Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and other Parishioners,

This week we have had a lot of teachers out at training and at the same time, we have had several teachers off work due to ill-health. I can remember days when I was a younger and more inexperienced Principal when I would dread days like that! In those days I seemed to be going from one hot spot to another dealing with issues where children felt unsettled and anxious because they had a new person to work with.

It was delightful then to realise this week how much more capable our students are at managing themselves in new and different circumstances. This was particularly so on Tuesday when we had 9 teachers out for the whole day including the whole Yr5 and Yr6 staff team. I made sure that I visited the classrooms throughout the day, but I was not there to manage the students because they showed me how much more able they are these days to manage themselves. Every room had a calm and organised atmosphere and all the children were so capable of supporting the CRT’s in the routines and management tasks that underpinned the day’s structure.
We are constantly being told that work opportunities in the future will require a different set of skills than was required in the past. There will be new jobs that we have not yet heard about, and people who will be successful in their work lives in the future will need a different set of skills to those we developed for our work lives. Certainly, the ability to manage one’s self will be critical. Self management and self control and the ability to be thoughtful and in control instead of anxious and impulsive, nervous or flustered will be essential, as change will be everywhere as it is now, and having the ability to remain calm and focused in new situations will be a much valued skill.

I can see from situations like Tuesday that our students are making big gains in this area. They were able to move around large open learning spaces in a thoughtful, organised way, taking control of themselves and being respectful of others. I wish all of you could have seen the students in Yr5 and Yr6 especially being independent, organised and responsible students working on what they needed to do with scarcely a word from their supervising teachers. This has been our goal from the time we began to change from traditional teaching to a more contemporary approach. We stated our aim was to educate our students to be responsible, organised, independent learners who will contribute positively to the society in which they live.

One of the results we get back from our annual survey to students and parents is that we have behaviour problems in our learning spaces. As a staff we are very puzzled by this as we know that we have very few children in our school who do not focus on learning when they need to be learning. However, we make no apologies for holding students accountable for their choices at St Elizabeth’s and we do give feedback daily to those who manage themselves well and those who need to make better choices.

We think it is this climate of feedback that is interpreted as meaning we have lots of disruptions to learning by the children. What parents and teachers alike need to be doing is always trying to catch children making good choices and encouraging them to go on doing that. Sometimes we go back to the habit of focusing on what children can’t do instead of seeing what they can do. This is not a good teaching or parenting technique. All children are developing on their own learning pathways and they need to have feedback about what they are doing well just as much, if not even more, than what they are not managing. They also need to be taught what to do if they are having difficulty managing themselves. They need to be taught to say kind things to others, they need to be taught the skills of organising their tools, they need to know what step by step means and to be able to manage themselves. (Of course, if they do not see those skills demonstrated by significant adults, it is much harder to learn how to do it themselves!)

On Tuesday I was delighted to be able to observe what it looks like when hundreds of children use those skills and attitudes that go to make up self control, thoughtfulness and focused learning and it filled me with hope for their futures.

I could not wait to share this good news with you!

Our students should be very proud of their attitude to learning and you too should be very proud of your children!

Christine Ash
Principal
Mt 28:16-20

‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’

Jesus’ ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus’ physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus’ presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time. He assured them of his power -- a power which overcame sin and death. Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Saviour, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus promised to give them the power of his Holy Spirit, which we see fulfilled ten days later on the Feast of Pentecost. When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left alone or powerless. Jesus assured them of his presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

CLASS LITURGIES:

Friday 6th June: Yr1 and Yr2 Mass at 9.15am
Friday 13th June: Yr3 and Yr4 Mass at 9.15am

ST. ELIZABETH’S WHOLE SCHOOL MASS:

This week we gathered together to celebrate the Feast of the Visitation, our parish feast day. We remembered when Mary visited Elizabeth. Elizabeth greeted Mary and her baby moved within her and the Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth.

We remembered and gave thanks and praise for all those who come and work together to build this community, to make St Elizabeth’s a joy filled community where all are welcomed. Thank you to the families who were able to join us for the celebration.

YR1 - GOOD SHEPHERD EXPERIENCE:

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

SACRAMENTAL NEWS:

First Communion

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

First Communion Reminders

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

Confirmation Candidates

Commitment weekend - Feast of Pentecost: weekend of 7th and 8th June. We ask the candidates to attend the Saturday or Sunday 10.30am Mass to formally enroll themselves in their on-going program. Thank you to the many candidates with their families who are continuing their commitment to regularly attend Mass here within this parish community.

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

National Buddy Day is an initiative developed by NAB and The Alannah and Madeline Foundation to celebrate friendship and help raise awareness of bullying in Australian primary schools. Banding Together means joining forces (or arms or legs) with a buddy, friend or colleague on 13th June 2014.

In Australia, the number of school children bullied every fortnight could fill the MCG. It’s unimaginable, but sadly true.

To help reduce bullying in our school we’re encouraging all students to join forces, literally with a ribbon, Velcro band, rope or a scrunchie on National Buddy Day, the 13th June.

At our shared Buddy lunch on that day we will invite the students and staff to ‘Band Together’ to raise awareness of the importance of reducing bullying in our school.

St Elizabeth’s Parish School Anti Bullying Policy is based on the following principles:
- All individuals have a right to feel safe and secure.
- All individuals are to be valued and treated with respect.
- All individuals have a right to work and play in safety and without interference.

St Elizabeth’s School define inappropriate behaviour as behaviour which violates self; others or the social order i.e. agreed and established expectations of behaviour. We further recognise that many of our students may lack knowledge and skill resulting in inappropriate choice and action. Whatever the derivation of inappropriate behaviour the school recognises its responsibility to support students through education in the values, attitudes, knowledge and skills which underlie effectiveness in building and maintaining relationships.

At St Elizabeth’s School we maintain that Bullying involves an imbalance of strength, physical or psychological and occurs when one individual in his/her attempts to gain a sense of personal well being/superiority engages in behaviours which seek to elevate him/herself above another. For some individuals feelings of inadequacy, of internal discouragement and fear of rejection have resulted in a faulty sense of belonging and an inability to establish and maintain relationships built on trust and respect. For other individuals, ego centredness / self importance and a focus on “being the best” result in self-elevation. For this individual social interest is lacking and his/her belonging to the world is expressed through elitism. We believe that participation in behaviours which could be categorised as bullying is indicative of an individual who possesses low self esteem and/or a lack of social interest and seeks to gain a sense of worth/belonging through elevation over others; putting others down in order to promote self.

**Bullying is an act of aggression causing embarrassment, pain, fear or discomfort to another.**

**It can take many forms; physical, verbal, gesture, extortion and exclusion.**

**It is an abuse of power.**

**It can be planned and organised or may be unintentional.**

**Individuals or groups may be involved.**

In a bullying situation two or three parties may be involved:
1. The Bully/ies.
2. The Victim/s.
3. The Bystander/s.

At St. Elizabeth’s School we skill and support our students not to be “victims,” encouraging students to utilise the following strategies:

**Teaching the Students to Make a Reply:**
Telling students to ignore bullying and to just walk away can actually inflame the situation. Experts agree that a passive or distressed reaction can act as an encouragement to bullies – this is exactly the reaction they are looking for. Students should always make some sort of reply. They should make a strong “I” statement but they still need to walk away and inform a teacher if the behaviour continues. Statements like, “I don’t like being treated like that, don’t do that to me” are appropriate.

**Using Physical Signals:**
Physical signals, such as walking erectly, standing confidently and looking the bully/ies in the eye are also effective strategies.

Nan Perazzo / Wellbeing Coordinator
Managing unwanted online contact

The internet has opened an unprecedented opportunity for people to communicate and receive information anywhere and at anytime.

Through email and social networking, we can engage with people who are both well known, existing friends and new friends that we may never meet face to face or speak with offline.

It is important for your child to understand that as in the offline world, some people online have ill intentions. Unwanted contact is any type of online communication that your child finds unpleasant or confronting. The contact can come from unknown online friends or someone they actually know in the offline world.

Consider these steps to help your child manage unwanted contact.

- **Encourage your child to raise concerns with you or another trusted adult.**
- **Block the person** contacting your child and change the privacy settings. Don’t respond to the person or give them any attention.
- **Keep the evidence.** This can be useful in tracking the person posting unsuitable material.
- **Contact** the ISP, phone provider or site administrator. There are actions they can take to help.

http://cybersmart.gov.au

Glossary:

**Internet service provider (ISP)**

An ISP is a company that provides access to the internet for home and business users. For a monthly fee, the service provider enables people to log onto the internet and, amongst other activities, browse the world wide web and send/ receive email.

A full cybersafety glossary may be found at [www.cybersmart.gov.au/glossary.aspx](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/glossary.aspx)
‘You Can Do It’ Star ...

My name is Isabella, I have been showing resilience, solving ant problems on my own.

My name is Cian, I always use my manners when I talk to teachers and others in my community!

My name is Dean, I have been persistent, always having a go and trying my best!

My name is Angelique, I always try my very best in all of my learning!
Last Sunday the Dandenong Netball Association hosted their annual tournament at Gloria Pyke Stadium. Over 1000 netballers from all over Melbourne competed in a round robin event in a variety of age groups. In the Dandenong squad team we had four St. Elizabeth's students as representatives in the 11 and Under team. Emily, Ellen, Joyce and Niamh were selected from a series of trials to represent our local association and they all played well. Well done girls!

The success of the girls is a huge commendation of the St. Elizabeth's Netball Club. Now in the club’s third year, we have three teams and a NetSetGo program. They train on Wednesday nights and play in Dandenong on Saturday mornings. They are always on the lookout for more players.

A big thank you to Melinda, Deborah, Jackie and the other parents involved in the fledgling club for setting up this wonderful opportunity for our students.

Yours in Sport
Dean Andrew

Parents and Friends News

The next Parents and Friends meeting will be held Monday 2nd June after assembly. Come along and join us for a cuppa.

Mark the calendars:~ Friday 17th October we will be holding a Market Night. More details to follow.

Do you read the Herald Sun? Would you please send the masthead along to the school. We are collecting them from the 1st June to the 14th June. The school that collects the highest amount of masthead per student enrolment wins $10,000. It would be great for us to try.

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. Currently the rewards available are a Handball, Scented Pencils, Shark Pencil Case, Shark Key Ring or a Penguin Key Ring.

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). Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our students we have raised $364.65 for our school through School Banking commissions in Term 1 which will be used to purchase equipment for our children.

If you have misplaced your deposit book or have lost tokens, please leave a note for me with the Office and it will be replaced on Thursday.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at St Elizabeth’s.

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

Dandenong Mobile Unit

Dandenong Mobile Unit, St. Mary’s Community Centre, 20-24 New Street, Dandenong are asking for blood donations on Wednesday 18 June 1.30-7.30pm, Thursday 19 June 2-7.30pm and Friday 20 June 9.30-3.30pm.

Appointments are essential and new donors welcome. To book an appointment please call 131495.
### 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 ...

**Beginning:** Monday 2nd June, 2014

**Monday**  
Sand Pictures, Head Down/Thumbs Up, Badminton

**Tuesday**  
Splitter Splatter Art, Human Knots, Marbles

**Wednesday**  
Moon Sand Sculpting, Peg Game, Four Square

**Thursday**  
Fabric Collage, Knockout, Freeze

**Friday**  
Smartie Bingo, Skipping, Hoola Hoops

We will be open on Friday the 20th of June (St. Elizabeth’s - Curriculum Day).

If you need care please contact Elarine on 0422 803 709.