Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and other Parishioners,

On Tuesday the school was closed to students as we hosted a professional learning day for teachers from 12 other schools in this South Eastern School Network. We organised the day for our staff after some of us had the privilege of hearing Dr Yong Zhao from Oregon University speak at a Conference. In order to manage the fee he can command, we opened the opportunity to other Catholic Schools in the area who were delighted to have the opportunity to hear his thoughts on the globalisation of education.

Yong is a passionate speaker on education and is highly regarded around the world for his insights into what really matters in education. In many ways, he is highly critical of the established traditional approach with its emphasis on testing, testing, testing and a heavy emphasis on formalised curriculum. I was delighted to hear that he is currently talking to the Victorian Department of Education about ways in which to deepen learning and provide rich personalised learning for all our students and not just those who are academically advantaged.

Yong’s background is interesting. Perhaps this is one of the motivators that drives him in his work to change the way the world sees education. Yong grew up in a remote area of China where herding water buffalo was the main occupation. He talks about it as the NAPLAN of his village. If you were good with water buffalo, you were OK. In our society, if you are good with NAPLAN (Reading Writing and Maths) you are OK. When Yong Zhao was in Yr2 he...
could read and write better than all the people in his village and he was hungry and thirsty for reading and writing materials. All he got was scraps of newspaper and old books that his father used to wrap home-made noodles in as he cooked to increase the family income. Whilst Yong Zhao was at school he was not interested in maths and he showed no skill in using numbers. His passion was language.

As he grew older, the time came to choose a pathway out of his village through university. He applied to do a course in English. When he sat the final exams, he scored 3/100 on the maths exam! Luckily for him, the year he sat the maths exam was the last year where a low score in maths did not stop you entering into a language course. If he had applied for the course the following year, he would have been rejected. (Yong works with statistics and data every day so actually some areas of maths are a strength for him, but the test did not let him display that strength area.)

When we demand everyone be good at everything, we can lose sight of the gifts of the individual. Look at what the world would have lost if Yong had been judged on his weakness. Yong Zhao is currently the Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education in the University of Oregan and he is a fellow of the International Academy of Education as well as a full professor in the Department of Measurement, Policy and Leadership. Previously, Yong has been the University Distinguished Scholar at the College of Education in Michigan as well as founding the Centre for Teaching and Technology. Yong also held office as executive director of the Confucius Institute and the US-China Centre for Research on Educational Excellence.

If Yong had been held back in his village tending water buffalo because of his maths score, the world would have lost a great scholar! Instead, Yong travels around the world asking educators to understand that the old ways of work have gone. Setting up a national curriculum may be a great idea, but if all it does is prepare students for a world of work that exists today, we are doing our students a great disservice.

The jobs around us are dying. Our students do not need more of the same that we had at school. They need new ways of dealing with the world.

Yong asks educators to focus on developing in each child their potential for the future, whatever that is. If the child is good at dance, teach them to be the best dancer they can be and to look creatively at their world to see how dancing can create a pathway for them. If they are musically inclined, we should be supporting this, if they are physically gifted, create a sports pathway. If they love science let them follow their interests to discover what a scientist really does. Teach them what they need to be to be the best person they can be as they need it. Stop educating them identically because they are the same age as each other.

Yong is not arguing that children should not be taught the foundational skills, but that we should be teaching it as part of a personalised curriculum which brings out the best in every child. Teaching them what they need to know when they need to know it rather than when the government/school/college says it should be taught to everyone.

In all the research about testing scores there is one fact that Governments are not willing to share. Countries that score really well in reading are the countries where children do not want to read. In countries where students score highly in maths, the children themselves show no interest or confidence in that area of learning. In other words, where we cram children’s heads with the way in which they should learn, they lose passion and interest and confidence.

The secret to reaching authentic scores on our results is in allowing children to develop their passions and giving them the learning they need at the time where they need it to keep following their interests. That is how they become confident lifelong learners successful in the new world of work, satisfied in their own hearts and minds.

Schools need to be places where children can discover who they are through learning. A teacher’s role is to make sure every child discovers their strengths, their interests and their passions. When we have that objective achieved, NAPLAN will be seen as what it really is, just another set of data, not a goal in itself.

RETURNING FROM LEAVE
I am sure that you will be happy to know that Ms Hollie Zachariassen has returned from Maternity Leave and will be working in partnership with Ms Kaetlyn Howe 2 days a week in 1/2KH.

Christine Ash
The Principal
Information required to determine the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) for schools

This notice is from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), to advise you that ACARA has requested your child’s school to provide ACARA with information about you and your child. Your school may disclose to ACARA information such as your child’s gender, date of birth, country of birth, background language, residential address, parental occupation and parental education.

This information is disclosed to ACARA under the ACARA Act 2008 for one or both of the following purposes:

- formulating national reports consisting of aggregated data on school performance; and

  assisting government to formulate policies in relation to education matters.

ACARA will not disclose this personal information to any third party. If you do not want your school to provide this information to ACARA, please advise your school within seven (7) days of receiving this notice.

Further information about ACARA can be obtained from the ACARA website at www.acara.edu.au.
Today, the 15th of August, we celebrated the ‘Feast of the Assumption.’ For Catholics it is a Holy Day of Obligation and as a Catholic school we all went to Mass to celebrate this feast day together. Our newly formed enthusiastic student choir led us in our responses and hymns.

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 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;

“A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”

REVELATIONS 12: 1

On this feast day, we also celebrate the special favour that God gave to Mary, our Mother. The Assumption means that Mary was taken up into the glory of heaven not only with her soul, but also with her body. Jesus, the Son of God was born from Mary’s pure womb. So when Mary died, God the Father and Jesus, would not let the body of the Mother of God be spoilt. This was her reward for her love of God and her years of faithful prayers and suffering. Now Mary is in heaven. She is queen of heaven and earth. She 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 pray for her,

“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. The Assumption means that Mary was taken up into the glory of heaven not only with her soul, but also with her body. Jesus, the Son of God was born from Mary’s pure womb. So when Mary died, God the Father and Jesus, would not let the body of the Mother of God be spoilt. This was her reward for her love of God and her years of faithful prayers and suffering. Now Mary is in heaven. She is queen of heaven and earth. She 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 pray for her,

“Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you. In the plan of your wisdom she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

Mini Vinnie’s Presentation Night at Nazareth College

Last Thursday our ‘Mini Vinnie’s’ and ‘Wellbeing’ team leaders, Holly, Aneka, and Jarrod presented what we have been doing in social justice as a school. They presented confidently to students, parents and staff from, Nazareth College, St. Gerard’s, St. Simon’s, St. Justin’s, Resurrection and St. Elizabeth’s Primary schools. It was such a pleasure to hear them speak about all the social justice that we do at St. Elizabeth’s.

They told every one about the social justice groups we have: ‘Minnie Vinnie’s’, ‘Sustainability’ and ‘Wellbeing’ Student Action Leadership Teams.

Other things the student leaders spoke about were the actions we have taken for Social Justice. Some of our actions for social justice were Buddy Lunches, visiting Regis Nursing Home, Gift Giving Masses, fundraising and visiting the Dandenong Tutoring Program. One of our newest Social Justice initiatives is helping our friendship school, Matutinao Elementary in the Philippines, by fundraising, collecting stationary and writing to the students. St. Elizabeth’s is certainly working hard to make a difference, to see a need and do something about it.

CLASS LITURGIES

Sunday 17th August: Yr1 & Yr2 Learning Community

Yr3 & Yr4 Learning Community will be Hosting Mass at 10:30am

Friday 29th August:

Yr1 & Yr2 Learning Community will prepare and lead the 9.15am Mass

Sunday 19th September: Yr3 & Yr2 Learning Community will be Hosting Mass at 10:30am

SACRAMENTAL NEWS:

Confirmation

A reminder regarding the Confirmation Parent Information night on Wednesday 20 August at 7:00pm at St Elizabeth’s Church. This night is vital for all parents and children to attend.

All candidates have received their take-home Activity pack earlier last term. These packs are due back to me by Wednesday 15 October (Term 4/Week 2). There is also the expectation that the candidates attend Mass regularly and write their name on the “Sign in Sheets” at the back of the church.

The Confirmation levy of $25.00 (cash only) can be paid through the school office by Friday 15 August. Lisa will issue you with a receipt. The levy covers: Dove pins, Lysterfield Reflection day, bus hire, certificates, classroom resources and the key Resource for the Home Activity Pack.

All other non-Catholic Yr6 students pay a levy of $15 through the school office (by 15 August), Lisa will issue you with a receipt. The levy covers: Lysterfield Reflection day, bus hire and classroom resources. Keep Smiling. God Bless!

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

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

‘We are called to act with justice
We are called to act tenderly
We are called to serve one another
And to walk humbly with God.’

Catholic Social Teaching covers all spheres of life - the economic, political, personal and spiritual. The following principles of social justice guide our decisions and help us to ensure that good happens in our world. We work towards a more just and fair world not merely from a sense of charity and good will, but because we believe it is a necessary response to the Gospel call of Jesus and a matter of justice.

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

• Preferential Option for the Poor - Caring for the poor is everyone’s responsibility. Preferential care should be shown to poor and vulnerable people, whose needs and rights are given special attention in God’s eyes.

  ‘You are not making a gift of what is yours to the poor man, but you are giving him back what is his. The earth belongs to everyone, not to the rich.’ St Ambrose

• Stewardship of Creation - We must all respect, care for and share the resources of the earth, which are vital for the common good of people. Care for animals and the environment is a common and universal duty.

  ‘The way we live and the choices we make affect the lives of others: not only human life, but also the other forms of life found on earth.’

• The Dignity of the Human Person - the dignity of every person, independent of ethnicity, creed, gender, sexuality, age or ability is the foundation of Catholic Social Teaching. No human being should have their dignity or freedom comprised.

  ‘Each person possesses a basic dignity that comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment, not from race, or gender, age or economic status.’ The Common Good

• Subsidiarity and Participation - All people have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Subsidiarity requires that decisions are made by the people closest and most affected by the issues and concerns of the community.

  ‘Each person should be able to contribute in full to their community.’

• Solidarity - Everyone belongs to one human family, regardless of their national, religious, ethnic, economic, political and ideological differences. Everyone has an obligation to promote the rights and development of all people across communities, nations in the world.

  ‘Solidarity is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.’ Pope Paul VI

• The Common Good - The common good is reached when we work together to improve the wellbeing of people in our society and the wider world.

  ‘Each person is a member of society, and we are all called to further the development of human society as a whole.’ Pope Paul VI.

Making a Difference for our Friendship School / The Dandenong Tutoring Club

Many thanks to the families who supported our ‘Bring Along an Exercise Book, Writing Pencil or Biro’ Drive, the response has been fantastic.

Last Monday at Assembly we invited families to bring along a colouring-in-book / dot-to-dot activity book, coloured pencils / textas or a gold or silver coin to Assembly next Monday 18th August. Members of the Mini Vinnies / Wellbeing Student Leadership Team will be at the PAC doors to accept your donations.

Nan Perazzo
Wellbeing Coordinator
Congratulations to the t-ball team who played in the Regional Finals held in Mornington last Tuesday.

They all played well and won one of their three matches. In the final result they came seventh in the Region. Well Done!

Thanks to Sue Hatley-Smith and parents for their support and encouragement to the team.

Yours in Sport
Dean Andrew

---

Parents and Friends News

Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a cuppa at the next Parents and Friends meeting which is on Monday 25th August at 2:20pm in The Nook (library).

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.

Market Night is on Friday 17th October, please mark it in your calendars.

Would you like a stall? There is information and an application form on the front page of the school website. Reminder - you can chat to any of the Parents and Friends members, Pina Martino, Paula Manago, Sue Hatley-Smith, Kellie Andrikopoulos, Samantha Pirotta, or see Trixie in The Nook.
Girls Winter Pinafore 2015

Girls winter pinafore options for 2015 are on display in the office. Your feedback on your preferred choice would be appreciated.

A voting sheet is available for you to tick your preference at the front office. They are expected to be on sale for approximately $50.00 if we decide to include them as part of our uniform.

More information to come once decision has been made.

Regards
P&F

Statement of Accounts

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS HAVE NOW BEEN SENT HOME.

CAN WE PLEASE ASK THAT ALL FEES BE PAID BY 18TH AUGUST 2014.

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.

‘The Wiz’ - Nazareth Musical Production

The Kleinman family were the winners of ‘The Wiz’ Nazareth College raffle prize. Congratulations and we hope you enjoyed the production on 14 August.
Dear Parents,

Book week day is fast approaching. The Level 4 students will be responsible in leading groups of students, from Foundation to Yr6, in fun Book Week activities.

This year the theme is ‘Connect to Reading - Reading to Connect’.

Every student at our school is encouraged to wear a costume on the day. Costumes are not expected to be difficult for your family and are not expected to be elaborate. A costume could be as simple as a pirate patch on an eye with jeans and stripy shirt or a footy player.

Thank you for your support,
Level 4 Teachers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Details ...</th>
<th>Weekly Activities ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Elizabeth’s Out of School Hours Care Program  
111 Bakers Road, Dandenong North  
Ph: 0422 803 709 / 0426 282 721 | Beginning: Monday 18th August, 2014 |
| **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. | Monday  
Dressing Up and Restaurant Day |
| **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. | Tuesday  
Create your own restaurant setting |
| **Vacation Care / Pupil Free Days:**  
Per Day: $45.00  
7.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday. (No vacation care available in January.) | Wednesday  
Make play dough, fake cooking |
| Late Pick Up Fees: Per minute: $1.00 | Thursday  
Play Station / Singing/ Dancing |
| For enquiries or further information, please contact Elarine on 0422 803 709 or 0426 282 721 during session times. | Friday  
Free Play |