Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and other Parishioners,

Homework! It is back in the news again as once more we have an inquiry into how much impact homework has on academic performance.

A Parliamentary Inquiry in Victoria has found that Homework has almost NO academic benefits for primary students. The Victorian Parliament’s Education and Training Committee has recommended a review of homework guidelines after seeing the results of its own inquiry.

Now as a parent and as a teacher, I can see some advantages for children getting into a study habit. It helps them see that they are responsible for their learning and that all learning is worthwhile, you can learn anywhere and anytime. It gives children opportunities to practice things that they have learned and gives them time to learn more if they are involved in research etc.

However, this is my understanding which has been formed from my own experiences as a learner, as a parent and much of my experience as a teacher. I was a student, parent and teacher for many years before the world was transformed by technology. I am now re-thinking my ideas about homework!

The world today is different. Have our understandings grown with the change?

I am now a teacher in a very different space and time to when I started teaching in 1970!

Anyone can learn anywhere as long as they have access to technology, and most of our students do have access to
Principal's Message cont ...  

technology. That technology can be used for learning or for recreation or for both. At school we use technology for learning. Many students continue that at home. Many students also use technology for recreation, some use it never realising that they are actually learning at the same time, they think they are just having fun.

What place does the traditional understanding of homework have in this new world?

Reading is part of homework at St Elizabeth’s. We ask parents to support children in reading firstly so they see reading as an enjoyable activity that opens new worlds to them. Sometimes they have access to the world of fiction and fantasy, sometimes the reading helps them understand their world through research and non-fiction.

As a student, a parent and a teacher, I would never agree that students should skip reading time at home. Reading takes time, reading needs lots of practice and reading is critical to success in today’s world and tomorrow’s too.

Spelling words also takes time and is closely linked to all parts of literacy, you can’t communicate if you can’t speak clearly and effectively and spelling gives us a chance to learn new words and to learn how to read and write and say new words. But you can do spelling activities in many ways and there are lots of spelling games online.

Numeracy, being good at numbers, is also important in order to live successfully in today’s world and there are great opportunities to learn about numbers all around us. Your purse is a place to explore money, the microwave is a great place to learn about time, the shopping centre has numbers everywhere. There are amazing opportunities to learn about numbers online. Living life with adults who show you how numbers work is the best homework of all, because its purposeful, real and relevant.

So why are we persisting with set homework at school that takes teachers’ valuable time and effort away from the program set at school which is based on each child’s needs and is about deep and rich learning?

Why are teachers spending time correcting maths that can be set in a computer application which marks itself, giving children instant feedback? Why are Principals, Deputies and Teachers giving up their valuable time to supervise children each week who are not doing their homework?

At our school, we ask parents if they would like to choose homework. Homework is a choice at our school. If your child chooses NOT to do their homework, why are the teachers spending time setting consequences for something parents value but their children don’t?

If parents want their children to do homework, then shouldn’t parents be making sure that their children do it? Have we got this contract idea the wrong way around?

If we have so many opportunities to learn online, should teachers use programs and apps that children enjoy to set learning at home?

I am really looking forward to what the new Government Guidelines for homework will look like. I personally think homework is nowhere near as important as family time where adults help children to learn by talking to them, playing with them and doing things with them.

All of us need to go back to the Victorian Government Inquiry and understand what they found. Homework for primary school children has little or no impact on their learning. We need to re-think what we can be doing to help children learn.

What the inquiry did not report on was the negative impact of homework.

We see children who get way too much study set for them by adults who have forgotten that childhood is a time for play.

We see students and parents getting distressed because they argue about homework all the time. It becomes a power struggle.

We see children who get little support for their learning at home being treated to the same consequence for not doing homework as children who get heaps of support and encouragement.

We see homework going out that children cannot do because it’s too hard for them, but teachers DO NOT have the time to set 3 or 4 different sets of homework and then do 3 or 4 sets of marking.

We see bright capable students bored by work that is far too easy for them, but it’s the same problem as the item before this - we do not have time to meet individual needs with homework.

We see precious learning time in class taken up dealing with consequences of homework not done.

Some parents do their children’s homework!

We know lots of parents who want homework for their children and we know lots that don’t. We all want children to be happy to learn and we want to use teacher time to support happy learning. Let’s do this in a way that suits today’s world.
Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.
(Matthew 25:40)

You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.”
Mt 16:13-20

‘Preferential Option for the Poor’ is one of our Catholic Social teachings.

What is Justice for the poor?

Caring for the poor is everyone’s responsibility. The Gospels call us to place the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. Preferential care should be shown to poor and vulnerable people, whose needs and rights are given special attention in God’s eyes. Jesus taught that God asks each of us what we are doing to help the poor and needy. A basic moral test of how society is faring is in its treatment of the most vulnerable whose needs should come first.

We live in an amazing world with enough resources for everyone. Yet, many miss out. At St Elizabeth’s we try to reach some of the poor and marginalised people in our parish, community and in the world. What do we do? We do a lot!

- The Mini Vinnies and Wellbeing groups went to St Mary’s Homework Club to cook a sausage sizzle for everyone. So many families came and helped out.

- The Mini Vinnies and Wellbeing groups also met with other Mini Vinnie groups from surrounding schools to collaborate and share ideas as part of the Nazareth Cluster Social Justice Network.

- Children brought their spare change to make a Coin Trail. The Coin Trail was hugely successful raising much needed money for Matutinao Elementary School in the Philippines.

- The whole school gathered for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and during the Mass the children were invited to show their continuing support for the St Vincent De Paul Society through a donation of food, clothing or a gold coin. We raised $200.15 and 2 full carloads of clothing, blankets and food. On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society and the families in our community who look to them for help, I thank you for all the donations so generously given.

- Right now the Mini Vinnies and Wellbeing groups have organised for stationary donations of pencils, pens, textas, exercise books, activity books and gold coins which will help pay for postage. The stationary collected will be divided between our sister school in Matutinao Elementary School in the Philippines and St Mary’s Homework Club. Please continue sending donations.

- Yr5 & Yr6 students are writing to businesses in the wider community and asking for donations. We were delighted when Big W in Waverly Gardens has offered a box full of goodies that the Matutinao Elementary School children will use.

- Yr5 & Yr6 are preparing market stalls next term where they will donate all money raised to Matutinao Elementary School in the Philippines.

- The whole school will gather for the Advent Gift Giving Mass. Children will be invited to show their continuing support for the St Vincent De Paul Society through a donation of food, clothing, Christmas gifts or a gold coin.

God Bless.

Maria Popowycz
Catholic Identity Coordinator
popoma@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
‘Children need opportunities to belong to their families through their contribution.

Until recently, children’s help around the house was essential – families were bigger and there was little technology to lighten the load.

Even though we live in a more automated age than our grandparents, our lives are just as busy. The need for children to pitch in and help is just as pertinent today.

The expectation that children should help at home sends a powerful message that their contribution is valued. Children learn to be contributors rather than mere takers within their social groups.

Helping at home is an opportunity for children to make a contribution to the family, rather than their moneybox, so the following ideas may help you develop the helping habit in children.

1. HELP IS HABIT-FORMING.
   When you consistently expect children to help from a young age their contribution not only becomes a habit but it soon becomes a family value.

2. MAKE THE HELP REAL, NOT PHONEY.
   Give them real tasks such as emptying dishwashers, collecting mail and cooking meals rather than time-fillers. (Visit our website: www.parentingideas.com.au for a list of jobs suitable for each age group.)

3. DON’T DO THE JOBS (‘HELP’) FOR THEM.
   Sometimes it is easier for parents to do the jobs themselves, but this encourages children to leave it up to their parents.

4. USE GRANDMA’S PRINCIPLE TO KEEP KIDS ON TASK.
   My grandma used to put things in the right order so I wasn’t allowed to watch television until the table was cleared after a meal.

5. USE THE TERM ‘HELP’, NOT ‘CHORES’.
   Image is everything. The terms ‘job’ and ‘chore’ sound like hard work and can be extremely off-putting.

6. PLACE IMPORTANT HELP ON A ROSTER.
   Allocate help with children’s assistance then place their names on a roster next to the tasks. You can use symbols rather than words for pre readers. When children complete a task they can place a sticker on the matching symbol on the roster. This serves as a record of their contribution. It is a good idea to change the roster around frequently to share the less appealing tasks.

7. SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR HELP.
   Let them know that their contribution to the family is valued. If you do it often enough they may even show their appreciation to you in return.

8. KEEP HELP AND POCKET MONEY SEPARATE.
   It’s reasonable to expect that children should help around the house without expecting a reward.

   The notion of helping fits in with the philosophy that a central task of parenting is to promote a sense of generosity and community-mindedness in children. As most research indicates, these core values are primarily learned at home.

Published by Michael Grose Presentations
(03) 5983 1798. All rights reserved.

For more great ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people visit: www.parentingideas.com.au

Nan Perazzo
Wellbeing Coordinator
Some of the parents on our School Education Board recently asked about the possibility of the school using an app to communicate with parents. TiqBiz is the company we are going to use for this. TiqBiz is an app for Apple, Android and Microsoft devices that will allow the school to have the ability to send information to parents about what is happening around the school.

At assembly on Monday, I shared with the school how easily this app can be set up for parents. It was so easy that we had 7 parents using it by the end of the assembly!

The app can be used by all teachers in the school to send updates about what is happening in each class and to send reminders for events that are coming up. From now on, parents registered with TiqBiz will receive a notification when any of this information has been posted.

Parents can also use the app to notify the school about any absences for their child.

One of the other great features of this app is the language translation tool that provides over 80 different languages that parents can select. This will then translate the messages we send in English to the language selected by the parent.
22 August 2014

Dear Parents,

St. Elizabeth’s Parish Primary School Working Bee No. 3 will be held on Saturday 13 September at 9.30-11am.

If you are able to spare some time on Saturday 13 September, 2014 - we need you! Our third Working Bee for the year involves; general tidy up, sweeping pathways, cleaning drains, tidying up garden beds and trimming trees, as well as some cleaning tasks. A full attendance at this Working Bee or one in Term 1, Term 2 or Term 4 sees your Working Bee Levy of $60 credited to your account.

Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

OH&S - please make sure you wear appropriate clothing; sunscreen (when appropriate), shoes that completely cover your feet, a hat and gloves.

You can now register family members attending this Working Bee via our website www.sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au. Under the heading “Recent News”, you will see information on “Working Bee No. 3”. Please click on the word “Read More” and then “here”.

Once you have entered the School Event Code of ATZHS, follow the prompts:

When you are happy with these details, click “Finish”. Bookings close on Wednesday 10 September at 4pm. Any family who has not booked by Wednesday 10 September will have to wait for the next working bee.

Your booking will be emailed to you automatically. Remember to check your Junk Mail folder.

Parents who do not have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or a smart phone, bookings can be made by ringing Lisa at the School office on 9795 5258 or sending a note to school stating the number of family members wishing to attending this Working Bee.

Parents are able to cancel or change their bookings any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the school website and using the event code as explained above. Remember to use the same name and email address you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to cancel or change their booking after the closing date will need to contact Lisa at the School office directly on 9795 5258.

Yours faithfully

Christine Ash
Principal

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
### Fathers’ Day Stall

**1st September**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bottle Opener Key Ring</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Air Freshener</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Scratcher</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Puzzle</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dad’s Metallic Pen</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin Money Box</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tape measure Key Ring</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyre Gauge</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torch Bottle opener Key Ring</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dashboard Sticky Mat</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Chamois</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visor Memo Kit</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro Fibre Car Wash Mitt</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workman’s Screw Driver</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool Pouch</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monster Truck Pen Caddy</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Torch Lantern</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Care kit</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Function Man</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designer BBQ Apron</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium Gift Set (Pen and Key Ring)</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binoculars</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mega Screwdriver/Socket set</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ Pack</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sport News ...

Next Thursday our school is sending 48 students to compete in the Noble Park District Athletics Carnival to be held at Ross Reserve, Noble Park. The carnival covers track events such as the 80m hurdles and the 1500m, and field events such as the shot put and high jump. Students were selected to go from the results of our intra-school athletics carnival.

Next term our school will be running another Milo In2 Cricket program after school on a Wednesday. Last year was a very successful cricket program with some of our students playing on the M.C.G in front of 50,000 people in the Boxing Day Test Match! Also, some of our students are now involved with the Lyndale Cricket Club junior program. They train once a week and play games on either Friday night or Saturday mornings.

Yours In Sport
Dean Andrew

School News ...

Parents and Friends News

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE - The Fathers Day stall is on Monday 1st September. There is a display in the school office foyer. The price list is in this newsletter. Fathers Day Raffle Tickets have been sent home, if you haven’t seen them, please check your child’s school bag. Raffle tickets are also available from the school office.

News from the Nook

Premier Reading Challenge reminder:~

All books need to be entered onto the Challenge by Wednesday 3rd September so that they can be verified before I go on leave for the last two weeks of this term.

Please either come and see Trixie or email her on marttr@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au if you would like a list of the books your child has borrowed for the year.

Reminder:
The Nook is open for parents, grandparents and carers Monday to Thursday.
**School News cont ...**

**St. Elizabeth’s Primary School**

**Market Night**

**Friday 17th October**

**7pm to 9:30pm**

*Undercover in the Performing Arts Centre*

Information at www.sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
Stallholders welcome.

**111 Bakers Road, Dandenong North.**

---

**Guitar Lessons - St. Elizabeth’s**

- Small group lessons for 30 minutes during school hours.
- Chords, notes, tabs and strum & sing along style.
- $16.50 per lesson (group of 3).
- Enrolment forms at school office or contact Choon Mobile: 043 1616 364, After Hours: 03 9758 0731 or email: choonbaelim@yahoo.com

---

**Piano/Keyboard Lessons - A Musical Journey!**

Keyboard/Piano and music theory lessons conducted with a focus to promote general musicianship skills and artistic growth through creative and fun teaching methods and apps to make the learning more exciting. Great opportunity to experience music through the keyboard!

For further details please contact Pik Mobile 0450561878 or email pikfoong@yahoo.com.
**School Banking Day Reminder.**

Don’t forget that **THURSDAY** is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.

Each week we have approximately 70 students who participate in School Banking even though we have over 150 students registered.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

Remember our school receives $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

---

**Community News ...**

**Nazareth College - Showcase**

Nazareth College proudly presents - **SHOWCASE**.

10 September 2014 at 6.30pm in the New College Auditorium

An exhibition of the work of our talented Nazareth College students from the Arts, Technology and Music departments.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Bernadette Bryant on 9795 8100.

---

**Dandenong Scout Group**

**Are you and your child(ren) prepared for a new adventure?**

Dandenong Scout Group invites parents and children aged 8–10 to begin exploring Cub Scouts for FREE over the next three weeks.

At Cub Scouts, young boys and girls aged 8–10 can make lots of new friends and explore the great outdoors in a safe and friendly environment.

Cub Scouts will learn new skills while taking part in lots of activities such as camping, hiking and bush-craft and much more in our hall.

No one has to miss out – the whole family is encouraged to enjoy and take part in Cub Scouts! (Other age groups are also catered for at Dandenong.)

Meetings are once a week a week during the school term for about 90 minutes.

If you are interested please join us at 100 McFees Road, Dandenong North at 7:00pm on Tuesday 2nd, 9th and 16th September. For information about other age groups please feel free to call Ian Viney on 0412 969 998.
Noble Park Cricket Club
Junior Registration Day

Noble Park Reserve Moademere Street
Noble Park
10am -11am
Saturday 6th September

The Noble Park Cricket Club is committed to the promotion and development of junior cricketers. We are a leading club in the area being affiliated with the Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association and the Dandenong District Cricket Association.

• Sides in all age groups
• Quality coaching
• Outstanding venue, facilities & field
• Fun, friendly & inclusive environment

For more information contact: Craig 0416 101 396
Email: noblepark@club.cricketvictoria.com.au
Springvale Little Athletics Centre
FRIDAY NIGHTS UNDER LIGHTS
LETS GET RACING!

If you are between five and fifteen years of age come and enjoy
Friday Nights under the Lights at Springvale Little Athletics.

Competition starts the first Friday in October from 5.45 pm.
Registrations commence in September.

For further information please visit www.slac.org.au

Springvale Little Athletics Centre, Ross Reserve, Memorial Drive, Noble Park
P: 03 9548 5400  E: springvale@lavic.com.au
www.slac.org.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Monday 22nd September**  | **BUILD**  
- Sandcastle  
- Card building  
- Wooden tower  
- Straw construction  
- Group activity  
- Create a city using mixed media |
| **Tuesday 23rd September** | **Sundays Fun**  
- Paper cup wind chimes  
- Paper mache  
- Hanging bird feeder  
- Butterfly window hanger  
- Relax with a movie & popcorn |
| **Wednesday 24th September** | **Sports Day**  
- Participate in outdoor relay  
- Indoor cricket  
- Long jump  
- Indoor hockey  
- Cheerleader pom-poms  
- Winners medals  
- Relay bows  |
| **Thursday 25th September** | **Woodcraft Day Excursion**  
- Woodcarvings  
- Remote control  
- Indoor games  
- Woodden hand  
- Pen holder  
- Tool box  |
| **Friday 26th September** | **Grand Final Footy Fever**  
- Come dressed in your footy team colours  
- Make your own footy banners & streamers and then play a game of footy (non-contact)  
- Footy chains  
- Footy pom-poms  
- Footy pinata  
- Footy pinata  |
## Contact Details ...

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 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 ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning:</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday, 1st September, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>Let’s experiment with science, making corn flour slime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>Make tornado in a bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Make your own litmus paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Zippy balloon power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>Flying high</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>