Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Other Parishioners,

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and many of you will start traditions that lead up to the joy of Christmas. What traditions are special to your family as you lead up to this season of Christmas? Do you build a wreath together? Do you wind ivy or other greenery around the wreath symbolising the life Christ brings through the story that plays out in Bethlehem? Do you use the three purple candles and one pink candle? The candles stand for the 4 weeks of Advent and are signs that Christ brings light to the world. The purple colour is associated with preparing by doing good things such as kind deeds and prayer. The rose coloured candle marks Gaudate Sunday and is a day of rejoicing as we are getting closer to the time when we open our hearts full of joy at Christmas time.

The lighting of each candle, one each week shows our anticipation of the celebration. Our pilgrimage towards Christmas day. In early times, the youngest child in the family lit the first candle, in week 2 the eldest child lit the second candle and in week 3, the Mother lit the rose coloured candle. In the last week before Christmas the Father in the family lit the candle. I am not sure what happened if there were more than 2 children in the family!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, 30 November</th>
<th>School Assembly, 8.45am</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 1 December</td>
<td>Ed Board, 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 2 December</td>
<td>Thank You Brunch, 9am</td>
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<td>Transition Lunch 2016 Classes, 1pm</td>
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<td>Thursday, 3 December</td>
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<td>Friday, 4 December</td>
<td>Yr 5 &amp; Yr 6 - Community Mass &amp; Benediction, 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 5 December</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth’s Parish Mass - 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 6 December</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth’s Parish Mass - 8.30am, 10.30am, 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upcoming Events
Wednesday, 9 December

Carols Night, 7pm *(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME)*
(Picnic from 6pm)
F-Yr 2 - Swimming lessons begin
If you don’t have an Advent wreath, do you have any other traditions that your family shares in Advent? Many faiths have Festivals of Joy and all begin with a time of preparation. The Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah and it takes 8 days, the Moslems celebrate Eid ul-Fitr by fasting for the 40 days of Ramadan. The Hindus celebrate Diwali with 2 days either side to prepare and remember.

Christians, have gift giving as one of their expressions of Christmas. We give because God gave his son to us to show us the way to become our best selves. I love a saying that goes like this: ‘God gave me the gift of life but my gift to him is what I make of it.’

Giving is such a powerful part of Christmas and if we are giving ourselves to God, then we need to look closely at those parts of ourselves that need to be cleaned up and polished just as we clean and polish our houses at Christmas time.

Why do we have traditions? What are the traditions that you have as you move through Advent? Is this a good time to begin a tradition? All traditions have to start sometime.

The children will be looking at tradition within our Catholic faith as we learn about Advent. When you can take some time, talk to them about the traditions that you see in your home or in neighbours’ houses so that they begin to appreciate the value of their own and others’ traditions. Can the children make a wreath, construct an Advent Calendar, make an Advent prayer to say at meal times together.

If the children want to start a tradition, encourage them and see it as a time to draw your family closer together as we wait for the joyous celebration of Christmas.

Christine Ash
Principal
Advent begins on Sunday the 29th of November.

This Season marks the beginning of the new Liturgical year for the Church and calls us to wait and to prepare for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas.

In both our waiting and our preparing we are caught up in the business of the end of year rush. Wherever we go, we are reminded of the commercial crush in this pre-Christmas time. We see around us colourful decorations, gifts, food and others, like us, all caught up in this Christmas rush. We hear the never ending Christmas carols and songs that keep reminding us of how fast Christmas is approaching and how much we still have to do to be ready.

There is more work for parents to do in a day than will ever get done. Some of them work outside their homes while some stay at home. In either case there are always bills to pay, laundry to wash, meals to prepare, errands to run and things to fix. Unless they deliberately set aside time to prepare themselves and their families for Jesus’ return, they will continue with the busyness of everyday life. Especially at this time of year, it is easy to get caught up in the demands centered upon Jesus’ birth rather than his return. Take the time to slow life down and take time for prayer in preparation during Advent.

Lord,

We are so often overwhelmed by the busyness of this time of year.
O come Emmanuel,
come into our hearts
and show us by your light
the beauty of your way of love.
We are your people, Lord,
and we are waiting for your return.
Come Lord Jesus.

Amen.

SCHOOL & CLASS LITURGIES AND KEY EVENTS

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.

CAROLS NIGHT

On Wednesday the 9th of December, we will gather for our yearly Carols night. This will commence at 6:30pm outside the PAC on the oval (weather permitting) to have a family picnic dinner. After that at 7.30pm everyone will move into the PAC. We will provide a couple of rows of chairs at the back for the elderly or sick. Everyone else is asked to sit on their picnic rugs on the PAC floor to enjoy the Carols night. It is important that no picnic chairs are brought into the PAC or not everyone will fit in! The students will sit in their class groups in the Level 4 link with their teachers. The Carols will be performed on the stage where we tell and sing about the ‘The Birth of Jesus’. Following this, all communities will sing novelty Christmas songs for all to enjoy!

END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS

On Thursday the 10th of December, we will gather for the End of Year School Mass. This Mass will begin at 9:15am and will give us the opportunity to celebrate, pray and give thanks for all that we have shared throughout the year. The new 2016 school captains will be announced at the end of Mass.

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

On Tuesday the 15th of 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.

YR 6 STUDENT’S DISCO & PARENT SUPPER

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

God Bless,

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

Good Language is about respect in action.

Like other forms of language children need to learn that there are times and places when its use is unacceptable or causes distress to others.

Children swear for many reasons: to experiment with language; to attract your attention; to make themselves appear bigger or older than they are; and even as a challenge or expression of personal power.

Swearing needs to be considered as a form of language - albeit an unacceptable one. This is not to say that you condone it. Rather, it is an acceptance of the fact that your children will hear many forms of unacceptable language and they need to understand its use and purpose. Like other forms of language children need to learn that there are times and places when its use is unacceptable or causes distress to others.

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE AIR TURNS BLUE.

Avoid over-reacting when children swear.
However, make the message clear that you are unimpressed with swearing and you are willing to leave them alone when they swear. Consider withdrawing your cooperation temporarily if they swear at you.

Discuss the concept of appropriate language with older children.
Teach them that language may be appropriate in one context or be accepted by one group but it is not acceptable in every situation.

While not condoning swearing get across to children that they need to learn to control their use of language and adjust it to suit the situation they are in.

Children, like adults, can use inappropriate language out of habit.
If this is the case make up alternative words that replace swearing. One family had replaced certain words with fruit. They had a fruit for every situation!

Try the penalty system.
When family members swear they are fined an agreed amount which is placed in a money-box. At the end of the week or month the money can be given to a worthy cause or spent in a way that benefits others. Of course, parents should join in this as well.

Examine your own choice of language to judge if it is an acceptable model for your children. It is scary how much language and behaviour children pick up by observing their parents.

Try shock tactics with older kids who swear.
I know one mother who kissed her teenage son whenever he swore in public when he was with her. It was a habit he soon broke!

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

Nan Perazzo
Wellbeing Coordinator
TOY EXPO

Last Friday our Yr 3/4 students held an expo to celebrate and share their learning from this semester. Students learnt about forces, materials, the properties of materials, joins and sustainability. They then used this learning to design an arcade style game that used force. All students in the school had a time to attend the expo and then in the afternoon parents came along too. Here are some photos from the day:

Rebecca Gage
Learning and Teaching Leader
gagere@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
Both the end of the school year and Christmas are fast approaching, so what better time to include mathematics in our festive season. Below are some activities that are designed for Yr 5 and Yr 6 students to do at home.

- If you have a Christmas tree in your house or school, how tall is it?
- Can you reach the top of the tree by reaching up?
- How much taller than you is the Christmas tree?
- What fraction of the height of the tree is your height?
- Draw a picture of a Christmas tree. Use your drawing as a plan to show where you will place the decorations.
- Tie a piece of tinsel to the very top of the Christmas Tree. Wind the tinsel around the tree until you reach the lowest branch. What is the length of the tinsel?
- If the individual lights of a string of Christmas lights are 30 cm apart, how many lights would you need so decorate the perimeter of the classroom?
- How would you work out how much wrapping paper needed to wrap 10 presents that were each the size of a shoe box? Record all of your working out. What mathematics did you use?

Lyn Dennett
Numeracy Leader / F-4 Number Intervention Leader
ldennett@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
Hi all

Why does sports matter?

Our children are bombarded with pop culture values that most of us would probably deem negative ones (popularity, fame, self centeredness, conceitedness, materialism). Sports is among the few places where they can learn positive core values, engage in healthy risk taking, and learn life lessons in a safe environment. At a time when over half of all Australians are already considered ‘overweight’, and rising, children need to build the basic skills and confidence to become life long athletes, and learn about the benefits of activity and good nutrition. Yet more and more kids are dropping out of organized sports by the time they are a teenager. We need to do more to reverse these alarming, and dangerous trends.

Given the many and varied opportunities out there in our community, there is a sport or physical activity out there for everyone. Sometimes it may take one or two attempts at a sport to find the right fit but the overall life long benefits will outweigh any cons.

Yours in Sport
Dean Andrew
Sports Coordinator

Second-hand Uniforms

We have a large number of second-hand uniforms and unclaimed un-named uniforms currently on a trolley in The Nook.

We would like to find new homes for these!
Please come and see if we have what you need.

Trixie
The Nook.
ST. ELIZABETH’S
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT NIGHT

An invitation is extended to all our families and our parish community:

Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday, 9th December, 2015

If the weather is fine, we hope lots of families will bring a picnic tea to enjoy on the oval (between 6pm and 7pm).
Please bring your own chairs, blankets, plates and glasses etc.

The Nativity Scene in the Church Foyer will be open for families to enjoy.

Carols will be held in the Performing Art Centre regardless of the weather conditions.
**NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED INSIDE.**

As we have had poor weather in recent years, we have decided to present both the Christmas Story and the novelty songs from the stage.

There will be chairs available for the elderly at the back.

Parents and guardians are asked to bring blankets, cushions or pillows to sit on the floor. Unfortunately we cannot get everyone in and seated on chairs.

At 7pm the Foundation children will sing the Christmas Story followed by the drawing of the Christmas Raffle.
Raffle tickets will be on sale up until 7pm.

Following this each community in turn will sing a novelty song.

Please join in with the final song – ‘We Wish You A Merry Christmas’.

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**Glow Stix Order Form**

This year we will be offering all our families the opportunity to purchase Glow Stix to bring to our Carols Night. The cost of a Glow Stix is $2.50 each. Glow Stix can be ordered prior to the event and will be given to the children to take home or for sale on the night up until 7pm. If you would like to purchase a Glow Stix prior to Carols, please complete and return the order form below in an envelope marked “Glow Stix” with your child’s name, class and correct money to Lisa at the front desk by Monday 7 December. Eftpos is not available as a payment option.

Child’s Name: ____________________________
Class: ____________________________

Number of glow stix required ($2.50 each): ________

Total Amount: $ ________
Parents and Friends

On Wednesday 9th December we have our Carols by Candlelight where our beautiful and talented children sing Christmas Carols to us. We get to enjoy each others company and have a wonderful night.

Raffle tickets were sent home the other week, and we are asking that the stubs and money be returned in the envelope provided, to the school office by Wednesday 2nd December

Christmas Donations can still be sent along to the school office.

The Christmas Raffle will be drawn on the Carols By Candlelight night.

We Thank you, for without your support we would not be able to do what we need to do to provide our children with things like the playground on the far side of the oval.

At the moment we are fundraising so that we can provide stage lighting in the Performing Arts Centre, before moving onto the next project.
News from The Nook

Dear Parents, Guardians and Grandparents,

Please be aware that all library books need to be returned by Monday 7th December. The Christmas holiday period is the only time we ask for all books to be returned.

Once we are open in 2016, I would encourage all parents, grandparents and guardians to become members of our library, so that along with your children you will be able to enjoy our library books at home.

Thank you
Trixie Martin
marttr@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

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: 0431 616 364, After Hours: 03 9758 0731
  or email:  choonblim@yahoo.com.au

School Canteen

Our school canteen will open for the last time this year on Wednesday the 2nd of December for lunch orders and icypoles.

Icypoles only will be for sale on Wednesday the 9th of December and 16th of December.
NAZARETH COLLEGE HOMESTAY
FAMILIES WANTED

LONG TERM for Nazareth College International Students

OR

SHORT TERM 5-17 March 2016
For students visiting from Shibuya Tokyo, Japan

For details of payment, conditions and applications please contact our College Registrar on 9795 8100

KEYSBOROUGH SOCCER CLUB
Celebrating 45 years supporting the community since 1970

Enjoy the World game in a positive atmosphere with a family friendly environment
We, Keysborough Soccer Club, encourage all of our community to get involved and enjoy being part of the Keysy Family
All are welcome – Girls, Boys, Men and Women

Registration Day
Wednesday 9th December 2015 from 7pm to 8.30pm
Venue: Coomoora Reserve, Coomoora Road, Keysborough

If you are unable to attend, please feel email us and we will send out an Expression of interest form or link for you to complete. Information regarding fees and training will be confirmed via email in the early 2016.

Email: keysboroughsc@yahoo.com.au
Contacts: Cristian Abarca 0412 600 657, Jorge Concha 0433 466 586
Lynda Del Din: 0414 603 053,

Incorporation No. A0045612B
575 089 795

111 Bakers Road, Dandenong Nth, Vic. 3175
Parish Priest: Rev. Tadeusz Ziolkowski SC

Tel: (03) 9795 5258 Fax: (03) 9790 0933
www.sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au admin@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
School Principal: Mrs Christine Ash
Community News cont ...

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

<table>
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<th>Contact Details ...</th>
<th>Weekly Activities ...</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>St Elizabeth’s Out of School Hours Care Program 111 Bakers Road, Dandenong North Ph: 0422 803 709</td>
<td>Beginning: Monday 30th November 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Before School Care</strong>  Permanent: $12.00 / Casual: $13.00  7.00am to 8.55am Monday to Friday during school term, excluding all Victorian public holidays.</td>
<td>Monday  Make a colour and shade, Drawing people</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>After School Care:</strong>  Permanent: $13.50 / Casual: $14.50 3.15pm to 6.15pm Monday to Friday during school term, excluding all Victorian public holidays.</td>
<td>Tuesday  Drawing cartoon figures, Creatures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vacation Care / Pupil Free Days:</strong>  Per Day: $45.00 7.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday (No vacation care available in January.)</td>
<td>Wednesday  Splitter Splatter, Straw paintings</td>
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<td><strong>Late Pick Up Fees:</strong> Per minute: $1.00</td>
<td>Thursday  Wax paintings, water paintings</td>
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<td><em>For enquiries or further information, please contact Elarine on 0422 803 709 during session times.</em></td>
<td>Friday  String paints, block prints</td>
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Dear Parents,

As you would be aware, the last day of school is the 16th of December. There will be a program offered by Youth Leadership Victoria as a part of our after school program on the following days: 17th, 18th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd of December. Please choose your day/s carefully as the centre will only be open if we have a minimum of 10 children.

Please contact Elarine on 0422 803 709 if you wish to book in your child/ren or to discuss further.

NOTE: St. Mary’s Primary School in Dandenong will be running the 5 days as well. If we cannot make 10 children, the option is St. Mary’s vacation care.