Dear Parents, Students, Guardians and Other Parishioners,

This will be the final newsletter for 2015, so I want to thank those of you who read it! I know that some of you enjoy all the articles in the newsletter and look forward to reading it from cover to cover. However, those who read it weekly and regularly are not many in number! We surveyed parents and guardians this year and we found that only 25% of our parents actually read the newsletter and not all of those readers read it weekly or even regularly.

Many of you are receiving all the information that you want to read via Tiqbiz and Facebook. After much discussion and with input from companies who specialise in dealing with communication and information technologies, we have decided to make significant changes to the way in which we communicate with you. We will no longer publish a newsletter weekly, it will be published every fortnight. You will be able to get a summary of its contents via Tiqbiz and then go to the Newsletter if you want to read the article in full. The newsletter will continue to be available on our website as will previous newsletters.
All this reflects the changing face of communication. We communicate more than ever before, but we communicate in different ways. We use social media sites, purpose built sites like Tiqbiz and CareMonkey and email. Unfortunately, when you keep adding things to an already loaded vehicle, the vehicle cannot cope and you have to look at different options. Those of us who manage the communication across the school feel we have reached that level of overload. We need to do things differently.

I am very grateful to Nan Perazzo, Rebecca Gage, Trixie Martin, Dean Andrew, Maria Popowycz, Lyn Dennett and Lisa Gray for all the time and effort that they have put into producing a weekly newsletter as well as dealing with ever increasing numbers of emails, Tiqbiz communications and phone calls.

Naturally, we will monitor and survey our community to see how this goes.

The Newsletter will be published every even numbered week of the term (Week 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10). In the first newsletter each term we will include the newsletters from the levels across the school and in the second newsletter of each term, you will see an overview of the specialists programs.

By rolling them all into the one publication, you will know where it is when you need it!

We will also try to use Tiqbiz and Facebook more frequently to give you instant communication about events and happenings as they occur. Photos of incursions and excursions, expos and demonstrations will be captured and sent to you almost as they happen.

Many of the school communities at St Elizabeth’s also write a blog. This was a very popular way to communicate over the internet, but we didn’t get many parents commenting on the blogs this year. Is it a useful tool for our students? It is very time consuming for staff as every post has to be read by the teacher and then approved before it can be uploaded to the page. We don’t know for sure if they are being read by our families or if they are just being put out into the universe for a few random finders to enjoy. This area of communication will also need to be evaluated in 2016.

Thank you for your support and encouragement during 2015. I want to thank the staff for delivering on the complex and challenging demands of being an educator in a contemporary setting. They have not only become super skilled in using technology to support learning, but they are also using student data to drive focused teaching for every student.

The Leadership team had to do a presentation to the Regional Manager on Friday outlining the growth of our students in Literacy and Numeracy learning. Our target was to achieve what is known as an effect size of .4, but we actually achieved double our target in Yr 5 Maths (.8) and more than double in Yr 3 Maths (.9). Our Yr 3 Reading was more than double our target in Reading (1.0) and just over the target in Yr 5 Reading (.5). These are outstanding results and a credit to our staff and students.

An effect size of 1.00 is the same as more than 2-3 years of expected growth across the Victorian & National Standards.

I want to thank Parents and Guardians for their trust in us and their belief that together we can achieve great learning for their child/ren. We have seen wonderful learning take place where home and school have trusted each other and worked together.

God bless you all this Christmas. God gave his Son to us and we give ourselves back to Him through our actions with others. Let’s work on creating peaceful homes this Christmas. Happy Christmas to everyone in our community.

We will start 2016 in January with staff returning on Wednesday 27th January, Yr 1 to Yr 6 returning on Thursday 28th January and Foundation starting on Friday 29th January.

Christine Ash
Principal
Advent helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is important to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ.

"Our Lord, come!" (1 Cor 16:22) Jesus, savior, you are welcome in my heart and in my whole being. Live in me always!

SCHOOL & CLASS LITURGIES AND KEY EVENTS TO LOCK IN

It is a busy time and we need to be constantly checking our calendars so here are some dates to be added in.

We always welcome all families and parishioners to attend school masses with us.

YR 6 TRANSITION MASS & PRESENTATIONS FOR ALL 2015 YR 6 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

On Tuesday 15th December the Yr 6 children will gather at the 6:30pm Mass. This is a time for the students to gather to pray and celebrate the time spent together as part of the St Elizabeth’s School community and all that lies before them as they move into Secondary schooling. We, the staff, look forward to sharing this Mass with ALL students in Yr 6 who they have taught during their time at St Elizabeth’s.

After Mass the Yr 6 students will process to the PAC where we will continue with speeches and presentations.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS

On Thursday, we gathered for the End of Year School Mass. It gave us the opportunity to celebrate, pray and give thanks for all that we have shared throughout our journey together in 2015. It is also sad to end a year, particularly when we bless the students and families who will be leaving us next year.

The new 2016 school captains were announced at the end of Mass. Congratulations to our new captains - Thomas G, Angie CYC, Alexander M and Kia S.

Maria Popowycz
Religious Education Leader
popoma@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

CAROLS NIGHTS

A very big thank you to everyone who participated in our wonderful Carols Night. It was a beautiful and reverent evening that began with the Story of Christmas. Our Foundation students did a wonderful job of acting out the main characters of Christmas and were well supported throughout the story with the entire school community leading us in the traditional carols.

We all then were ready to join in with our novelty Christmas songs which were just amazing. Every community presented a variety of novelty songs that engaged all of us and made us sing along! A great way for our school community to all come together and be festive.

Thank you to all the students, staff, parents and parish for making our Carols Night successful. I would like to wish everyone a very happy and holy Christmas.

YR 6 STUDENT’S DISCO & PARENT SUPPER

After all the formalities it will be time to have fun together, with a disco for the Yr 6 students in the PAC and supper for the parents in the Level 3 Link.

Religious Education News ...
Carols By Candlelight ...
Teaching Children the REAL meaning of Christmas – Author Unknown

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor, it was Santa. I saw that he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. He whispered quietly, ‘TEACH THE CHILDREN!’ I was puzzled: What did he mean? Santa then brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind his back.

As I stood there bewildered, Santa said, ‘Teach the children! Teach them the true meaning of Christmas.’

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it on the mantle. Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind. All needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man’s thoughts turning toward heaven.

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was a sign of fulfillment of that promise.

He then reached into the bag and pulled out a CANDLE. Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world.

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of love. Real love never ceases.

He then pulled out an ornament of HIMSELF. Teach the children that Santa Claus symbolizes the generosity and good-will.

He reached into his bag again and pulled out a HOLLY LEAF. Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior.

Next he pulled out a GIFT from the bag and said, ‘Teach the children that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Teach the children that the wise men bowed before the holy babe and presented Him with gold, frankincense and myrrh. We should give gifts in the same spirit as the wise men.’

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherd’s crook that helps the shepherd to bring back strayed sheep from the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother’s keeper.

He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior’s birth.

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of a bell, it should bring people to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.

Santa looked at the tree and was pleased. ‘Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and don’t put me in the centre, for I am a humble servant of the ONE WHO IS, and I bow down to worship Him, our Lord, our God.’

Nan Perazzo
Wellbeing Coordinator
eSafety for parents - Basics

It is important that parents are aware of what their children are accessing when using technology. There is a lot of information available to support you how to minimise the risks that your child will access inappropriate material online. One of the best websites is The Office of the Children’s e-Safety Commissioner. Here is some information about one of the pages available to you as parents.

Grappling with the day to day workings of your child’s online world? Not sure what the basics are, how to use parental controls or how hashtags work?

Our experts give you the rundown on everything you need to know.

#learnthebasics #knowyourstuff #keepingupwiththekids


The Office of the Children’s e-Safety Commissioner provides many helpful resources for parents to increase their understanding of cybersafety and the issues they need to be aware of. By visiting the links above or scanning the QR code, you will be taken to a website page with:

- two videos:
  - simple advice for parents to help minimise the risk of children coming across inappropriate content.
  - specific advice for parents to help minimise the online risks for older children and teens.

- How hashtags work.
- How to use parental control tools.
- Linking social media accounts - the risks.
- Quick guide to popular social media sites and apps.
- Two-factor authentication for increased online safety.

Rebecca Gage
Learning and Teaching Leader
gagere@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
Instead of buying Christmas activity books for your children there are many websites that have colouring activities and games for free. The activities cover Kindergarten to Yr 6 children. Below are a few that you may like to explore to help your child’s Mathematical skills.

www.topmarks.co.uk
www.kidzone.ws/math/christmas/
www.primaryresources.co.uk

Lyn Dennett
Numeracy Leader / F-4 Number Intervention Leader
ldennett@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
For the last week's of P.E. for 2015 we have been working on our skipping across all of our year levels. The basic, humble, ancient toy called the skipping rope is brilliant in it's simplicity - two handles and a rope. Yet it can provide volumes of activities incorporating individual, partner, group and teams.

Every year we work on our skipping for a minimum three week block. The skipping rope can be incorporated into any sports training regime as part of a sport's fitness component. The physical benefits of skipping include improved cardio-respiratory fitness, coordination, flexibility, symmetry, rhythm and balance as skipping are both anaerobic and aerobic exercise. This is a form of high-impact exercise making it an efficient way to build bones and toning tights, hips, gluteus maximus and calves. Also, skipping is considered as effective forms of exercise to prevent osteoporosis as jumping increases the levels of calcium.

Thank you everyone for the year 2015. We have had many successes throughout the School Sports Victoria program such as district and division titles and several regional finals appearances. We have had great support from our parents; from helping transport kids to and from events, applying the odd bandaid and to cheering themselves hoarse from the sidelines. On behalf of St. Elizabeth's Parish School, we thank you dearly.

For those parents who are leaving the school, I wish you and your children well in their academic pursuits.

For the others, I'll see you all in 2016!

Merry Christmas
Yours in Sport
Dean Andrew

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**Parish Christmas Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
<td>Tuesday 22nd December 7pm—8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 23rd December 7pm—8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>Thursday 24th December (no morning Mass)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carols from 6:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family Mass 7:00pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carols from 11:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Midnight Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Friday 25th December</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dawn Mass 8:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mass 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(note there will not be an evening Mass)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekend Mass</td>
<td>26th/27th December</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feast of the Holy Family</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday : 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday : 8:30am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Years Day</td>
<td>Friday 1st January 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mass 10:30am</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Thank you for all your support.

As you all know, the Parents and Friends committee have been running fundraisers of the last two years so that we would be able to get stage lighting installed in the Performing Arts Centre.

To date, with your help, we have raised $13,000 towards this.

We wish each and everyone of you a wondrous Christmas, a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

Carols Night

What a lovely night we had last night, the weather was kind, the children’s singing amazing and we all had an opportunity to enjoy each others company.

Congratulations to Kristy M, Jason W and Anna P for winning the Christmas raffle prizes.
Three easy ways to get your child to read better and enjoy it.

Relax

The simplest way to encourage children to engage in reading is to relax around the process.

One of the easiest ways to relax around the reading process is to change the location reading takes place at home. If the difficult reading times have always been at the dining table, then encourage a variety of reading locations. Try lying down on the lounge room floor, Mum and Dad’s bed, or outside under a tree.

Don’t be a word pointer or an ‘instant word factory’

When a child changes a word in the text, they are being a resourceful reader. They are working towards making sure that the text that they are reading makes sense for them.

The child who reads the word flu instead of cold is putting the text into their own context. As adults, we frequently miscue when reading, though often we are unaware it has happened. Children need to know that it is okay to not read “word perfect” all of the time.

When a child changes a word, or looks to a parent for help, the importance of making meaning needs to be shared. Simple prompts for parents, such as “what would make sense here?” or “let’s read on for more information”, give the reader a strategy to figure out what they are reading.

Getting stuck on a word in many cases results in pointing at the unknown word and sounding out, or the parent becomes the “instant word factory” and supplies the word to the child. When figuring out unknown words, sounding out is the least effective strategy because the clues aren’t in that word – they are in the rest of the sentence or the pictures.

Children always need to choose what they read

Book choice is a vital component of the reading process. If we read a book and it takes a while to get going or we lose interest, we simply put it down or lend it to a friend.

Often imposed choices on children come from a place of love – we are trying to support the children in accessing a text that is at their reading level. It is often hard to let go and let children choose their own books. This is vital, however, for developing strong, self-sufficient readers.

When a child chooses a book that may be beyond their instructional reading level, we might need to use a supportive book strategy to assist the child to access that text. You might try echo or shared reading with the text, where the parent reads a sentence and the child follows along. It is important that these levels of support are negotiated with the child, so they can access the support that they need.

Every parent does the best job they know how to do when it comes to helping their child to read. Remember to congratulate yourself on making such a great difference to your child’s future.

Relax and enjoy the reading journey!

The Conversation : November 17, 2014.
https://theconversation.com/three-easy-ways-to-get-your-kids-to-read-better-and-enjoy-it-34013
Expressions of interest to join the Waverley Park Hawks for next season are now open!

The Waverley Park Hawks cordially invite all Boys and Girls to lodge an expression of interest in becoming a Waverley Park Hawks player next season.

You can do so visiting www.wphawks.org.au or contacting the club via the details at the bottom of this flyer.

- Family oriented and community minded club with opportunities for boys and girls of all abilities and backgrounds.
- Affiliate club of the Hawthorn Football Club and member of the South Metro Junior Football League (SMJFL).
- Mixed / Boys teams for all ages from Under 8 through to Under 17
- Under 12, Under 15 and Under 18 Girls teams.
- Younger age groups play with SMJFL modified rules to encourage participation and skill development.
- All our coaches are AFL Level 1 accredited.
- Gold Level personal Injury Insurance and accredited First Aid officers attend all matches.
- Weekly Sunday night After Match function including, player presentations, match reports, dinner and social activities.
- Providing an affordable pathway into junior club football — full rebate on AusKick fees for first year players continuing with their AusKick centre.
- Training nights are Tuesday through Friday, with all teams training at least once per week.
- Sunday is Match Day for all teams.

For more information:
www.wphawks.org.au
info@wphawks.org.au

President: Tony Ferracane 0419 367 593
Registrar: Danielle O’Neill 0438 407 525
Community News cont ...

**BOUTIQUE ESTATE AGENCY**

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE BOUTIQUE ESTATE AGENCY.

We represent a genuine hands on approach which has lead the way in local real estate services. Located on the border of Dandenong North and Mulgrave whilst covering a wide network of suburbs from Clayton right through to Berwick makes Boutique Estate Agency able to cater to a large portion of the south eastern corridor.

As the only Real Estate Agency located in Dandenong North. We are committed in supporting our local schools and businesses to ensure we maintain great relationships and provide exceptional services throughout the area.

As part of this commitment we are happy to contribute $500 to St Elizabeth’s Parish School for every time a property is SOLD or PURCHASED by a family member of a student of the school.

*It’s our way of saying thank you for supporting your local businesses.*

YOUR LOCAL AGENTS

SHOP 12/46 OUTLOOK DRIVE DANDENONG NORTH

ABN: 36 600 561 019 | PHONE: 03 9795 8889 | FAX: 03 9795 8869

www.boutiqueestate.com.au
St. Elizabeth’s Holiday Program – Pre-Christmas 2015

For more information & booking contact your coordinator Elarine 0422803709

111 Bakers Road, Dandenong Nth, Vic. 3175     Tel: (03) 9795 5258   Fax: (03) 9790 0933
www.sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
admin@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
Parish Priest : Rev. Tadeusz Ziolkowski SC         School Principal : Mrs Christine Ash

St. Elizabeth’s Holiday Program
- Pre Christmas 2015

Friday 18th December
Excursion Day
Come sing and see Hotel Transylvania 2
Includes: Transport, McDonald’s happy meal for lunch and popcorn at the movies
Cost: $20.00

Wednesday 23rd December
Goodbye 2015
Play some balloon games
Water Balloons – Expect to get wet
Enjoy making Christmas Cookies

Thursday 17th December
Sparkling Christmas Activities
Table centre-pieces
Felt mobiles
Glittering tree decorations
Musical Games
Christmas activity books

Tuesday 22nd December
Christmas Fun Day
Christmas shaving cream art
Christmas pipe-cleaner creations
Pop-up Santa
Christmas foam stamp decorations

Monday 21st December
Merry Christmas
Paper snowflakes
Angels
Roudnor puppets
Pom-pom snowmen
Ball games – Play your favourites

Important Information
Please provide your child with:
A packed lunch including snacks for morning and afternoon tea
A hat
A refillable water bottle
### Contact Details

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

- **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 Elaine on 0422 803 709 during session times.

### Weekly Activities

- **Beginning:** Monday 14th December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Christmas Crafts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Christmas Crafts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>OSHC Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Sparkling Christmas Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Excursion to the movies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Dear Parents

We will be open from Thursday the 17th December through to Wednesday the 23rd of December.