on in their home. There are some behaviours that some children are very good at hiding. Often what goes on between the children is hard to observe unless you are part of their group.

We gave the Yr5 & Yr6 students the Questionnaire from a well respected book by Helen McGrath called ‘Friendly Kids, Friendly Classrooms’ and we then recorded, and analysed the gathered information. This information will inform our conversations with parents and with the students and each other. We work as one team at this school to educate the children in our care. We

Monday, 26th May
School Assembly - 8.45-9am
3/4RM Reconciliation - 11.30am

Tuesday, 27th May
National Reconciliation Week

Wednesday, 28th May
Foundation 2015 - New family interviews
P&F Meeting - 2.15pm

Thursday, 29th May
Feast Of The Ascension
Inter-School Sports Round 5 –v- Noble Park Primary School (away)
Foundation 2015 - New family interviews

Friday, 30th May
St. Elizabeth’s Feast Day - whole school Mass - 9.15am
Foundation 2015 - New family interviews
District Cross Country
FAC - Radio Assembly

Saturday, 31st May
Feast Of The Visitation
St. Elizabeth’s Parish Mass - 6.30pm
First Eucharist - 6.30pm

Sunday, 1st June
St. Elizabeth’s Parish Mass - 8.30am, 10.30am, 5.30pm
First Eucharist - 10.30am
added the students’ answers to the information we have already collected in the classroom and on the yard about each child’s social and emotional learning.

It is always wonderful to hear from the children themselves about the students who are kind and caring, eager to share and who are recognised as friendly to others. It is also interesting to hear about the very strong relationships individual students have with just one or two friends. Not everyone is an extravert, but we are keen to know that everyone belongs to a friendship group. Although, you do not have to be an extravert to say kind words to others or to do kind things for others outside your comfort zone! Having a broad picture, including all this information, is very useful as we write our reports and get ready for Progress Interviews.

However, we don’t just ask the children to share information about who are the good citizens in the classroom we also have to ask who is not being the best person that they can be. It is always sad to see the results come back that usually confirm what we see on the classroom tracking sheets and the Yard Duty Sheets. Occasionally, there are some surprises and they are often about situations of power where one less socially powerful child wants to be seen in the cool group and another more powerful child uses them to cause trouble which they themselves usually avoid.

It’s actually quite a distressing experience for staff to read the names of children who are identified by others as the children who hurt other people, who say mean things and who don’t play by the rules or share equipment etc. Even more difficult is when the children identify the same person over and over again. It is also quite distressing to share that information with parents. We all want our children and students to be the very best person that they can be!

Whilst it is understandable that we have feelings about this situation, it is really important that all of us remember that we all learn at different rates. This is just as true of social and emotional learning as it is of academic learning. Some of us learn to be kind and helpful, friendly and caring really quickly. Others take a little longer and some take a really long time. Some of us have brains that can organise ourselves and manage ourselves efficiently. In other words we can think about the choices that we have to make and choose the action that is right and helpful. We can choose the action that will ensure that we keep our friends and keep others safe. Unfortunately, some of us have brains that are not so quick to understand the situation and cause us to act in haste before we have considered the consequences.

Schools and parents have a responsibility not to judge those children but to help them. The first step is to understand what is the reality of a situation and then to encourage and support the child to develop the skills to manage themselves and to make good choices. Constant and patient guidance is called for. It is also important to encourage every chance that you get, to ‘catch the child being good’. Children who have got themselves into a downward spiral need love and honesty. They need to be held accountable but they also need to know that we believe that they can turn things around.

The best support we can give the young people in our sphere of influence is to model the behaviours that we want our children to master. If all the adults in the child’s world not only give good feedback but also model and talk about the importance of sharing and co-operating and giving encouragement and sharing resources, then the children will slowly, but surely make the changes that we all want to see.

Christie Ash
Principal

Principal’s Message cont ...
Jesus said to his disciples:
‘I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.’
John 14:15-21

This week’s gospel makes the link between love and obedience. Jesus calls for a love that is as self-giving as his own. Obedience is not necessary for love, it is the consequence of it. Jesus knows that when he is gone it will leave the disciples feeling abandoned and so he assures them of his return. He promises the disciples an Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

Just like the disciples, we live in hope because we have been blessed with the promise that we will not be left alone when Jesus returns to his Father; the promise that we will be comforted by the Spirit whom Jesus will send. It is trust in God that allows us to live in this world knowing God is with us, although we cannot see the Spirit we trust in God’s love.

Who is the Holy Spirit?
The Spirit has several names: Paraclete, Advocate, Counsellor and Helper. The simplest one to remember and understand is Love. God is love. The Spirit of God is love.

Jesus often spoke about himself and his relationship with his disciples, saying things like, ‘I am the vine, you are the branches’, ‘I am the Resurrection and the life’, ‘You are the light of the world’, ‘You are the salt of the earth’, ‘I am the Good Shepherd’.

A sign that the Holy Spirit is at work is when a relationship, between you and God, between you and your family or friends, is healthy. The Holy Spirit is alive when a relationship has a positive impact on the life of the people involved.

CLASS LITURGIES:

Friday 30th May:
‘St Elizabeth’s Feast Day’ Whole School Mass at 9.15am

Friday 6th June:
Yr1 and Yr2 Mass at 9.15am

Yr1 Good Shepherd Experience:
On Wednesday 4th June at 6:30pm we have a special ‘Good Shepherd Experience’ evening for our Yr1 children and their parents. This is an opportunity for you and your child to spend some special time together. Looking forward to seeing you there.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS:

First communion:
On Wednesday night we had our last Family Activity night and Liturgy Preparation. It was a wonderful opportunity for parish families to build relationships with each other by sharing their stories. The children prepared for the Sacrament of the Eucharist together as a family of St Elizabeth’s.

We are half way through our First Communion Celebrations. The children have come reverently and well prepared to celebrate their First Communion. Each Mass was a joy filled and prayerful celebration shared with family, friends supported by St Elizabeth’s staff and led by Father Tad.

First Communion Reminders:
Thank you to the families who have paid their Sacramental levy. A reminder to those families who still owe First Communion Sacramental levy of $25.00 which needs to be paid in cash through the office.

Family Poster is optional for families. If you have completed one, please ensure it is returned to school by this Friday 31st May so I am able to put them up in the church.

Confirmation Candidates:
Commitment weekend - Feast of Pentecost: weekend of 7th and 8th June. We ask the candidates to attend the Saturday or Sunday 10.30am Mass to formally enroll 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.

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

Religious Education News...
LEARNING THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING

Teaching your child the importance of giving back to the community is part of raising well-rounded beings. This lesson of giving can be taught in many ways, but for children, an activity is often the best way to keep them engaged while providing a valuable lesson about helping others through good deeds.

Teaching kids the importance of social awareness and giving back to the community is vital to ensure your child grows to be empathetic, compassionate and caring. Volunteering and actively working to help others offers the perfect ways to help instil this lesson, while making a difference in your community and the world beyond it.

Last week was National Volunteers Week and across Australia many individuals and groups were recognized for the contribution they make to ‘making a difference in our world.’

Our St Elizabeth’s School was recognized by the local Regis Nursing Home for the contribution are students make with our fortnightly Nursing Home visits and the invitations for some of the residents to attend our regular Cross Arts Rehearsals and Christmas Carols. The students look forward to their visits to the Nursing home and the walks down Bakers Road are filled with anticipation about what we might talk about or do with the residents, and on the way home there is always so much to share about what we have learnt from the residents and how much we have enjoyed the time spent with them and how much we have gained from the experience.

The staff who support the students in this experience are very proud of the friendly way our students greet and build relationship with the residents and the smiles on the faces and the laughter and buzz of chatter in the room says it all.

This experience provides an opportunity for our students to live out our school values of mutual respect, shared responsibility, social equality, cooperation and self-discipline and some of the other values for Australian Schooling – Care & Compassion, Doing your Best, Integrity, Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion.

You too as a family can find opportunities for your kids to help out beyond the scope of their homes. This does require a bit of creative thinking and plenty of encouragement, but is an investment that’s well worth the rewards that it brings.

Some activities that you as a family might like to consider to give your child/children the opportunity of being a volunteer could include:

Providing Household Help to Neighbours with Mobility Issues.
While organizations and local programs offer a plethora of volunteer and activism opportunities, there are ways for your kids to make a difference in their community without working in the confines of a volunteer program. Encourage him/her to help a neighbour who has mobility issues with outdoor chores like raking leaves or watering flowers while you supervise or putting the weekly garbage bins out.

Planting Trees.
Trees are an important part of the ecosystem, and planting one makes a difference in your community for years to come. Make a point of planting trees with your kids and explaining the integral role those trees play in the ecosystem.

Before getting your kids excited about a particular project, be sure that you check with the appropriate organizations in your area to ensure that kids are welcome to get involved. ‘Character is Destiny’ – George Eliot

Nan Perazzo / Wellbeing Coordinator
St. Elizabeth’s has gone Google! Since the start of 2013 the staff have been using various Google tools to support organisation, communication and collaboration.

We are very excited to now offer Google Apps for Education accounts to our Yr3, Yr4, Yr5 and Yr6 students. It represents another important step towards developing a 21st century approach to curriculum and learning. These tools will support the high levels of collaboration that are required in today’s classroom to prepare students with the communication and collaboration skills they’re going to need.

**What’s included in Google Apps?**

- **Google Docs** lets you create and share documents, spreadsheets, presentations, drawings and forms. You can also upload any file to Google Docs and share it with others.

- **Google Sites** makes it easy to collect, share and publish all types of content in a single website through easy embeds of Google Docs, Calendars, videos and other media without HTML.

- Also included are **Google Groups** for mailing lists, discussion groups, and broad sharing, **Google Video** for Domain-limited video distribution, as well as other tools that can be added on to the domain.

**What are the benefits of Google Apps and what’s included?**

- Anytime, anywhere access – Google Apps works in any browser on any computer, which means you can access your files from school or at home.

- No flash drives required with documents and files stored in Google Docs.

- Students can easily collaborate with students from other classes.

- Teachers can be involved throughout the whole assignment process providing comments and feedback directly in the documents.

- Students can develop an e-portfolio of work throughout their years at the school.

Rebecca Gage
Learning & Teaching Leader

gagere@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
This week our Yr3 and Yr4 students were visited by eight players from the Melbourne Football Club. The Demons were all in good spirits as they were fresh from a good win against the Richmond Tigers. They chatted to our students firstly about their pathway to the elite level of the AFL, as well as nutrition and healthy living.

After taking many curly questions from the floor, the group went outside for a footy clinic (including one student asking about Geoff Edelston’s latest flame!). Melbourne Football Club captain, Jack Grimes told me on leaving "what a great bunch of kids you have here, our guys had a lot of fun". Therefore we can safely say it was a win-win all round.

Thank you Yr3 and Yr4 teachers for your flexibility and the giving up on some of your time to make this visit a success.

Yours in Sport
Dean Andrew
Frustrated Tiger

Matutinao Elementary School Fundraiser

How amazing! The total raised by the coin trail last week was $383.45.

Thank you so much. This money will be forwarded onto Kadasig who will arrange for paper to be sent to our friendship school, Matutinao Elementary School in the Philippines.

A big thank you to everyone who donated money and supported our first fundraiser.

Parents and Friends News

Everyone is very welcome to come along and enjoy a cuppa at the Parents and Friends meeting on Wednesday 28th at 2:20pm in The Nook. We will be discussing the upcoming Market Night.
### Contact Details ...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elizabeth’s Out of School Hours Care Program</th>
<th>111 Bakers Road, Dandenong North</th>
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<td>Ph: 0422 803 709 / 0426 282 721</td>
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**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 Fees:**
- Per minute: $1.00

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

### Weekly Activities ...

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<th>Beginning:</th>
<th>Monday 26th May, 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>Jewellery Making, Colouring Exhibition</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>Shaving Cream Art, Lego Building, Dominos</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Paper Plate Tennis, Magnetic Darts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Stencil Painting, Finger Painting, Computer Games</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>Movie with Popcorn</td>
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